

## Expectations on a revised Gothenburg Protocol

The European Environmental Bureau (EEB) is asking the Parties to the 2012 amended Gothenburg Protocol to, at this meeting, decide to initiate the review of the Protocol with the explicit objective to quickly revise and strengthen the Protocol.

In our view, a revised Gothenburg Protocol shall:

- Continue to be based on the multi-pollutant and multi-effect approach.
- Introduce a long-term vision of zero-pollution.
- Set an objective that makes clear that emissions of air pollution must by 2030 at the latest, come down to levels that provides a high level of protection for health and the environment, i.e. no exceedance of the World Health Organisation's guidelines for health protection and no exceedance of critical loads and levels for environmental protection.
- Elaborate new national Emission Reduction Commitments (ERCs) for 2030 and future years with the help of integrated assessment modelling that uses up-to-date emission scenarios which are compliant with the Paris Agreement, i.e. emissions of greenhouse gases are reduced to levels that are needed to secure that global warming stays below 1.5°C.
- Establish binding national ERCs for 2030, as well as indicative national ERCs for 2035 and 2040, that are needed to move towards the zero-pollution vision.
- Expand the number of air pollutants covered by binding ERCs from the current five<sup>1</sup> to eight, by adding methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), black carbon (BC) and mercury (Hg).
- Include mandatory technical annexes that set binding minimum requirements (e.g. emission limit values and emission abatement measures) for the main source-sectors.
- Give special focus to achieve further significant reductions in agricultural emissions of ammonia and methane.

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<sup>1</sup> The current five pollutants covered by the Gothenburg Protocol's ERCs are: sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>), ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>), non-methane volatile organic compounds (NM-VOCs) and particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>).

- Include a mechanism for review and revision, so that at latest by 2030 and 2035, respectively, the indicative national ERCs for 2035 and 2040 are reviewed/revised and made binding.
- Remove the current adjustment procedure and the three-year averaging option.

There is a urgent need to pursue further emission reductions under the Gothenburg Protocol. It is not acceptable that even after 2020, air pollution will still cause several hundreds of thousands of premature deaths among European citizens each year, and that millions of hectares of sensitive ecosystems will still be exposed to pollutant depositions in excess of their critical loads.

Thank you for your attention.

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*The EEB is part of the 'Clean Air Farming' project to help reduce ammonia and methane emissions from agriculture. The Project Clean Air Farming (LIFE17 GIE/DE/610 Air & Agriculture) is co-financed by the LIFE-Programme of the European Commission.*



**clean air farming**  
 Reducing Ammonia and Methane  
 Emissions from Agriculture