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ENVIRONMENT

Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution: Overview and Structure

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CLRTAP – longstanding multilateral environmental treaty

- Signed in Geneva in 1979, entered into force in 1983
- 40th anniv
- Dealing with air pollution on a broad regional basis – covering the UNECE region
- 8 Protocols to complete the framework Convention – 3 active

- Emissions reduction targets for key air pollutants
- Close cooperation between science and policy
- Multi-pollutant, multi-effect approach
- Effects- and evidence-based approach

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Areas of work

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- Policy: international agreement to reduce transboundary air pollution
  - Protocols set targets and goals to reduce key pollutants that cause acid rain, smog and ozone, heavy metals and persistent organic pollutants (POPs) and have serious health and environmental impacts
- Science underpinning policy: Key tenet
  - The Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe (EMEP) and the Working Group on Effects
- Monitoring of compliance and implementation of obligations
- Capacity-building and awareness-raising

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Achievements

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- Significant emissions reductions since 1990 (~ 70% sulphur emissions; ~50% nitrogen oxides) across UNECE region
- 600,000 premature deaths avoided annually - Average life expectancy is today 12 months more than in a hypothetical unabated world
- Acidification halted in most parts of Europe; recovery of forest soils and lakes
- POPs, Heavy Metals and Gothenburg Protocols amended in recent years
- 2012 amendments to Gothenburg Protocol update commitments (for 2020), added PM (including black carbon)
  - First international treaty to include a short-lived climate pollutant (black carbon)
  - Amended Protocol entered into force October, 2019
- Recent work includes a 2016 Scientific Assessment Report for the Convention, a Policy Review Group with associated recommendations, and a new Long-Term Strategy for the Implementation of the Convention from 2020

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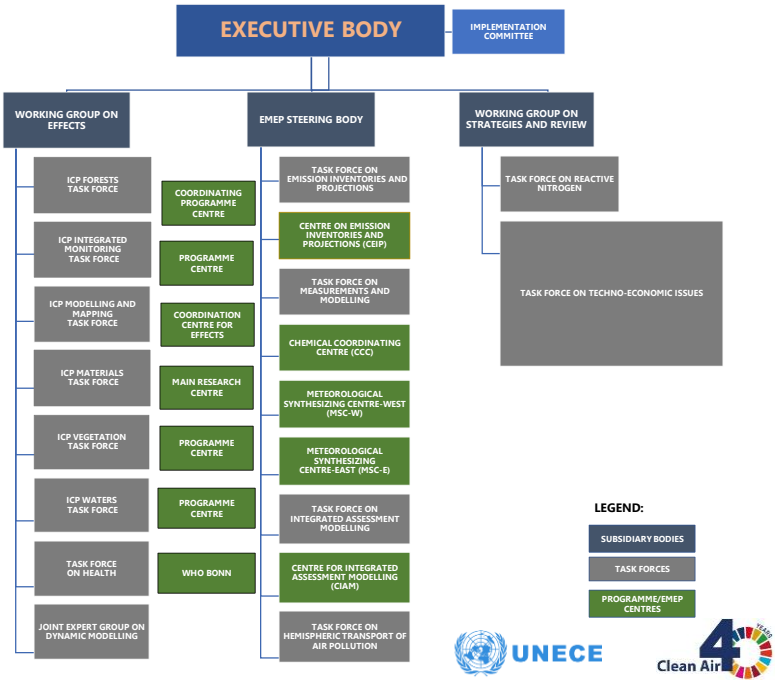

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Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe (EMEP)

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- **Objectives:** provide scientific underpinnings by undertaking atmospheric monitoring and modelling; emission inventories and emission projections; integrated assessment
- **Structure:** EMEP Steering Body, Bureau, 5 programme centres and 4 task forces
- Taskforces on hemispheric transport of air pollutants; inventories and projections; integrated assessment modelling; measurements and modelling

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Working Group on Effects (WGE)

ENVIRONMENT

- **Objectives:** to assess impacts of major air pollutants on human health and the environment
- **Structure:** WGE, Bureau, 6 International Cooperative Programmes (ICPs), TF Health and Joint Expert Group
- **Work includes:** modelling and mapping; dynamic modelling; program areas in forests, materials, vegetation, and waters

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Executive Body (EB)

ENVIRONMENT

- **Objectives:** Decision-making body for the Convention
- **Structure:** All subsidiary bodies of the Convention report to the Executive Body
- All decisions are taken at the Executive Body – provide direction to the WGSR, EMEP and WGE

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Working Group on Strategies and Review (WGSR)

