

Expert Consultation Meeting on Transboundary Air Pollution in North-East Asia
St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, 9-10 July 2012

UPDATE ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE UNECE CONVENTION ON LONG-RANGE TRANBOUNDARY AIR POLLUTION

Krzysztof OLENDRZYŃSKI

Secretariat of the LRTAP Convention,

UNECE, Geneva, Switzerland

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE



List of contents

- update on recent LRTAP decisions and developments
 - decisions of the 29th session of Executive Body (Dec2011)
 - Action Plan for the Implementation of the Long-term Strategy of the Convention; Ad-hoc Group of Experts; review
 - **decisions of the 30th session Executive Body (May 2012)**
 - revision of the Gothenburg Protocol**
- combatting air pollution versus green economy/green growth
- diesel engine exhaust proved carcinogenic to humans – WHO press release (June 2012)



New LRTAP website: <http://live.unece.org/env/lrtap/welcome.html>

Decisions of the 29th Executive Body (December 2011)

- most of the time devoted to the revision of the Gothenburg Protocol – GP (further progress on the main text and the technical annexes, structure of Annex II (national emission ceilings))
- outstanding issues: flexibilities for countries with economies in transition (definition? declaration?); options for ELVs, timelines for their implementations; new and existing sources, relation to the 1999 Protocol
- additional, 30th EB meeting: 30 Apr- 4 May 2012 devoted entirely to the finalization of the revision of the GP



Decisions of the 29th Executive Body - continued

- 31st EB in December 2012– finalization of the revision of the Heavy Metals Protocol; 50th WGSR in September 2012 devoted entirely to the revision of the HM Protocol
- regular items: compliance and financial issues, activities in EECCA countries, reports from subsidiary bodies etc.
- 2012-2013 workplan (new features, still a large document); „top-down” insertions on BC (BAT, GD on emission inventories)
- info on outreach activities (ESCAP, NEASPEC, UNEP, EANET, IMO, CBD, ...)
- decision on POPs reporting (2011/13); request to WGSR to defer any work on the POPs Protocol in 2012



Decisions of the 29th Executive Body - continued

- Decision 2011/14: Action Plan for the Implementation of the Long-Term Strategy for the Convention; preamble to the 2012-2013 workplan was added; a time-limited ad-hoc group of experts – to report to 31st EB in Dec 2012

I. Improve ratification and compliance

II. Prioritize work and increase efficiency of operation of the Convention

III. Future direction of Protocols

IV. Links with climate change and delivery of co-benefits

V. Outreach, communication and resources



Decisions of the 30th Executive Body

Parties to UNECE CLRTAP, reached consensus and approved a revision and extension of the Gothenburg Protocol (GP).

The most important parts of the deal are:

- adoption of national emission reduction targets for 2020 for key air pollutants such as sulphur and nitrogen oxides, ammonia and volatile organic compounds;
- adoption – for the first time – of reduction targets for fine particulate matter - PM2.5;
- inclusion of black carbon (soot) as an important component of PM2.5 (air pollutant and at the same time short-lived climate forcer);
- setting a uniform set of air pollutant standards for stationary and mobile sources (so called emission limit values - ELVs)



Decisions of the 30th Executive Body

- introduction of flexibilities for the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia as well as South-Eastern Europe, which will facilitate ratification and implementation of the revised GP by these Parties.

The revised GP will enter into force when 2/3 of its 26 Parties ratify, accede or accept the amendments.

EU, Belarus, Croatia, Norway and Switzerland already announced their reduction commitments.

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

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.



The Protocol on Heavy Metals was adopted in Aarhus, Denmark, in 1998 and entered into force in December 2003

It targets three particularly harmful heavy metals: cadmium, lead and mercury.

Parties have to reduce their emissions for these three metals below their levels in 1990.

The Protocol aims to cut emissions from industrial sources (iron and steel industry, non-ferrous metal industry), stationary and mobile combustion processes (power generation, road transport) and waste incineration.

It required Parties to phase out leaded petrol. It also introduced measures to lower heavy metal emissions from other products, such as mercury in batteries, and proposed the introduction of management measures for other mercury-containing products.



Combatting air pollution vs. Green Economy/Growth

- LRTAP Convention and its protocols - especially the Gothenburg Protocol (GP) - contribute to the development and implementation of new technologies/solutions (green/zero/low emission)
- the development/implementation is driven by:
 - national emission ceilings (e.g. set at the GP) -> national emission reduction strategies, action plans and measures
 - emission limit values (standards) for stationary and mobile sources
- links between implementation of environmental standards, norms and other requirements and greening of economies become „mainstreamm” economic path in UN ECE and elsewhere.
- synergies with climate change and water management



WHO press release

International Agency for Research on Cancer



PRESS RELEASE
N° 213

12 June 2012

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.



Collaboration between WHO and UNECE/LRTAP:

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

<http://www.euro.who.int/en/what-we-publish/abstracts/health-effects-of-black-carbon>

and

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



Thank you very much!

For further information:

krzysztof.olendrzynski@unece.org

and Ms. Albena Karadjova - head of the
Secretariat

albena.karadjova@unece.org

