

# UNECE AIR CONVENTION

## Working Group on Strategies and Review

**4-6 September 2023**

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**Policy options document  
addressing the conclusions of the GP review**

# Context

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- **Dec 2019:** Launch of the AGP review  
(EB39) (EB Decision 2019/4)
- **Dec 2022:** Conclusion and completion of the AGP review  
(EB42) (EB Decision 2022/4, paragraph 6)  
**Request WGSR to address conclusions of the AGP review report:  
development of policy options by new expert group**  
(EB Decision 2022/4, paragraphs 8 and 9)
- **Dec 2023:** EB to consider policy options and take appropriate action  
(EB43) (EB Decision 2022/4, paragraph 11)

# EB decision 2022/4, paragraph 9

*Decides* that an ad hoc group of experts should be convened by the Chair of the Working Group on Strategies and Review. The tasks of the ad hoc group include:

- (a) development of policy options to address the conclusions of the review, including consideration of the option of a revision of the Gothenburg Protocol, as amended in 2012 and options for addressing conclusions related to the technical annexes, and including recommendations for next steps and future work;
- (b) sharing the policy options with the Working Group on Strategies and Review for input in preparation for and at sessions of the WGSR in 2023, and, in the event of only one WGSR, that a first draft of the ad hoc group's report is made available through the secretariat to the national focal points for their input latest by the end of spring 2023 ;
- (c) further elaborating the policy options taking due consideration of the input received.

# Members EGPOD

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- **Till Spranger as chair of the WGSR convened the ad hoc expert group**
- **Experts from twelve Parties were nominated to take part in the work of the ad hoc group**

BE	Peter Meulepas	GE	Noe Megrelishvili	NO	Eli Marie Åsen
CA	Dominique Pritula	MD	Stela Drucioc	PT	Filipa Marques
CH	Reto Meier	ME	Olivera Kujundžić	UK	John Salter
CZ	Pavel Gadas	NL	Eduard Dame (till May)	US	Allie Davis

- **In addition, two observers from EC**

# Timeline

<b>First draft of POD</b>	
Sent to delegations for comments	24 March
Presented and discussed at intersessional webinar	17-18 April
Comments received from delegations	26 April
EGPOD updated first draft	May
<b>Second draft of POD</b>	
Submitted to Secretariat to serve as formal document for WGSR-61	25 May
Sent to delegations for comments	26 May
Comments received from delegations	29 June
EGPOD updated second draft	July - August
<b>Track changes version of updated second draft</b>	
Submitted to Secretariat as informal document for WGSR-61	25 August
Sent to delegations for final comments	27 August
To be presented and discussed at WGSR-61	4-6 September
EGPOD updates track changes version to a final clean version	7 September
<b>Third and final draft of POD</b>	
Submitted to Secretariat (to serve as formal document for EB-43)	7 September

# Purpose of POD

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- To present policy options addressing the conclusions of the AGP review **(but no concrete amendment / text proposals!)**
- To provide objective and factual information (expert judgement)
- To provide expert input to the EB to allow EB making an informative decision on appropriate next steps, potentially to launch a formal negotiation process
- To be used as one of the sources of information alongside other sources of information (e.g. review material developed in recent years)
- To be submitted to the EB for consideration, not adoption

# Available documents for WGSR-61

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## **Official document**

- [Options to address the conclusions of the review of the Gothenburg Protocol, as amended in 2012](#)  
(document ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2023/2)

## **Informal documents**

- [Options to address the conclusions of the review, as revised following the comments \(with comments\)](#)  
(TC version of updated document ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2023/2: updated based on comments from CA, EU, UK, US, co-chair TFEIP)
- [Summary table for the policy options document](#)  
(initial version)
- [Updated tables to accompany the policy options document](#)  
(updated and extended version)

# Outline of draft POD

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## Formal document

**Chapter 1**

**Introduction**

**Chapter 2**

**Description of policy options**

**Chapter 3**

**Analysis of policy options**

**Chapter 4**

**Recommendations**

## Informal document

**Summary table for chapter 2**

**Policy approaches versus themes**

**Summary table for chapter 3**

**Policy approaches versus criteria**



# Chapter 2 - Description of policy options

- Options are grouped into following 4 main approaches
- Each approach as well options within them can be stand-alone or used in combination

1	<b>No revision</b> of amended Gothenburg Protocol (AGP) (continue with ratifying and implementing AGP)
2	<b>Revision</b> of AGP (a) Targeted revisions of TA IV–XI (b) Comprehensive revisions of Protocol text and TA
3	<b>New instrument(s)/measure(s)</b> (a) Develop non-binding instrument(s)/measure(s) (b) Develop binding instrument(s)/measure(s)
4	<b>Cross-cutting:</b> Enhance: (a) Capacity-building (b) Awareness-raising (c) Cooperation outside the Convention (d) Other support

# Approach 1 - no revision of AGP

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- Continue with ratification and implementation of present AGP
- Focus on reporting, compliance review, exchange of information ...
- Focus on cross-cutting actions (capacity building, ...)
- Further potential initiatives
  - ✓ Continue to improve emission inventories
  - ✓ Operational improvements to flexibility provisions (guidance)
  - ✓ Updating existing / developing new guidance documents
  - ✓ Address CH<sub>4</sub> through scientific work

