

Decision 2014/1

Improving the guidance for adjustments under the 1999 Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone to emission reduction commitments or to inventories for the purposes of comparing total national emissions with them

The Executive Body,

Recalling its decision 2012/3 on adjustments under the Gothenburg Protocol to emission reduction commitments or to inventories for the purposes of comparing total national emissions with them,

Recalling further its decision 2012/4 on the Provisional Application of Amendment to the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone, pending the entry into force of the amendments,

Underlining the need for Parties to continuously improve their emissions inventories based on the best available science,

Recalling its decision 2012/12 on guidance for adjustments under the 1999 Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone to emission reduction commitments or to inventories for the purposes of comparing total national emissions with them, in particular paragraph 6 of the annex to that decision, which requests the Steering Body to the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe (EMEP) to, if needed, develop additional guidance for consideration by the Executive Body, taking into account reviewed adjustment applications,

Noting the recommendations on potential improvements to the review of adjustment applications, including with regard to its transparency and consistency, included in the report of the EMEP Steering Body on its thirty-eighth session (ECE/EB/AIR/GE.1/2014/2), as presented to the Executive Body at its thirty-third session,¹

Noting also that the report of the EMEP Steering Body on its thirty-eighth session recommended that additional guidance was needed,

Aware of the need for timely, specific and practical guidance to Parties to further facilitate the use of the adjustment procedure in decision 2012/3,

1. *Requests* the EMEP Steering Body to further develop for consideration by the Executive Body at its next session the preliminary additional guidance prepared on adjustment applications by the Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projections (informal document No. 6 to the thirty-third session of the Executive Body) in accordance with decision 2012/12, as amended;

2. *Decides* that, except as otherwise provided by decision 2012/12, as amended, Parties making adjustment applications and expert reviewers should, on a provisional basis, use the revised version of the preliminary additional guidance referred to in paragraph 1 above;

3. *Requests* the secretariat to assist the EMEP Steering Body in preparing the adjustment review reports to facilitate the proper and clear formulation of the text to promote the correct understanding and use of the reports;

¹ *Editor's note:* this report was presented to the Executive Body in an advance, unedited version, but is available on the website. The edited report will be forthcoming shortly.

4. *Decides* to amend its decision 2012/12 as set out in the annex to this decision.

Annex

Amendments to decision 2012/12, annex (Guidance for the application of adjustments to emission inventories and to emission reduction commitments)

1. In paragraph 1, the following sentence is inserted after the first sentence:

It shall indicate in its notification for which categories and pollutants it plans an adjustment application.

2. A new paragraph 1 ter is inserted as follows:

1 ter. A Party may resubmit an adjustment application previously assessed as not fulfilling the criteria as described in paragraph 4 only once, and only when new and relevant information can be provided that would justify a resubmission. Such information must include further clarification or substantiation of the information provided in the original application or additional information not provided or previously available. A Party must clearly highlight the justification for the resubmission in the notification mentioned in paragraph 1. The Implementation Committee may suspend action on any referrals related to a Party's compliance with its emissions reduction commitments when a Party resubmits an adjustment application.

3. A new paragraph 2 bis is inserted as follows:

2 bis. For the purpose of demonstrating that the proposed adjustment falls within one of the three categories ((i)–(iii)) set out in paragraph 2 (d) above, the following guidelines apply:

(a) An emission source category can qualify as new for one or more pollutants in the subparagraphs below:

(i) For a Party within the geographic scope of EMEP, an emission source category for a specific pollutant will only qualify as a new emission source category if emission estimates for that source category were introduced to the national emission inventory after the emission reduction commitment for that pollutant was set and where no methodology was provided in the *EMEP/EEA air pollutant emission inventory guidebook*² for determining emissions from that source category at the time that the emission reduction commitment was set;

(ii) For a Party outside the geographic scope of EMEP, an emission source category shall only qualify as a new emission source category if emissions estimates for the source category were introduced to the national air pollutant emissions inventory after the emission reduction commitment for that pollutant was set, and where no methodology was available to that Party in determining emissions from that source category at the time that the emission reduction commitment was set;

(iii) With respect to the 2010 ceilings, a source category for which emission estimates were introduced to the national emission inventory after the emission reduction commitment was set may also qualify as a new source category where a methodology was available in the *EMEP/EEA air pollutant emission inventory guidebook* at the time that the emission reduction commitment was set only if a Party can demonstrate that it was unable to apply this methodology due to a lack of relevant national statistical data or can

² Previously named the EMEP/CORINAIR atmospheric emission inventory Guidebook.

provide another justification why it could not make use of this methodology;

(b) An emission factor or methodology for determining emissions from a specific emission source category will only be assessed as significantly different from the emission factor or methodology used for determining emissions from this source category at the time that the emission reduction commitment was set if the change in the emission factor or methodology is the result of improved scientific understanding of the source since the emission reduction commitment was set and has resulted in a revision of the *EMEP/EEA air pollutant emission inventory guidebook* or the applied country-specific emission factor or methodology.

4. A new paragraph 4 bis is inserted as follows:

4 bis. The designated experts carrying out the review may, during their deliberations on an adjustment application, submit requests for further clarification or supplementary information to the Centre on Emission Inventories and Projections (CEIP), which will forward these requests to, and manage the communications with, the Party concerned. CEIP will send the draft reports to the relevant Parties for final review of the facts presented. All information submitted concerning the adjustment application, including the supplementary information submitted by Parties during the review of the adjustment application, shall be made publicly available through the CEIP website.
