

Submission by Ukraine

Proposed edits to draft decision text under Agenda Item 3(a) – Draft decision on the Meteorological Synthesizing Centre-East, prepared by the Executive Body Bureau.

These suggested edits aim to enhance the language of the Executive Body decision, ensuring it remains precise, concise and grounded in factual accuracy.

Deletions are reflected in ~~strikeout~~, and additions are reflected in **bold**.

[The Executive Body,

Recalling 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 Meteorological Synthesizing Centre-East (MSC-East), the international centre of the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe (EMEP), has been hosted by the Meteorological Synthesizing Centre-East in Moscow (MSC-East in Moscow), Russian Federation¹, since 1979 – the beginning of EMEP,

Recognizing the Centre's contribution to the scientific assessment of past trends in air pollution, in particular for heavy metals and persistent organic pollutants (POPs), throughout the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) region and to the evaluation of the implementation of the Protocols to the Convention,

Recalling the Revised mandate for the MSC-East of EMEP adopted by the Executive Body Decision 2019/11² at its thirty-ninth session (9-13 December 2019),

Acknowledging ~~the support provided by the fact that the MSC-East in Moscow to the Parties to the Convention and EMEP was operational under international funding~~ until 31 December 2022,

Emphasizing that this decision does not propose any changes to the resources required to conduct the activities allocated to MSC-East of EMEP in its mandate or the workplan of the Convention and that there is, thus, no need to introduce changes into the Annex to the EMEP Protocol,

Recalling its decision on MSC-East in Moscow taken during its forty-second session (Geneva (hybrid), 12–16 December 2022), requesting the EMEP Steering Body to “assess options for reorganization and relocation of the activities currently implemented by the centre, with due consideration for the need to retain geographical balance, and to report back on that assessment to the Executive Body at its forty-third session”³,

Further recalling the recommendation of the EMEP Steering Body resulting from the ninth joint session of the EMEP Steering Body and the Working Group on Effects (11-15 September 2023) to the Executive Body to consider options 1 through 3 presented in the document *Reorganization and relocation of the Meteorological Synthesizing Centre-East activities: review of the options by the Steering Body to the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe* (ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2023/7–ECE/EB.AIR/WG.1/2023/7),

¹ The Meteorological Synthesizing Centre-East is hosted by a Moscow-based organization of the same name.

² ECE/EB.AIR/144/Add.1.

³ ECE/EB.AIR/150, para. 37 (b-d).

Recognizing the need to ensure continuity of scientific activities in the field of heavy metals (including mercury) and persistent organic pollutants to monitor their behavior in the UNECE region and to support and maintain outreach activities with other Multilateral Environmental Agreements and bodies such as the Minamata Convention on Mercury, Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, Oslo and Paris Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic, and Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission,

Welcoming the offer of the Jožef Stefan Institute in Ljubljana, Slovenia to host the centre as of 1 January 2024,

Also welcoming offers from Georgia and Ukraine to host all or part of the activities of the centre in the mid- to long-term perspective,

1. *Decides* to designate the Jožef Stefan Institute in Ljubljana, Slovenia, as the host of MSC-East, the international centre of EMEP, as of 1 January 2024, and *entrusts* the Jožef Stefan Institute with performing the activities of MSC-East of EMEP as per its Revised mandate and the biannual workplans of the Executive Body, starting with the 2024-2025 workplan and until the Executive Body decides otherwise;
2. *Also decides* to terminate the status of the MSC-East in Moscow, Russian Federation, as the host of MSC-East of EMEP as of 31 December 2023;
3. *Requests* the secretariat to implement the required formalities to effect the above decisions;
4. *Requests* the Jožef Stefan Institute to develop an implementation plan for the activities of MSC-East of EMEP as per its Revised mandate and the biannual workplan of the Executive Body for the period of 2024-2025, to be reviewed by the EMEP Steering Body at its 10th session;
5. *Requests* the EMEP Steering Body to develop a roadmap for the potential relocation for all or part of the MSC-East of EMEP to an EECCA country, as [per Option 3] outlined in the document ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2023/7–ECE/EB.AIR/WG.1/2023/7, paragraph 4 (c).]