# Approach 2(a) - Targeted revisions of TA

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- Amendments to one or more of Technical Annexes IV- XI for which the use of the expedited amendment procedure is optional
- Amendments can include
  - ✓ Improvements to current flexibilities (e.g. timescales Annex VII)
  - ✓ New flexibilities / different approaches
  - ✓ Specific amendments to TA (simplification, derogations)
  - ✓ Restructuring TA / separate sections for EECCA/WB/TR
  - ✓ Focus on requirements for key categories / new installations

# Approach 2(b) - Comprehensive revision

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- A comprehensive revision of text and Technical Annexes can include
  - ✓ New emission reduction commitments for current set of pollutants
  - ✓ Enhancing action on NH<sub>3</sub> (amend Annex IX: strengthening existing requirements, expanding scope)
  - ✓ Introducing requirements on CH<sub>4</sub> (ERCs, TA, ...)
  - ✓ Expanding requirements on BC (ERCs, reporting, other ...)
  - ✓ Removing barriers to ratification and implementation
  - ✓ Introducing new approaches (staged ratification, phased commitments)
  - ✓ Automatic incorporation of ELVs in TA upon ratification
  - ✓ Removing (replacing) TA
  - ✓ Relevant updates to articles

# Approach 3(a) - Non-binding instrument

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- A new non binding instrument / voluntary action can include
  - ✓ Voluntary programmes such as former BACA initiative
  - ✓ Framework of voluntary targets for additional action on air pollution (cfr. Biodiversity)
  - ✓ Additional voluntary action to fulfil Global CH<sub>4</sub> pledge; link to other agreements ...
  - ✓ Moving focus to a more facilitating role for the Convention; focus on implementation
  - ✓ Building in cooperation with existing programmes from WB, CCAC ...
- Possible role for FICAP

# Approach 3(b) - Binding instrument

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- A new binding instrument (to replace / complement AGP) can include
  - ✓ New protocol with broader scope / different content / structure
  - ✓ Framework protocol (with secondary implementing measures)
  - ✓ Sector-based protocol (harmonizing sectors)
  - ✓ Single pollutant protocol (e.g. for CH<sub>4</sub>)
  - ✓ Phased approach protocol... (phased progress towards overall objectives in line with countries' capacities)

# Approach 4 - Cross-cutting

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- (4a) Enhance capacity building
  - ✓ Update needs assessment
  - ✓ Address capacity needs/gaps (WP, TF mandates, ...)
- (4b) Enhance Awareness raising
  - ✓ Review effectiveness of current communication and outreach
  - ✓ Improve as needed (campaigns, national dialogues, HL events ...)
- (4c) Enhance cooperation with
  - ✓ WHO, UNFCCC, IPCC, CCAC, UNEP, SCPP ...
- (4d) Other support
  - ✓ Increase voluntary contributions
  - ✓ New funding mechanism to support implementation
  - ✓ Outreach to financial institutions

# Summary table chapter 2

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- Provides overview of relationship between main themes of GP review conclusions and policy approaches
- Shows to what extent the policy options can address the following themes
  - ✓ Emission reduction commitments
  - ✓ Technical Annexes /Guidance documents
  - ✓ NH3
  - ✓ BC
  - ✓ CH4
  - ✓ Protocol related barriers
  - ✓ Other barriers
  - ✓ Emission inventories
  - ✓ Other issues (synergies, NT-measures, action outside ECE)



# Summary table chapter 3

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- Provides a comparison of policy approaches on the basis of following criteria
  - ✓ Level of ambition and feasibility to implement (effectiveness)
  - ✓ Level of effort to pursue particular approach
  - ✓ Expected timeline to implement particular approach
  - ✓ Costs and resources
  - ✓ Level of complexity (legal complexity)
  - ✓ Multi-pollutant / multi-effect approach
  - ✓ Level playing field
  - ✓ Potential to encourage ratification and implementation
  - ✓ Future proof (relevance)

## Recommendations

57. To address and respond to the conclusions of the Gothenburg Protocol review, Convention Parties should consider [a comprehensive revision of the text and annexes of the amended Gothenburg Protocol](#) (approach 2b) with due regard to [removing barriers to ratification and implementation](#), while also working to achieve further emission reductions and to begin this work in 2024 at the 62<sup>nd</sup> session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review.

58. In undertaking a comprehensive revision of the Gothenburg Protocol the revision process could include consideration of the following key priority areas:

- Update **emission reduction commitments** for existing pollutants;
- Consider new specific emission requirements for **black carbon** and/or as component of PM;
- Address **ammonia** emissions with stricter emission requirements, and more broadly;
- Address **methane** as an ozone precursor;
- Update the **technical annexes** of the Protocol, including through simplification, restructuring and/or removal of the annexes, as appropriate
- Consider further and/or different **flexibilities and approaches** to address barriers to ratification and implementation, including a phased approach (to ratification or commitments).
- Further consider **synergies** with other policy areas, such as climate and energy, and work closely with other forums addressing these issues.

59. [In parallel, whichever approach is chosen, any activities that do not require opening formal negotiations should be given appropriate consideration by the Executive Body](#) and, subject to availability of resources, be added to future workplans of the Convention. Prioritisation of these activities can be determined on the basis of an updated needs assessment (see paragraph 19(a)).