



Council of the
European Union

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INFORMATION NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations
Subject: Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (CLRTAP):
40th Session of the Executive Body (EB 40)
(Geneva/hybrid, 18 December 2020)
- Statements by the EU and its Member States

Delegations will find in the Annex, for information purposes, a compilation of agreed statements as delivered at the abovementioned meeting on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

Convention on Long Range Transboundary Air Pollution (CLRTAP)
40th session of the Executive Body (EB 40)
(Geneva/hybrid, 18 December 2020)

- Statements by the EU and its Member States -

Agenda item 1: Adoption of the agenda

We support the adoption of the proposed agenda.

Agenda item 2: Adoption of the report of the thirty-ninth session of the Executive Body

The report of the EB 39th session can be adopted as drafted.

Agenda item 4: Review of the implementation of the 2020-2021 workplan

(a) Science

We take note of the report of the sixth joint session of the Steering Body to the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe and the Working Group on Effects.

(b) Policy

On the draft Guidance on integrated sustainable nitrogen management:

We support adoption of the decision to adopt the nitrogen guidance as amended in line with proposals submitted by the EU and by Canada. We particularly support the proposal by Canada to add a reference to the links to the Gothenburg Protocol, and we encourage all parties to make use of this guidance.

(c) Compliance

The EU and its Member States take note of the Implementation Committee report. We continue to emphasise the importance of the fulfilment of all obligations to the Convention by all Parties.

We support the election of the nominated candidates. As nominations have been submitted to these posts, we see no need to postpone the election of Implementation Committee members by one year.

(d) Capacity-building and awareness-raising to promote ratification and implementation

We take note of the provided information and emphasise our continued strong support for efforts to promote ratification and implementation of the Convention and its Protocols.

(e) Communication, outreach and cooperation

We take note of the provided information in Informal document No. 5.

At the 39th session of Executive Body, the Parties adopted a decision to establish a Forum for International Cooperation on Air Pollution (EB Decision 2019/5). Consequently, the EU and its Member States expect that sufficient progress will be achieved on this matter in the near term, as this is the will of the Parties of the Convention. We regret that little progress has been reported to date and we call on the Secretariat to support the necessary further steps by the Bureau and the Parties to implement decision 2019/5 made by the Parties at EB 39.

Agenda item 5: Review of sufficiency and effectiveness of the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone

The EU and its Member States support EB Decision 2020/2 on the “Plan for undertaking the review of the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone, as amended in 2012, pursuant to its article 10”, as negotiated by the WGSR at its most recent session.

We support the addition of a workplan element to the 2020/2021 workplan which contains any additional science tasks to support the review of the Gothenburg Protocol.

(The proposal for a draft EB Decision 2020/X on Preparations for undertaking the review of the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone, as amended in 2012, can be found in document WK 14803/2020 INIT of 17 December 2020. The final Decision 2020/2 is available from the draft conclusions and recommendations from this meeting as compiled by the Secretariat, and will be available from the meeting website.)

Agenda item 6: Financial requirements for implementation of the Convention

The EU and its Member States approve the proposed use of resources and schedule for mandatory contributions and contributions for core activities not funded through the EMEP Protocol.

Agenda item 7: Election of officers

Our objective is to secure continuity and a fully functional leadership of the Convention despite difficulties due to the Covid-19 pandemic. We therefore support the proposal to defer elections of the chair of the Executive Body, the Executive Body vice chairs, and the chair of the Working Group on Strategies and Review, and to endorse the Working group’s decision on deferring the election of its vice-chairs.

Agenda item 8: Other business

The EU and its Member States request the European Commission to give a short heads-up about the possibility of a draft EB decision tabled for EB 41 (follow-up to EB decision 2017/3) including by a written note in line with the EB chair's instructions.