ENVIRONMENT

- **Objectives:** Policy and negotiating body of the Convention
- The current focus of the WGSR is defining the scope and content of the review of the Gothenburg Protocol
  - Input of SBs will be important
  - SBs including this TF are expected to prioritize work related to the review of the Protocol in their workplans
- **Structure:** 2 Task Forces formally report to WGSR dealing with specific issues related to policy and implementation
  - TF on Reactive Nitrogen
  - TF on Techno-economic Issues

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Role of the Task Force on Techno-economic Issues

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- In 2014, the EB decided to upgrade the Expert Group on Techno-economic Issues to the status of task force, recognizing the ongoing need for the work of the task force
- At the same time, experts involved in the discontinued Task Force on Heavy Metals and Task Force on POPs joined the new Task Force TFTEI, which began its work in 2015
- Basic mandate:
  - Update, assess and provide information on emissions abatement technologies to reduce SO2, NOx, VOCx, PM (including black carbon), heavy metals and POPs from stationary and mobile sources, including costs
  - Provide techno-scientific assistance to countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucuses and Central Asia
  - Assist the Implementation Committee and cooperate with other technical bodies of the Convention as well as outside of it, as needed

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Revised mandate of TFTEI

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Mandate revised in 2018 to be consistent with amended protocols and take account of recommendations and strategic priorities for the Convention put forward in its recent work (SAR, PRG, LTS)

The TFTEI will continue to examine, assess, validate and provide information on, emission abatement technologies for stationary and mobile sources

The functions are to:

- (a) Update and assess on a regular basis the information on emission abatement technologies for the reduction of atmospheric emissions of SO2, NOx, VOCs, PM, including black carbon, heavy metals and POPs from stationary and mobile sources including the costs of these technologies;
- *(b) Initiate work to assess information on emissions abatement technologies and measures for the reduction of the methane emissions from key sources (except agriculture);*
- *(c) Initiate work to assess information on emission abatement technologies for the reduction of air pollutant shipping emissions;*

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Revised mandate of TFTEI

ENVIRONMENT

- *(d) Investigate co-benefits and trade-offs between emission abatement technologies and policies under consideration to address air pollution, climate change and biodiversity;*
- (e) Create, maintain and keep updated, a regional clearing house of information on control technologies for emissions of SO2, NOx, VOCs, PM (including black carbon), heavy metals and persistent organic pollutants
  - aim of having single point of reference for validated information to Parties including control technology information for *emissions of methane; and shipping emissions, and for ammonia in a dedicated section of the clearing house*
- (f) Develop techno-economic data for estimating the costs of implementation of best available technologies and compliance with requirements of the Gothenburg Protocol in different sectors, and promote such tools, especially in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia;

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Revised mandate of TFTEI

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- (g) Disseminate and promote information on abatement technologies, such as the guidance documents on best available techniques and technical annexes to the protocols to the Convention;
- (h) Carry out tasks specified for it in its approved biennial workplans and (i) other tasks requested by the EB or the WGSR
- (j) Support the Convention's capacity-building activities in countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia; and
- (k) Provide assistance to the Implementation Committee

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Revised mandate of TFTEI

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In carrying out its work, the Task Force will as appropriate:

- Collaborate with subsidiary bodies under the Convention in carrying out its scientific and technical work
- Cooperate and maximize synergies with other bodies, in particular:
  - Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling
  - Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projections
  - Task Force on Modelling and Mapping
  - Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen
- Collaborate with bodies outside the Convention as appropriate

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Long-Term Strategy

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- In December 2018, the EB adopted the Long-term Strategy for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution for 2020-2030 and beyond
- Key conclusions:
  - Maintain science-policy interface developed over time and strong expert network - key success of the Convention
  - Continuing to use the best available science and to further develop the multi-pollutant, multi-effect approach
  - Advancing efforts to address air pollution on a broader geographic scale
  - Promoting the exchange of experience on effectiveness of measures
  - Striving for an integrated approach to environmental policymaking

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TFTEI in the Long-Term Strategy

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- The technical background on emission abatement techniques was developed by the Task Forces on Techno-Economic Issues and Reactive Nitrogen under the Working Group on Strategies and Review.
- The Task Force on Techno-Economic Issues and the Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling should continue to improve their estimates of the cost of air pollution's impact on human health and ecosystems, the cost data and the cost-effectiveness of abatement measures and the costs of inaction.

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Priorities ahead for the Convention

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- Air pollution has been recognized as a problem at the global level
- Key remaining pollution issues: ground-level ozone, particulate matter
- Cooperation across the scales needed – local, national, regional, global
- Cooperation with organizations and networks beyond the UNECE region
  - Lessons learned from the Convention to contribute to solutions around the globe

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Thank you!

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

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