

CONVENTION ON LONG-RANGE TRANSBOUNDARY AIR POLLUTION
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Towards increased linkages between international conventions

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European Nitrogen Assessment

Chapter 25 Coordinating European nitrogen policies between international conventions and intergovernmental organizations

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Executive Body Decision 2007/1

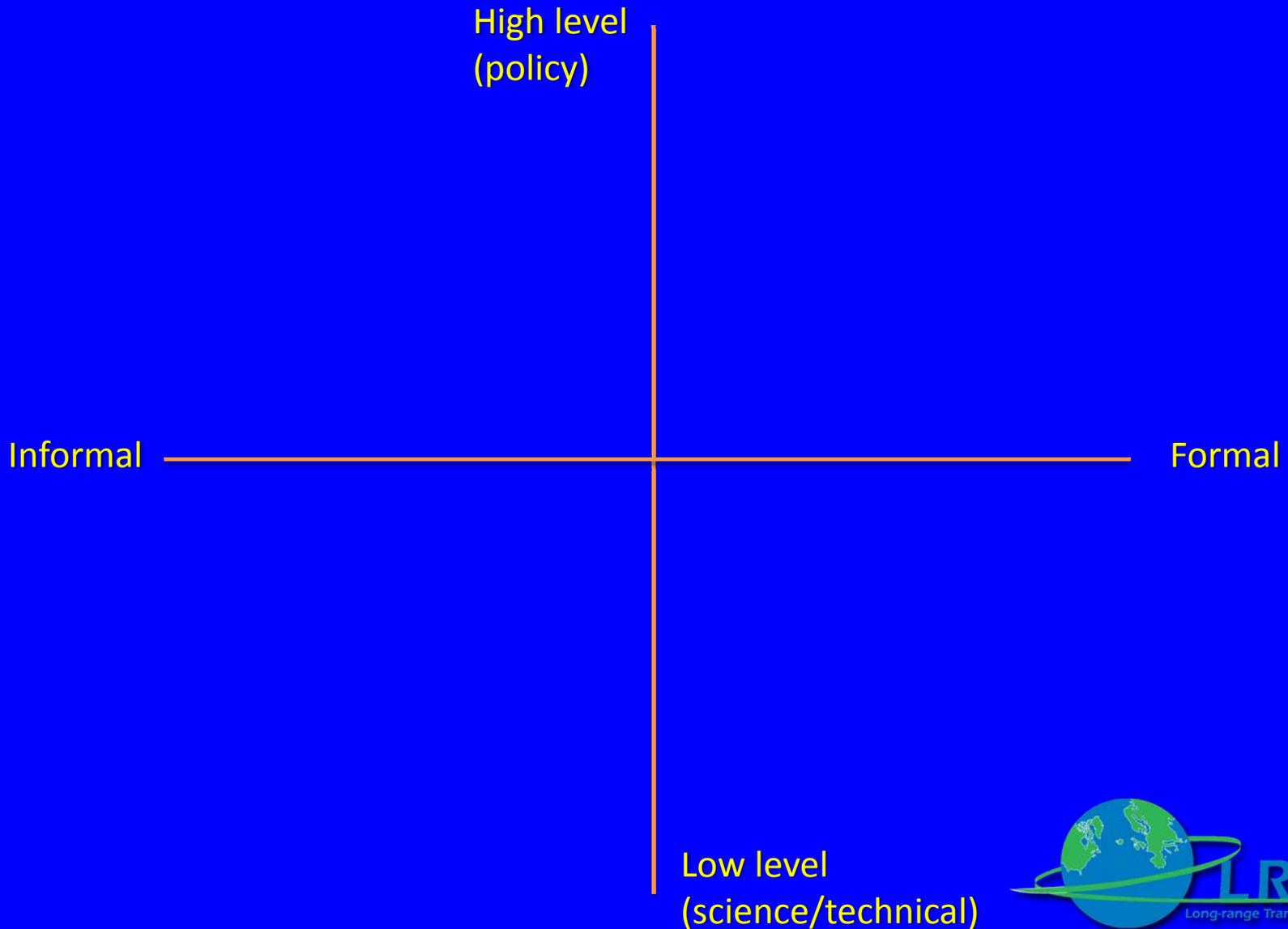
Establishes a Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen with the long-term goal of developing technical and scientific information, and options which can be used for strategy development across the UNECE to encourage coordination of air pollution policies on nitrogen in the context of the nitrogen cycle and which may be used by other bodies outside the Convention in consideration of other control measures.



