

# UNECE Air Convention Gothenburg Protocol Review

## *Scope, Content, Process, and the role of TFRN*

TFRN 15 (virtual meeting)  
4 February 2021

*For the GP Review Group: Till Spranger, WGSR Vice-Chair*

# *Gothenburg Protocol and its review*

- 1999, amended in 2012
- Acidification, Eutrophication, PM, tropospheric ozone
- $\text{NH}_3$ ,  $\text{NO}_x$ ,  $\text{SO}_2$ , NMVOC,  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$
- Annex IX stayed unchanged in 2012 => status of mid-1990s!
- Art. 10(4) explicitly specifies the need to “evaluate ammonia control measures and consider the need to revise Annex IX”
- Review process started when Protocol entered into force in late 2019 and will be finalized in December 2022
- Review may or may not result in Protocol revision

## *Key Priorities of the review*

- Initial focus on the legally required elements pursuant to the provisions of article 10 of the Protocol
  - **Evaluation of mitigation measures for black carbon and ammonia emissions**
  - **Sufficiency and effectiveness of current obligations and the Parties' success in achieving the Protocol's objectives**
- Steps to gather information from **Parties that have not yet ratified the Protocol** in order to help inform recommendations and conclusions of the review

## *Main documents related to the review*

- “Consideration for ammonia relevant to future review of the Gothenburg Protocol” (**Overview** on available documentation relevant to Article 10.4)
- Draft ammonia assessment report (main science/policy messages for policymakers)
- “**Preparations for the review** of the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication, and Ground-level ozone, as amended in 2012” including
  - **Annex I: list of questions** to the subsidiary bodies, including TFRN
- ...covered by the Convention’s **Work Plan 2020/2021**
- Policy documents: **EB Decisions 2019/4** and **2020/2**

# *Annex I: Content*

- Questions to Subsidiary Bodies of the Convention are related to:
  - Review of obligations in relation to emission reductions
  - Review of progress towards achieving the environmental and health objectives of the Protocol
  - Review of adequacy of obligations in attaining the environmental and health objectives of the Protocol
  - *Evaluation of mitigation measures for BC emissions*
  - Evaluation of ammonia control measures and consideration of the need to revise annex IX

# *Annex I: Process*

- List of questions to help Subsidiary Bodies in preparing the review
- Take into account elements in Section C of the WGSR/EB “Preparatory” document in answering the questions
- Subsidiary bodies may need to adjust their workplan activities, as appropriate, to be able to undertake some of the work required for the review

# Timeframe

Meeting	Title of report tabled for consideration	Deadline
WGSR 58 / EB 40	Preparations for the review (final) ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2020/3 Consideration for ammonia relevant to future review of the Gothenburg Protocol Informal document on prioritizing reductions of PM to also achieve reduction of BC	25 September 2020 for official documents  Evaluation per Article 10.3 & 10.4 (WGSR informal documents for Agenda item 5)
WGSR 59 (17-20 May 2021)	First draft annotated outline on the Review	February 2021
TF/centre/ICP meetings	First draft of the report for the review ECE/EB.AIR/WG.#/##	Feedback by June 2021
EMEP SB/WGE meeting	Draft of report of the review ECE/EB.AIR/WG.#/##	September 2021
WGSR 60	Draft of report of the review ECE/EB.AIR/WG.#/##	February 2022
EB 42	Final report of review adopted/Conclude the Review	December 2022

# *Possible take-home messages*

- GP review is a unique opportunity for you to feed scientific knowledge into the policy process, and to actively help improving the environment
- A review is not a (possible) revision. Drafting revised annexes and protocol amendment proposals is part of a possible follow-up
- We need an evaluation, i.e. a well-argued explanation of what has worked and what not and why, so that the policy level can draw conclusions for further policy action.





Additional slides...

## *Scope and process*

- Purpose of the review is to assess and evaluate whether the short and long-term goals and objectives of the present amended Gothenburg Protocol can be met.
- Review is an assessment based on collected information that will inform Parties of appropriate next steps to meet the goals and objectives.

# *Elements for the review*

- Legally required elements
  - Timing
  - Cost-effective and effects-oriented emission reductions
  - Achieving the Objectives
  - Evaluation of mitigation measures for black carbon and ammonia measures and annex IX
- Elements in the existing Protocol (including expanded list of elements from EB 2019/4 as well as from the report of the 39<sup>th</sup> session of the EB)
  - Sufficiency and Effectiveness
  - Current flexibilities
  - Other articles of the Protocol
- Elements to address gaps and additional inputs
  - Per the long-term strategy, the review should look at appropriate steps towards reducing emissions of black carbon, ozone precursors not yet addressed such as methane, and emissions from shipping with due consideration for IMO policies and measures.
  - Reflection on the flexibility provisions
  - Opportunities for an integrated approach to environmental policy

# *Draft Outline of the Review Report (tentative)*

- Introduction
- Legal requirements for the review
- Emissions
- Measured and modelled atmospheric concentrations and deposition levels
- Measures and modelled effects on human health, natural ecosystems, materials and crops
- Emission reduction commitments for Parties
- Emission limit values, technical annexes and the related guidance documents of the Protocol (with priority given to black carbon and ammonia measures)
- Specific sector approaches (e.g., residential solid-fuel, agriculture, shipping)
- Non-technical measures, best available technology and energy-efficiency requirements (see the long-term strategy for the Convention for 2020-2030 and beyond, para 21)
- Flexibility provisions
- Convention Parties that are not Parties to the Protocol
- Canada and the United States
- Hemispheric Transport
- Integrated multi-pollutant, multi-effect approach,
- Synergies and interactions with other policy areas
- Progress towards achieving the objectives of the protocol
- Conclusions