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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations

Subject: 34th Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (MOP 34)
(Montreal, Canada, 31 October-4 November 2022)
- Information from the Presidency and the Commission

Delegations will find in the Annex an information note from the Presidency and the Commission on the above subject, to be dealt with under "Any other business" at the Council (Environment) meeting on 20 December 2022.

34th Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (MOP 34)

(Montreal, Canada, 31 October-4 November 2022)

– Information from the Presidency and the Commission –

The 34th Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer took place in Montreal, Canada, from 31 October to 4 November 2022.

Parties agreed on the terms of reference for the study on the 2024–2026 replenishment of the Multilateral Fund (MLF). This replenishment is crucial to ensure compliance of developing countries with the Kigali amendment on the phase-down of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs). In this context, but also in another decision, it was discussed how best to integrate energy efficiency aspects in the measures under the Protocol that promote the role out of Refrigeration, Air Conditioning and Heat Pump equipment that have very low or no GWP refrigerants that minimise the climate impact of this sector.

The Scientific Assessment Panel presented the draft of its four-yearly report. It confirmed that the Protocol is delivering on reducing ozone depleting substances in the atmosphere. It underlined the significant climate benefit of the HFC phase-down under the Protocol (preventing 0.3-0.5 degrees Celsius of additional, future warming). But the report also pointed out that certain emissions sources and unexplained discrepancies remain, in particular due to chemical production processes. This underlines the importance to continue to address these potential emission sources under the Protocol (as already demonstrated previously by unexplained emissions of CFC-11 related to industrial processes in China back in 2018).

Large banks of ozone depleting substances in foams, emissions of exempted uses of methylbromide, other highly warming fluorinated gases (e.g SF6, NF3) and short-lived substances are also important concerns going forward.

In this context decisions, proposed by the EU as well as Switzerland were adopted to understand better these emissions sources to allow for further actions to address them.

The broader issue of institutional strengthening of the Protocol will be discussed at a workshop next year.

An initiative by Cuba to address the relevance of the COVID pandemic for developing Parties' reduction obligations will be discussed next year, on the basis of a data analysis provided by the Protocol's bodies.

Background information:

The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer regulates the production and consumption of man-made chemicals referred to as ozone depleting substances (ODS). When released to the atmosphere, those chemicals damage the stratospheric ozone layer, Earth's protective shield against ultraviolet radiation. They are also often powerful greenhouse gases and the Protocol as such contributes significantly to avoided future climate change (circa 1 degree Celsius of additional future warming avoided due to the reductions of ODS emissions). Adopted in 1987, the Protocol is to date a UN treaty with near universal membership, ratified by 198 parties, including the European Union.

In 2016, the Parties to the Montreal Protocol adopted the Kigali Amendment, adding hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), a group of greenhouse gases covered by the UNFCCC often used as alternatives to ODS, to the list of controlled substances under the Protocol. The successful implementation of this amendment could avoid by up to 0.5 degree Celsius of additional future warming.