Towards increased linkages between international conventions

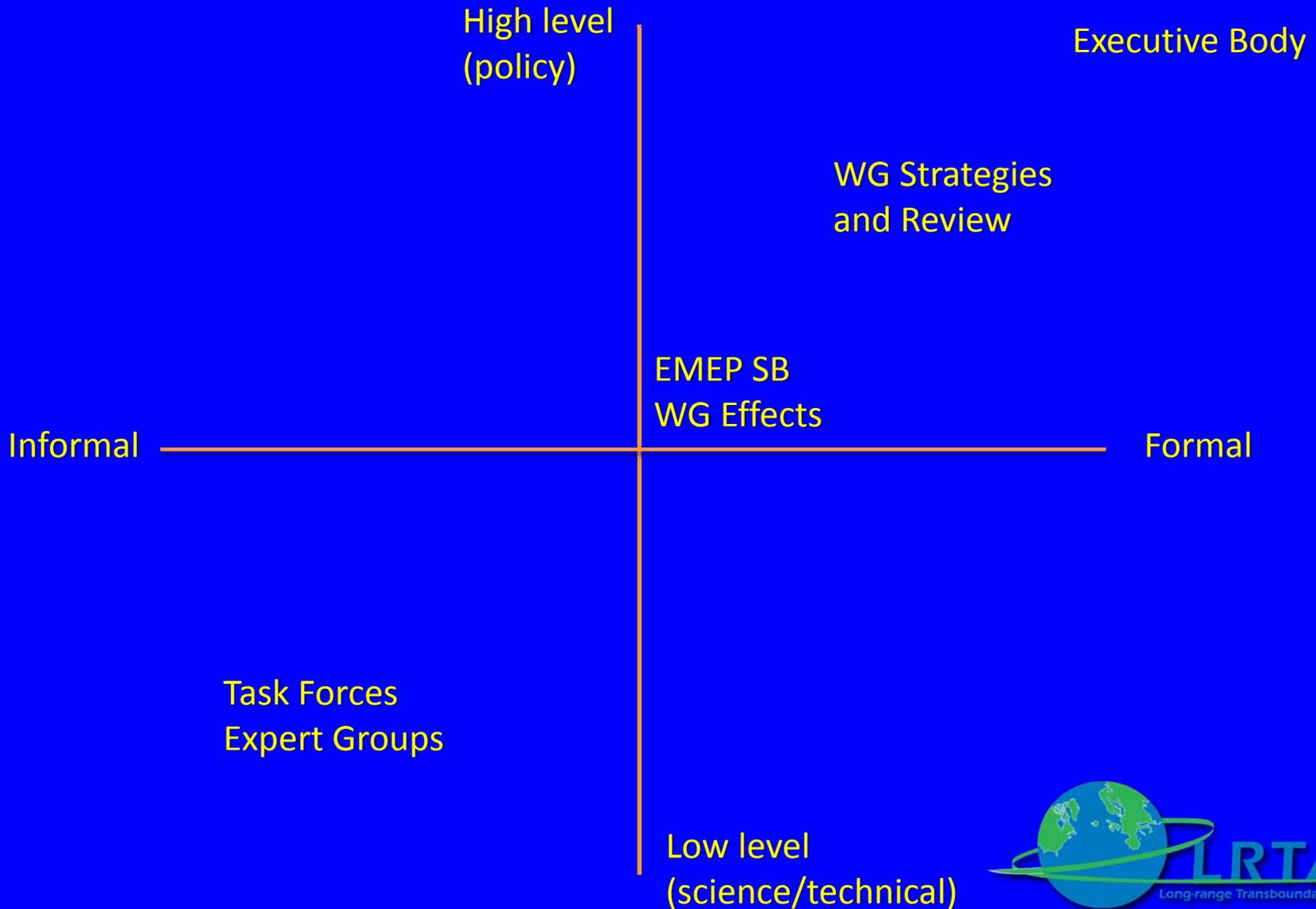
- What mechanisms are available?
- How can these be used to promote links for nitrogen management?
- What are the best options for the future?
- What might be the role of TERN?

