

Decision 2018/3

Compliance by Latvia with the Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants (ref. 3/10 (HCB))

The Executive Body,

Acting under paragraph 11 of the structure and functions of the Implementation Committee and the procedure for review (ECE/EB.AIR/113/Add.1, decision 2012/25, annex):

1. *Recalls* its decisions 2011/6, 2012/17 and 2014/7 concerning compliance by Latvia with the Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants (Protocol on POPs);
2. *Notes* the twenty-first report of the Implementation Committee on the follow-up to decision 2014/7 on compliance by Latvia with its obligation under article 3, paragraph 5(a), of the Protocol on POPs (ECE/EB.AIR/2018/3, paras. 7–11);
3. *Notes* with concern that Latvia still fails to fulfil its obligation to reduce the emissions of hexachlorobenzene (HCB) listed in annex III of the Protocol from its level in 1990 by taking effective measures, as required by article 3, paragraph 5(a), of the Protocol on POPs;
4. *Notes* with regret that Latvia did not provide additional information requested by the Implementation Committee (ECE/EB.AIR/2017/3, para. 21);
5. *Strongly urges* Latvia to fulfil its obligation under the Protocol on POPs as soon as possible and to inform the Implementation Committee about the progress in reducing emissions of HCB and efforts of Latvia to comply with its obligations under the Protocol on POPs;
6. *Decides* to invite Latvia to participate in the Committee's meetings in 2019 to elaborate on the information provided pursuant to paragraph 5 above;
7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to bring this matter to the attention of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Latvia, noting that the obligation to reduce emissions of HCB is a binding obligation in international law that was accepted by Latvia when it ratified the Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants in 2004;
8. *Calls* on Latvia to make a presentation to the next annual session of the Executive Body to report on its efforts to achieve compliance;
9. *Requests* the Implementation Committee to review the progress of Latvia towards compliance with its obligations under the Protocol on POPs, and to report to the Executive Body thereon at its thirty-ninth session in 2019.