

WORKING GROUP 7: MID-TERM POLICIES FOR EUROPE AND ITS VICINITY (OFFICIAL TEXT)

*May 2012, with agreement on a new Gothenburg protocol, the LRTAP Convention finalized a round of negotiations revising its three latest protocols, and a Long Term Strategy for the future work of the Convention has recently been adopted. This autumn the EU Commission is to launch a new Thematic Strategy on Air Pollution accompanied by a proposal for a new NEC Directive and possibly new source control legislation. This working group will discuss the important **relation between the two arenas, and specifically what is needed in the EU legislative package in the light of the recent agreements under the CLRTAP and policies in nearby areas like climate change. What ambition level of the NECD is necessary? Which target year/years should be chosen? How to design specific source control where needed? And to promote acceptance and support in the decision making process?***

OVERALL OBJECTIVE OF SALTSJÖBADEN V

Develop solutions (or at least unambiguous recommendations) in regard to specific problems in the Air & Climate arena, identifying the actual target for each recommendation.

OBJECTIVE OF OUR SESSION

As a feed into the overall objectives of Saltsjöbaden V, our session will focus upon the following topics/themes, all relating to the development of ‘medium term policies and agreements for Europe and its vicinity’. In two cases we have tagged a theme with a presentation from a guest speaker. This is intended to inject some thought provoking material into the group for discussion. All presentations and discussions will be held under [Chatham House Rules](#). Conclusions or summary comments will be noted by the co-chairs in response to each session to inform our contribution to the final plenary session. The order of the session is as below – timings are all approximate.

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10.00am Introduction and Outline

Andrew and Scott will open the group by running through the structure for the day and doing a quick set of informal introductions within the group. This opening will include outlining the principal topics to be discussed and the anticipated outcomes for the working group's report. Specific questions and contextual material will be prepared to ensure the working group maintains adequate pace throughout the day. The time slots presented are approximate, and we are pretty sure there are coffee breaks and lunch in there also.

11.00am Ambient Air Quality Regulation

In this session we will consider a possible medium term revision of the Ambient Air Quality Directive (AAQD). **Martin Williams** will offer a **presentation** to outline the issues for our discussion. The subsequent discussion will identify the main issues and plausible possibilities for a future revision of the AAQD.

12.00pm TSAP Revision – National perspectives and potential

In this session we will consider national perspectives in regards to responding to the challenges expected under the TSAP revision. The idea here will be to frame a discussion in relation to the necessary national responses to proposed actions, and to thereby inform later discussions on ambition and design.

Direct questions to consider:

The floor will be opened to the group to share knowledge of their national experiences and their perceptions of plausible ambitions where manageable constraints are addressed. A particular question to consider may be the specifics of the incidence of cost for actions? The Integrated Assessment Modelling (IAM) work will allocate aggregated costs to sectors, but in many cases those who must pay can be detached from the issues and policy arena. How best can we address the financing of actions for societal benefits? Similarly how best can we address the inertia of certain groups in regards to taking cost-efficient actions?

13.30pm Timing of targets, Interim Management and Adequate Capacity

In this session, likely after lunch, we will open with a discussion of the time horizon on which targets might be set. We will discuss the advantages and disadvantages associated with shorter, longer or multiple term horizons.

Connected to the above we will also discuss the option of a regular (e.g. annual) review process where the path to target is reviewed at set intervals. The question being whether we should be reviewing our path to progress on air quality targets in the same fashion as is now being done under the effort sharing agreement (i.e. the Non-Emissions Trading Sector targets) in a climate policy context? Would such review with a reporting requirement for getting back on track add too much pressure to inventory and reporting requirements in the air policy arena? Is there scope for better integration of climate and air reporting?

Also linked with the above questions we will then seek to identify (through discussion) the research and capacity gaps and needs relating to this area. This discussion would consider the synergies of effort under one or other of the groups and the issue of financing and support. What levels of national capacity should be in place? How should the necessary work and financing be managed into the future in regards to LRTAP and TSAP needs? Are there any practical ideas for getting the research and capacity onto more stable ground?

3.00pm Levels of Ambition for NECD and Negotiation of Support

In this session we will ask what level of ambition is appropriate for the NECD (acknowledging the prior discussion on time horizons). As with the prior session there will be no specific presentation in this session, though the coordinators will guide discussion given the complexity of the topic. The main reports underpinning discussion in this area are

the TSAP review reports from IIASA, which should be considered in advance by participants. The set of TSAP reports are available from the IIASA website at the following address:

<http://gains.iiasa.ac.at/index.php/policyapplications/tsap>

The first item to discuss will be the existing climate and energy targets in the EU and the ceilings of the GP12. It is important in this context to consider the possibility of failure in regards to climate and energy target potentials. But whilst acknowledging those risks, what can we say about levels of ambition for Europe and the NECD? Are we too conservative? The cost-benefit argument is compelling, but are the key actors sold on the concept? Is the challenge a lack of political will, lack of access to capital, lack of knowledge transfer, lack of belief in the data, a belief that benefits will not accrue to those who must pay, a failure to understand the externalities associated with actions etc. A recent article from Acid News presents one perspective in regards to finding the appropriate level of ambition:

<http://www.airclim.org/acidnews/finding-ambition-level>

The second item will be to consider how we can inform and support the negotiation process to ensure that plausible yet meaningful levels of ambition are incorporated in future agreements. This can include discussion of the management of lobby groups, the concerns over economic recovery, and the general approach to selling new policy at all stages of development to all levels of actor.

4.00pm LRTAP / TSAP Gaps

In this final session we will review the discussions of the day in the context of gaps between LRTAP governed protocols and the EU TSAP plans. **Rob Maas** of the **TFIAM** will offer a **presentation** to set out the issues, conflicts or obvious gaps in terms of scope (geographic/pollutants) between the two frameworks. The driving objective in this case, will be to identify how TSAP legislation can best complement LRTAP. There will be overlap with prior discussions as we move into this final concluding session.

5.00pm Closing Notes

We will take 15 minutes to review the key points from the session to be reported in Plenary.

The *Expected* Story from our Session

Opening statements in regards to the interaction of LRTAP and TSAP, also identifying the overlap of research and policy effort in these two spheres. Extend this to also offer insights in regards to the future interaction of LRTAP, TSAP and International Climate Policy. Comment on resources, research and financing in regards to the advancement of coherent and effective legislation and action. Offer a set of points in regards to the levels of ambition for TSAP subject to considerations on; the ambition of international climate policy, potential contributions from key sources and constraints in the context of political and public acceptance. Recommend steps to enhance appetite for greater action. Close with recommendations in regards to level of ambition, time horizons and review processes.