Policy/formality and science/informality links

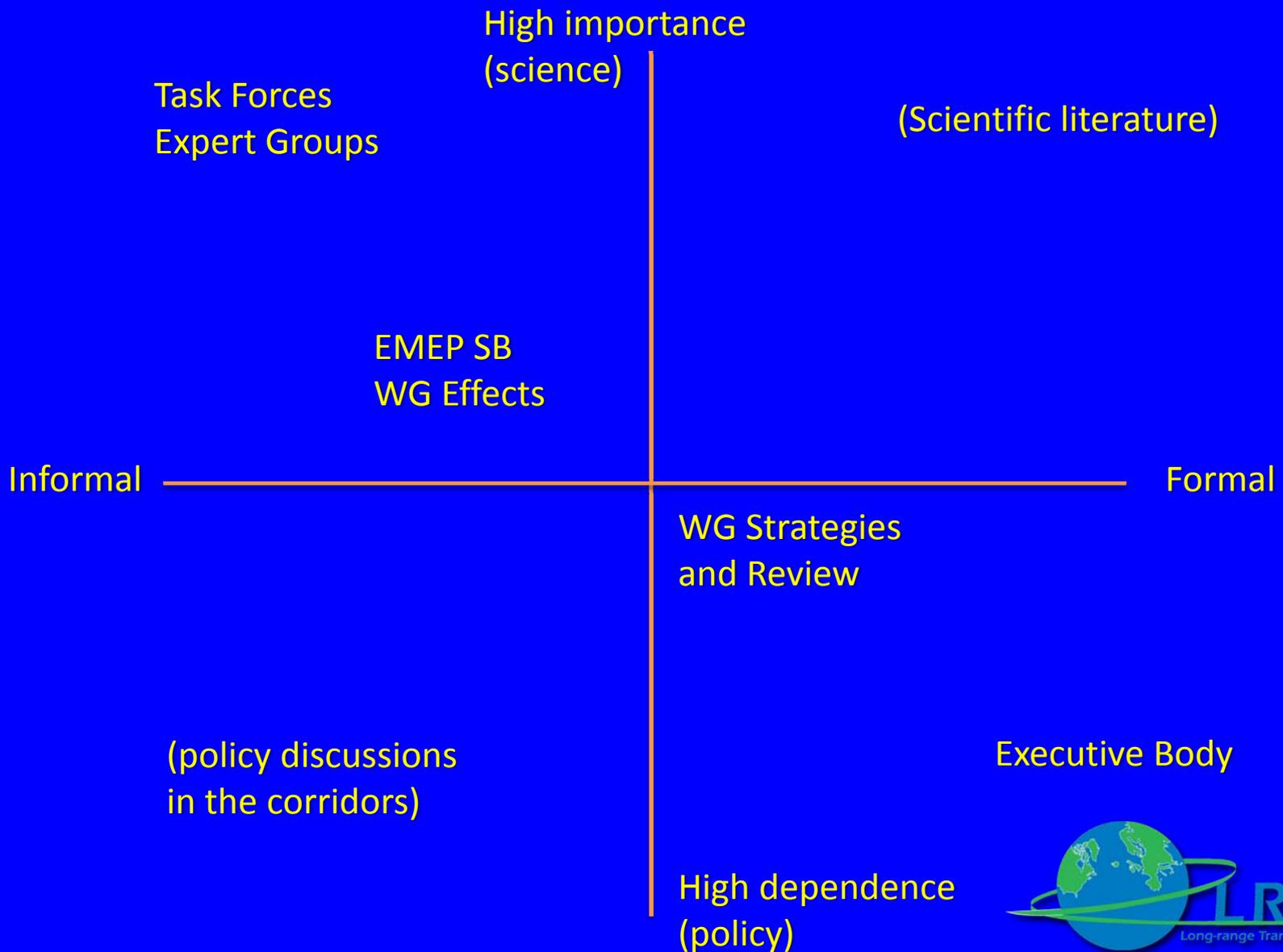


Policy/formality and science/informality links

CLRTAP







Formal interlinkages between MEAs (multilateral environmental agreements) and IGOs (intergovernmental organizations)

- Inter-MEA agreements (joint legal instruments, memorandums of understanding, exchanges of letters)
- Formal acknowledgement of the expertise or participation of another MEA /IGO (invitation to participate, invitation to contribute)
- Decision to be affiliated to an over-arching organization

Formal interlinkages between MEAs/IGOs

- Formal decision on mandate of a subsidiary body to encourage participation from other MEAs/IGOs
- Formal request to the secretariat(s) to liaise with other MEAs/IGOs

Informal interlinkages between MEAs/IGOs

- Co-participation between MEA scientific bodies, including joint meetings where there are common interests
- National experts participation in existing “external” scientific networks
- Participation of national experts in international conferences and meetings



What are the best options for the future and how might TFRN contribute?

Options for promoting cooperation and coordination of nitrogen management

National policy coordination (already developed by some countries)

- Ensures that national policies are consistent, and
- Helps coordinate international action between MEAs and IGOs through national delegations and experts.

Options for promoting cooperation and coordination of nitrogen management

The international scientific community (including cooperation between MEAs and IGOs)

- Can provide harmonized information to different forums and can promote coordination; but,
- This needs effort and resources; and,
- There are problems in coordinating different measurement and modelling activities between air, land and water;
- There is a need to bring together relevant, multi-media nitrogen science to provide cross-cutting information to underpin policy decisions.

Options for promoting cooperation and coordination of nitrogen management

