Task force on Reactive Nitrogen

Good practices to strengthen the implementation of air pollution-related policies, strategies and measures

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Lead country: Denmark

TFTEI meeting
Catania, 20th May 2016

TFRN Goal (EB decision 2007)

“the long-term goal of developing technical and scientific information, and options which can be used for strategy development across the UNECE to encourage coordination of air pollution policies on nitrogen in the context of the nitrogen cycle and which may be used by other bodies outside the Convention in consideration of other control measures”
TFRN Key Topics

- Mitigation of **agricultural nitrogen**, with special attention to ammonia. (*Ammonia Framework Code*)
- Development of regional **nitrogen budgets** to inform full N optimization strategies
- Assessment of the relationships between **nitrogen and food choices**
- Awareness and knowledge building on **nitrogen in EECCA countries**.
- **Catalytic activity** on nitrogen for use by other bodies outside the convention.
- European Nitrogen Assessment (ENA), Our Nitrogen World (ONW), International Nitrogen Management System (INMS)
Expert panels within TFRN

- EPNB - Expert Panel on Nitrogen Budgets
- EPNF - Expert Panel on Nitrogen and Food
- EPN-EECCA - Expert Panel on Nitrogen in EECCA countries

EPMAN
Revised Framework Code

- Approved by the UNECE-WGSR and EB.
- Published in April 2015 in pdf,
- Meeting and report publication supported by the EC
- Updated with new technical information.
Way forward on Framework Code

• Basis for countries to establish their own Codes (GP Annex IX)
  – (only 10 of the 25 ratified countries have FC)
• Visual copies of the FC chapters intended to help farmers in countries that do not have their own national code.
• Keeping the FC a living document - updated annually to take account of new technology and new information.
• Towards new reduction standards.
• Towards an integration with other aspects of the N cycle
• Funds are needed

EPNB
Nitrogen budgets

Focused work on annexes (to existing guidance document)
• First complete draft of annexes compiled January 2015
• Further updates on the way: the new guidance document will be shortly for consultation on the website
Way forward on Nitrogen budgets

Organic Farming

EPNF Food
Final full report was launched in January 2016 in Brussels

- with Sirpa Pietikainen MEP (Chair of the European Parliament Interparty Group on Sustainable Food)
- with reflection from Janez Potocnik
From a longer list of around 20 concerns, the European Nitrogen Assessment identifies five key societal threats associated with excess nitrogen in the environment:

- Water quality
- Air quality
- Greenhouse balance
- Ecosystems and biodiversity
- Soil quality

Together, these threats can be easily remembered by an acronym as the ‘WAGES’ of excess nitrogen.
TFRN workplan for 2016–2017

Costs and benefits of ammonia

Other nitrogen emission abatement measures.

To improve the understanding of health, climate- and environment-related linkages to the nitrogen cycle.

• Further disseminate the ECE Framework Code for Good Agricultural Practice for Reducing Ammonia Emissions (ECE/EB.AIR/129)
  – publication and work with national focal points
  – implementation

• Draft guidance document on nitrogen mitigation in agriculture taking into account synergies between ammonia, nitrates, nitrous oxide and other nitrogen compounds (e.g. CH$_4$) within a N cycle perspective.
• Enhancing the efficacy of NO$_x$, NH$_3$ and N$_2$O mitigation measures through joining efforts
• Promoting circular economy thinking with Nr recapture and develop new markets. (global NO$_x$ emission is 40 billion dollar market)

Way towards change

• Integration of all the WAGES: Water, Air, Greenhouse gases, Ecosystems and biodiversity, Soil.
• Nitrogen Use Efficiency.
• Nitrogen green economy.
• Nitrogen circular economy.
• Nitrogen TOP 10.