UPDATE ON THE ACTIVITIES
UNDER THE UNECE CONVENTION ON
LONG-RANGE TRANBORDER AIR POLLUTION (LRTAP)

Secretariat of the LRTAP Convention,
UNECE, Geneva, Switzerland

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
OUTLINE

• Amendments to the Gothenburg Protocol

• Amendments to the Protocol on Heavy Metals

• Other developments in the framework of the Convention
Amendments to the Gothenburg Protocol

- Adopted by Parties to the 1999 Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-Level Ozone (Gothenburg Protocol) at the 30th session of the Executive Body on 4 May 2012

- National emission reduction targets for 2020 – compared to 2005 base year - for key air pollutants: sulphur and nitrogen oxides, ammonia and volatile organic compounds

- Adoption – for the first time – of reduction targets for fine particulate matter - PM2.5

⇒ Addressing short-lived climate forcers: PM and ozone precursors
Amendments to the Gothenburg Protocol

• Inclusion of black carbon (soot) as an important component of PM2.5 (air pollutant and short-lived climate forcer); new tasks and obligations with respect to BC include:
  i) development of national emission inventories
  ii) atmospheric modelling
  iii) monitoring of adverse impacts on health and the environment
  iv) cost-benefit analysis
  v) prioritizing PM2.5 mitigation measures with a focus on BC reductions
  vi) evaluation of mitigation measures for black carbon after entry into force of the amendment (art.10.3)

• Setting a uniform set of air pollutant standards for stationary and mobile sources (Emission Limit Values)
Amendments to the Gothenburg Protocol

• Introduction of flexibilities to encourage accession by the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (article 3 bis on Flexible transitional arrangements and the annex VII on timescales under article 3)

• Introduction of a procedure for adjusting emission reduction commitments and inventories (Decision 2012/3 at EB-30)

• Possibility to apply the adjustment procedure pending entry into force of the amendment (Decision 2012/4 at EB-30)

• Guidance for adjustments under the Gothenburg Protocol to emission reduction commitments or to inventories for the purposes of comparing total national emissions with them (Decision 2012/12 at EB-31)
Amended Gothenburg Protocol: Entry into force

• The amended Gothenburg Protocol will enter into force when 2/3 of its 26 Parties accept the amendments.

• The EU (-59, -42, -6, -28, -22% for SO2, NOx, NH3, VOCs and PM2.5, respectively), Belarus, Croatia, Norway and Switzerland already announced their reduction commitments.

• The US provisionally indicated a similar level of ambition with respect to abatement commitments to that of the EU.

• The Russian Federation and other countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia indicated their intention to ratify the revised GP in the near future.
Guidance documents to the Gothenburg Protocol

At its 31st session, the Executive Body adopted:

- Guidance document on control techniques for emissions of sulphur, nitrogen oxides, volatile organic compounds and particulate matter (including PM10, PM2.5 and black carbon) from stationary sources

- Guidance document on economic instruments to reduce emissions of regional air pollutants

- Guidance document on national nitrogen budgets

- Guidance document on preventing and abating ammonia emissions from agricultural sources
Amendments to the Protocol on Heavy Metals

• Adopted by Parties to the 1998 Protocol on Heavy Metals at the 31st session of the Executive Body on 13 December 2012

• More stringent emission limit values for emissions of PM and cadmium, lead and mercury

• Extension of the emission source categories for the three heavy metals to the production of silico- and ferromanganese alloys

• Building on approach of Gothenburg Protocol, inclusion of considerable flexibilities to enable accession of countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia
Amendments to the 1998 Protocol on Heavy Metals

- Adoption of expanded Guidance document on “Best available techniques for controlling emissions of heavy metals and their compounds from the source categories listed in annex II”

- Agreement to revisit the issues of mercury-containing products and emission limit values for heavy metals at EB session 2014, following adoption of global legally binding agreement on mercury; and to maintain work of Parties and Task Force on Heavy Metals on mercury-containing products
Other developments in the framework of CLRTAP

- Bill Harnett replaces Richard Ballaman as chair of WGSR
- Discussion on reorganisation of the Convention continues
- Workplan: more visibility on web and newspapers!
- Science article by Reis et al.

- Workshop 10-12 Oct 2012 on global scenarios with TFHTAP
- Workshop 13-14 Oct 2012 on global Nitrogen scenarios
Other developments in the framework of CLRTAP

• Upcoming review of the recommendations by the ad hoc group of experts on the Action Plan for the implementation of long-term strategy:
  • Consideration at upcoming 51st session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review, 30 April – 3 May
  • Decisions by EB at 32nd session, 9-13 December 2013

• Development of the 2014-2015 workplan
  • Alignment with long-term strategy, targeting Convention’s priorities
  • Input by different Task Force in new format, identifying link of planned activities/outputs with long-term strategy
  • Decision on workplan to be taken by EB at 32nd session
Related Activities

• Stakeholder Expert Group meetings on the revision of the NEC-directive (2025?) - Brussels

• Meeting on Health effects of Air Pollution (30 January 2013)

• Seminar Clean Air for Nature (Brussels 20 March 2013)

• Air Policy-Science Meeting (Dublin 15 April 2013)

• FP7: ECLAIRE, ECLIPSE, PEGASOS, ...

• ETC-ACM hindsight report

• Clean Air and Climate Coalition
Other developments in the framework of CLRTAP

WHO Press Release:

International Agency for Research on Cancer

World Health Organization

PRESS RELEASE
N° 213

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IARC: DIESEL ENGINE EXHAUST CARCINOGENIC

Lyon, France, June 12, 2012 -- After a week-long meeting of international experts, the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), which is part of the World Health Organization (WHO), today classified diesel engine exhaust as carcinogenic to humans (Group 1), based on sufficient evidence that exposure is associated with an increased risk for lung cancer.
Other developments in the framework of CLRTAP

• “Health Effects of Black Carbon”
  Report prepared by the Joint WHO/LRTAP Task Force on Health Aspects of Air Pollution; April 2012

• Policy paper on the Health effects of Particulate Matter presented to the Executive Body, 31st session (ECE/EB.AIR/2012/18)
For further information

http://www.unece.org/env/lrtap/welcome.html

- on amendments to the Gothenburg Protocol and the Protocol on Heavy Metals, see “Amended Protocols” section of webpage
Taking international air pollution policies into the future

A science-policy workshop for experts and scientists, policy makers and negotiators, international organisations and industry

Gothenburg, Sweden, 24-26 June 2013.

**Purpose:** to set the scene for future international and global air pollution policies and how we can achieve improved air quality and ecosystem health and at the same time ensure positive benefits for climate change, biodiversity and other related policy areas.

**Organised by** the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency and the IVL, in collaboration with international organisations such as the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (CLRTAP), the European Commission, Global Atmospheric Pollution Forum and the European Environment Agency.

[http://www.saltsjobaden5.ivl.se](http://www.saltsjobaden5.ivl.se)