

## Decision 2019/10

### Revised mandate for the Chemical Coordinating Centre

*The Executive Body,*

*Recalling* the provisions of article 9 and other relevant provisions of the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution,

*Recalling also* the provisions of the Protocol on Long-term Financing of the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe (EMEP Protocol),

*Noting* that the Chemical Coordinating Centre has been in operation since 1979 – the beginning of the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe (EMEP) – as one of the three cooperating international centres of EMEP,

*Recalling* the terms of reference for the international EMEP centres (EB.AIR/GE.1/8, annex IV), adopted at its fourth session (ECE/EB.AIR/10),

*Recognizing* the Centre's contribution to the scientific assessment of past trends and current status in air pollution throughout the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) region and to the evaluation of the implementation of the Protocols to the Convention,

*Acknowledging* the support provided by the Chemical Coordinating Centre to the Parties to the Convention and EMEP, among other things, through the following actions:

- (a) Development and updating of the EMEP monitoring strategy (including quality assurance framework) and support to Parties in its implementation to ensure availability of high-quality comparable data on air pollution throughout the ECE region;
- (b) Promotion and dissemination of best practices available and recommendations for implementation of the EMEP monitoring strategy, in particular through the provision of the EMEP Manual for Sampling and Chemical Analysis;<sup>1</sup>
- (c) Contribution to the improvement of the scientific understanding of the processes that control European air pollution levels through regular intensive measurement campaigns;
- (d) Contribution to the elaboration of assessment reports and trend analyses of air pollution concentrations and deposition in the EMEP domain over the past 40 years;
- (e) Development and maintenance of the database hosting observation data of atmospheric chemical composition and physical properties (EBAS), which collects, gathers, checks and publishes all observations and measurements performed by the Parties to the Convention;
- (f) Support and assistance to Parties for running new observation sites, especially in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.

*Recognizing* the need to update the mandate of the Chemical Coordinating Centre to ensure its consistency with the provisions of the amended Protocols to the Convention, and to take into account its strategic priorities as set out in the following documents:

- (a) The long-term strategy for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution for 2020–2030 and beyond (decision 2018/5, annex);
- (b) The 2016 scientific assessment of the Convention;<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> See <https://projects.nilu.no/cc/manual/index.html>.

<sup>2</sup> See Rob Maas and Peringe Grennfelt, eds., *Towards Cleaner Air: Scientific Assessment Report 2016* (Oslo, 2016); and United States Environmental Protection Agency and Environment and Climate Change Canada, *Towards Cleaner Air: Scientific Assessment Report 2016 – North America* (2016).

(c) The policy response to the 2016 scientific assessment of the Convention (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2017/3 and Corr.1 and ECE/EB.AIR/2017/4).

*Noting* that the annual costs of the centres cooperating within EMEP for the activities appearing in the work programme of the Steering Body of EMEP are covered in accordance with the EMEP Protocol, from contributions by the Parties to the Convention on the basis of the annual EMEP budget approved by the Executive Body upon the recommendation of the Steering Body to EMEP:

1. *Notes with appreciation* the hosting of the Chemical Coordinating Centre by the Norwegian Institute for Air Research;
2. *Adopts* the revised mandate of the Chemical Coordinating Centre as contained in the annex to the present decision, which includes the key objectives and functions of the Centre to be carried out on an ongoing basis, whereas additional activities and specific tasks and associated deliverables to be carried out in a shorter time frame will be included in the biennial workplans for the implementation of the Convention;
3. *Decides* that the Centre is responsible for communicating with national experts, for maintaining an up-to-date web page that includes information on its work and for other organizational arrangements in accordance with the biennial workplan;
4. *Decides* that the Centre is responsible for carrying out the work assigned to it in the biennial workplans approved by the Executive Body, and reporting thereon, as well as for keeping other relevant bodies apprised of its work.

## **Annex**

### **Revised mandate for the Chemical Coordinating Centre**

1. The Chemical Coordinating Centre will continue to provide scientific support to the Convention, with information on measurements of all pollutants and precursors addressed by the Convention.
2. The Chemical Coordinating Centre reports on its activities and deliverables to the Steering Body to EMEP.
3. The functions of the Centre are to:
  - (a) Develop and coordinate the observation activities required to assess air pollution across the EMEP geographical domain;
  - (b) Secure and improve the quality and representativeness of observations:
    - (i) Develop adequate methodology to support EMEP needs where not available elsewhere, and ensure harmonization with the European Committee for Standardization, the International Organization for Standardization, the metrology community, etc.;
    - (ii) Develop and update measurement guidelines and standard operation procedures in cooperation with the Task Force on Measurements and Modelling, the central quality assurance facilities in the European Union (for example, the Network of Air Quality Reference Laboratories, the European Committee for Standardization and the European Research Infrastructure for the observation of Aerosol, Clouds and Trace Gases) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Global Atmosphere Watch Programme;
    - (iii) Organize training courses and undertake site visits (selection of new sites, audits) and laboratory audits;
    - (iv) Arrange regular laboratory intercomparisons for all variables required by the EMEP monitoring strategy, and link results to data usage and interpretation;
    - (v) Arrange field intercomparisons and assess the representativeness of observations.

(c) Carry out quality assurance and quality control of data submitted by Parties, including by:

(i) Developing data-reporting templates allowing sufficient metadata provision;

(ii) Providing training and assistance to personnel involved in data reporting;

(iii) Carrying out technical handling of data flow; checking of individual data sets submitted, including statistical methods; visual inspection of time series plots, consistency in time and space; and bilateral discussions on corrections and re-submissions with data originators.

(d) Archive observation data and associated metadata and disseminate them to users,<sup>3</sup> including provision of development and operational support of the underlying information technology-infrastructure used to host data and provision of access to data for operational users (other EMEP centres, external modelling groups and external users (for example, the European Environment Agency, the WMO/Global Atmosphere Watch Programme and the Copernicus Atmosphere Monitoring Service));

(e) Improve the timeliness of observation data to users (EMEP Near-Real-Time);

(f) Assess data and provide information to stakeholders on results from monitoring activities;

(g) Support Parties, EMEP centres and others in data assessments and interpretations; provide expert advice on the use of data, taking into account knowledge about data quality and other metadata; prepare data reports providing status of observations and main findings;

(h) Contribute to the EMEP status reports prepared for the EMEP Steering Body; serve the interests of EMEP monitoring activities towards relevant activities under other frameworks to ensure harmonization, efficient use of resources and multiple use of data; promote the use of EMEP observations in supporting European scale assessment of air pollution and source apportionment with respect to monitoring required in response to the European Union directives; maintain links with external bodies addressing similar issues within Europe (the European Environment Agency, the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission, the Commission for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic, among others); maintain links with external bodies addressing similar issues outside Europe (Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme, World Meteorological Organization Global Atmosphere Watch Programme, Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, Minamata Convention on Mercury, regional programmes in North America, South-East Asia and elsewhere (in collaboration with the Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution)); promote EMEP observations as a contribution to the Copernicus Atmosphere Monitoring Service and the Global Earth Observation System of Systems; and encourage the involvement of research groups to ensure implementation of EMEP level 2 and level 3 monitoring activities;

(i) Carry out other tasks assigned to it by the EMEP Steering Body and the Executive Body.

<sup>3</sup> See <http://ebas.nilu.no>.