A new treaty or over-arching organization:

- Many MEAs have developed after science identified problems, and science provided the underpinning for the political decision making;
- In Europe, the European Nitrogen Assessment, COST and ESF NinE are playing a role in promoting integrated nitrogen approaches by bringing the science together;
- Globally, the International Nitrogen Initiative has led to the Global Partnership on Nutrient Management, which has some potential to act as an over-arching organization.



Options for promoting cooperation and coordination of nitrogen management

CLRTAP scientific bodies (TFRN):

- Provide good coordination within the Convention and have potential for coordination with other bodies and networks:
- Are in a good position to promote more cooperation and take further steps on some aspects of coordination to link atmospheric to other nitrogen threats.

Kingdon's Window of Opportunity

- ← Problem stream (knowing what the problem is – basic science, awareness)**
- ← Policy stream (knowing how to solve the problem – science, technology, policy)**
- ← Political stream (action to address the problem)**

The three streams converging create the window



Where do we stand with the three streams?

Problem – Do we have sufficient knowledge of the scientific and technical issues related to nitrogen management?

Policy – Do we have clear solutions, both in terms of technical approaches and also with regard to policy options (New legal instrument? New overarching framework? Use existing institutions?)

Political – Are we prepared for an attempt to gain political willingness?



Final comments

It is clear that the way ahead is not easy, especially if more formal approaches are needed. But existing scientific bodies (in particular TFRN) have an important role to play for the future.

TFRN bridges the science-policy gap, brings together a range of scientific and technical expertise, and is charged with linking to other organizations. It is in a good position to play a key role.

