

CLRTAP
Ad Hoc Expert Group on Black Carbon

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Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution

- UNECE: Europe, Canada and USA
- CLRTAP: Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution
 - Adopted in 1979, entered into force in 1983
 - 51 Parties
 - 8 protocols (number of Parties varies)
 - Pollutants regulated: SO₂, NO_x, VOC, NH₃, heavy metals (Cd, Pb and Hg), POP
- Strong connections science and policy, extensive use of integrated assessment models

Göteborg Protocol

- Protocol to abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone, signed in Göteborg (Sweden) in 1999
 - Multi-pollutant – multi-effect
 - Emission ceilings for SO₂, NO_x, NH₃ and VOC
- Presently under revision, to be finalized by the end of 2011
- Particulate matter (PM) included in the revision

Black Carbon

- The Executive Body in December 2009 established an Ad Hoc Expert Group on Black Carbon (EGBC) to assess available information on black carbon, and to identify options for potential revisions to the Gothenburg Protocol that would enable the Parties to mitigate BC as a component of PM
- Report delivered to the Executive Body in December 2010 (ECE/EB.AIR/2010/7 and Corr.1)
- Related technical and scientific work going on within Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution

Main findings (I)

- Mitigation of black carbon will lead to positive regional impacts by reducing black carbon deposition in areas with snow and ice.
- Reducing primary particulate matter will benefit public health.
- The Arctic, as well as alpine regions, may benefit more than other regions from reducing emissions of black carbon.
- Climate processes unique to the Arctic have significant effects that extend globally, so action must be taken in the very near term to reduce the rate of warming.

Main findings (II)

- Black carbon emissions in the UNECE region are expected to decline between 2000 and 2020 by about one third as a result of current emission control legislation, primarily in the transport sector. These reductions are dependent on full implementation of existing legislation, which is not necessarily guaranteed. And there are opportunities to reduce emissions further.
- The Group also reported that there is substantial room for improving the knowledge base with respect to emissions and impacts.

Key Recommendations

- The Executive Body should take action in the 2011 work plan. Various Groups under the Convention should be assigned task such as:
 - develop guidelines for BC inventories
 - develop more information on existing and emerging control technologies for BC
 - EMEP to identify the relevant characteristics of BC to be monitored and reported
- The Executive Body should also consider inclusion of BC in the Gothenburg Protocol. Several possibilities to this, from national ceilings to voluntary measures were identified.

Decisions by the Executive Body

- Acknowledged the conclusions of the EGBC (and the Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution - HTAP); and noted the need for taking action in the near term to reduce emissions of short lived forcers (black carbon, tropospheric ozone/methane and CO)
- **Decided to include consideration of black carbon emissions as a component of PM in the process of revision of the Gothenburg Protocol**
- The EB initiated technical work in several Groups under the Convention, in accordance with the recommendations of the EGBC (emissions, monitoring...); and HTAP continues its work.