# Task Force Reactive Nitrogen, 21st meeting (TFRN-21)

**Thursday 8th – Friday 9th October 2026**

Venue: The Hague/Den Haag, The Netherlands and online (hybrid)

## Draft Agenda

**Thursday 8th October.**

### 0930 CEST. Session 1: Strategic Overview in relation to revision of the Gothenburg Protocol.

0930-0935. **Opening** of the meeting by the TFRN lead country: **Tommy Dalgaard**, University of Aarhus Denmark (TFRN co-chair).

0935-0950. **Welcome: 'Stickstofcrisis' and Netherlands experience in reducing ammonia emissions** (**Marije Schouwstra**, TBC, Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management, The Netherlands).

0950-1010. **Status of Gothenburg Protocol Revision Process.** Emerging messages from the Leiden Heads of Delegation Meeting (**Anna Gran**, Acting Chair, Working Group on Strategies and Review, WGSR).

1010-1030 **General discussion** on emerging issues for Gothenburg Protocol revision process (Facilitated by **Mark Sutton**, Co-chair TFRN)

Key themes for discussion:

a) Ambition for ammonia mitigation in the context resilience and the fertilizer crisis.
b) Relationship between advisory and mandatory actions related to ammonia (Ammonia Guidance Document, Framework Code, Annex IX, National Ammonia Codes, National Nitrogen Budgets).
c) How can a perspective on the circular economy and wider economic benefits help mobilize action on ammonia mitigation in the context of the wider N cycle.
d) Key issues faced by Parties in reaching agreement to reduce the adverse effects on human health and ecosystems from transboundary nitrogen pollution?

1030-1100. Tea/Coffee Break.

### 1100 CEST. Session 2: Towards a revision of Annex IX that contributes to economic resilience, cost effectiveness & environmental protection.

1100-1105. **Introduction** to the key issues (**Mark Sutton**)

1105-1110. **Experience from Türkiye** in exclusion of the smallest farms from requirements for nitrogen policy (speaker TBC).

1110-1120. **How could flexibility in excluding the smallest farms from mandatory requirements support a cost-effective approach** (**Rasmus Einarsson**, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Uppsala). *Background document: "Consideration of farm-size differences as an aid to cost-effective ammonia emission reduction."*

1120-1140. **Discussion** about flexibilities to exclude small farms from requirements.

1140-1200. **Overview of current options for revision of Annex IX** (**Mark Sutton**). *Background document: "Options for the Options for revision of Annex IX of the Gothenburg Protocol."*

1200-1230. **General discussion** of options for Annex IX.

1230-1330. Lunch

## 1330 CEST. **Session 3: Status of the UNECE Ammonia Guidance Document, Framework Code and National Ammonia Codes (NACs)**

1330-1335. **Opening** remarks: **Shabtai Bittman** (Co-chair EPMAN, Agriculture Canada).

1335-1350. **Overview on finalizing the revised UNECE Ammonia Guidance Document** (**Alberto Sanz,** Polytechnic University of Madrid and **Rasmus Einarsson**, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences). [*Note: there is more time in the agenda for later on specific discussions as needed*].

1350-1400. **Status of National Ammonia Codes (NACs) and relationship to the UNECE Ammonia Framework Code** (**Claudia Marques dos Santos**, Co-chair TFRN and Instituto Superior de Agronomia, University of Lisbon).

1400-1410. **Discussion** and identification of next steps on ammonia guidance & codes.

## 1410 CEST. **Session 4: National and international experiences on ammonia and wider nitrogen mitigation, including costs & benefits**

1410-1425. **Experiences from Ireland in reducing ammonia, nitrate and nitrous oxide emissions. Can we identify coherent 'packages of measures'?** (**Dominika Krol**, Teagasc, Ireland).

1425-1440. **Opportunities from robotics and other technical innovations for reducing ammonia emissions** (**Shabtai Bittman**, co-chair EPMAN, Agriculture Canada and **Robin Walvoort**, De Marke Experimental Farm, The Netherlands).

1440-1455. **What are the most cost-effective measures to reduce ammonia emissions from cattle, pig and poultry houses and manure storage?** (**Helmut Döhler**, Döhler Agrar, Germany).

1455-1510. **Improving coherency of measures to increase resilience and reduce nitrogen losses from Spanish agriculture** (**Odón Sobrino**, Ministerio de Agricultura Pesca y Alimentación, Spain, Spain).

1510-1540. Other national experiences and discussion (Speakers confirmed, order TBC).

1540-1610. Tea/Coffee Break.

## 1610 CEST. **Session 5: Strategic approaches to Sustainable Nitrogen Management**

1610-1620. **Integrated Assessment. Cost and benefits assessment for ammonia, nitrogen oxides and nitrous oxide in the GAINS model** (**Wilfried Winiwarter**, Co-chair EPNB and Centre for Integrated Assessment Modelling, CIAM, IIASA).

1620-1640. **Status and progress in mobilizing National Nitrogen Budgets across the UNECE** (**Markus Geupel**, Co-chair EPNB, Umweltbundesamt, Germany).

1640-1645. Discussion on how farm-scale nitrogen budgets have helped to reduce nitrogen pollution.

1645-1700. Discussion on strategic approaches

- How could action through National Nitrogen Budgets be strengthened under a revised Gothenburg Protocol?
- How could action on farm scale nitrogen budgets be stimulated through a revised Gothenburg Protocol?
- What actions need more investment?

1710-1715. **Building on our appetite for change: Mobilizing non-technical and technical action by linking nitrogen to the bioeconomy** (Adrian Leip and Susanna Kugelberg, co-chairs, Expert Panel on Nitrogen and Food, EPNF).

1715-1720. Wrap up for the day and setting of evening tasks!

1900. Joint dinner Leiden or The Hague (TBC).

- **Question for Dinner:** How could revision of Annex IX help to mobilize more resilient, cost-effective farming with lower ammonia emissions?

**Friday 9th October.**

## 0900 CEST. **Session 6: Strategic Overview in relation to revision of the Gothenburg Protocol.**

0900-0930. **Finalizing the UNECE Ammonia Guidance Document.**
(Discussion facilitated by **Rasmus Einarsson and Alberto Sanz**)

- Identification of remaining issues to be resolved
- Technical considerations; How to embrace ranges of views
- Timescales to achieve the translation deadline.
- Pathway through WGSR to EB (including relationship to Annex IX).

0930-1030. **Detailed consideration of the draft options for Annex IX.**
(Discussion facilitated by Mark Sutton, with on-screen annotation)

- Please read and discuss the background document in advance
- Line by line consideration of the options document, and capturing of suggestions.
- Distinguishing, a) updating of technical evidence, b) consideration of gaps in the document (e.g. sewage sludge and anaerobic digestion), and c) varying levels of ambition by Parties.

1030-1100. Tea/Coffee Break.

1100-1130. **Detailed consideration of the draft options for Annex IX** (continued).

- Wrap up of the Annex IX discussion and next steps in advance of the Executive Body (EB-42, December 2026).

## 1130 CEST. **Session 7: Future Activities and other business**

1130-1230. **Review of TFRN contributions to the Convention Workplan** (**Tommy Dalgaard**, co-chair TFRN).

1230-1250. Other business items (Please inform TFRN co-chairs in advance of any proposed items.)

1250-1300. Closing statements from key stakeholders

- **Anna Gran**, Acting Chair, Working Group on Strategies and Review

1300-1400. Lunch.

1400-1500. Space for additional discussions if necessary.

1500. Close of TFRN-21.

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