

Decision 2013/8 Concerning compliance by Denmark with the Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants (ref. 1/06 (PAH))

The Executive Body,

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

1. *Recalls* its decisions 2006/8, 2007/6, 2008/6, 2009/9, 2010/6, 2011/5 and 2012/16;

2. *Notes* the sixteenth report of the Implementation Committee on the follow-up to decision 2012/16 on Denmark's compliance with its obligation under article 3, paragraph 5 (a), of the Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants (Protocol on POPs), based on the information provided by Denmark in May and September 2013 (ECE/EB.AIR/2013/4, paras. 14–20), and in particular its conclusion that the situation of non-compliance has not improved in the past few years and that Denmark predicted it would take an additional 15 years to come into compliance with its obligations;

3. *Remains very concerned* that, in spite of the efforts made, Denmark still fails to fulfil its obligation to reduce the emissions of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) listed in annex III of the Protocol from their level in 1990 by taking effective measures, as required by article 3, paragraph 5 (a), of the Protocol;

4. *Urges* Denmark once again to speed up the implementation of envisaged measures, and to consider whether there are any further additional measures that could be taken in order to shorten the period of expected non-compliance with its obligation under the Protocol;

5. *Requests* Denmark again to provide the Implementation Committee, through the secretariat, by 31 March 2014, with a detailed report describing its progress towards compliance, by:

(a) Setting out a detailed timetable, including emissions projections, which also specifies the year by which Denmark expects to be in compliance;

(b) Listing specific measures to fulfil its emission reduction obligations under the Protocol, including time scales and quantified and projected effects;

(c) Indicating the quantitative and projected effects of further and more effective measures to reduce its PAH emissions up to and including the year of predicted compliance;

6. *Requests* the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe to bring this matter to the attention of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Denmark, noting that the obligation to reduce emissions of PAHs is a binding obligation in international law that was accepted by Denmark when it ratified the Protocol in 2003, and that since that time Denmark has been in non-compliance with its international obligations;

7. *Welcomes* the information provided by Denmark to the Executive Body at its thirty-second session;

8. *Decides*, however, to caution Denmark that stronger measures will be considered by the Executive Body at its thirty-third session if Denmark should fail to provide the detailed report requested in paragraph 5;

9. *Requests* the Implementation Committee to review the progress and timetable of Denmark, and to report to the Executive Body thereon at its thirty-third session in 2014.
