

Working Group 6

Heavy metals and persistent organic pollutants

Focus of session

CLRTAP has provided a large contribution to the global understanding of emissions and environmental fate of heavy metals and POPs as well as to the development of emission reduction strategies and policy instruments. At the same time, contaminants are regulated and monitored in many other conventions such as Stockholm Convention on POPs and the recently agreed Minamata Convention on mercury. Chemicals are also regulated in a large number of EU directives, most of them with other focus than air emissions. Should CLRTAP continue to supply knowledge and experiences on air emissions, modelling and monitoring in cooperation with other conventions? Or should we be more proactive and develop a basis for more stringent regulations including new organic contaminants and metals?

Programme

Introductory presentations will be given in plenary on Tuesday, June 25 starting at 08.30. Two presentations will be given:

- Science and regulation to support international cooperation on heavy metals, Katja Kraus, UBA, Germany
- Science to support cooperative international regulations on POPs, Matthew MacLeod, Stockholm University

The plenaries should give some input to the questions defined in the text above but can also bring up additional topics and questions. Presentations should be circulated to the planning group in advance of the workshop (at least in draft form) so that we can prepare for the group discussions.

The plenary sessions will be followed by group discussions between 10:00 and around 17:00 on Tuesday June 25. The results of the group discussions will be presented in plenary on Wednesday morning June 26 (joint session between 09:00 and 11:30)

Group discussions

The discussions will be chaired by the organisers (John, Katja, Matt) who will also be responsible for taking notes and preparing a presentation for the Wednesday summary.

The group discussions should focus around a few well defined topics. One or two very short presentations may be given during the discussion session if necessary to introduce a question or topic.

Proposed topics/questions:

1. What are the biggest scientific challenges for emissions, fate and impacts of POPs and HM that need to be resolved to support further policy action?
 - a. Emissions of POPs
 - i. Completeness
 - ii. Chemical speciation, congeners of POPS
 - iii. Historical emissions + future projections
 - iv. Emissions to other media (soil, water)
 - b. Fate assessment
 - i. Atmospheric chemistry and speciation (Hg)
 - ii. Chemical transformations of POPs in media
 - iii. Interaction with atmospheric aerosols (POPs and Hg)
 - iv. Long-term accumulation and secondary sources (HMs, POPs)
2. What is the driving force for future work on HM in CLRTAP? Can we relate impacts on the environment and human health to current emissions of HM?
 - a. Increased coal burning for energy and thus increased emissions of HM in Europe?
 - b. Increased ratification of the Protocols on HMs - EECCA countries. Applicability of BAT and ELV?
 - c. EU limit values for HM?
 - d. New studies on human health impacts?
 - e. Improved emission data, and to developing monitoring, and modeling networks throughout the region – EECCA countries.
3. What is the driving force for future work on POPs in CLRTAP? Can we relate impacts on the environment and human health to current emissions of POPs? (may be to wide question for POPs)
 - a. Increased ratification of the Protocols on POPs - EECCA countries
 - b. Improved emission data, and to developing monitoring, and modeling networks throughout the region – EECCA countries.
 - c. Potential effects of projected climate changes on POP fate and impact
4. How should CLRTAP and its bodies cooperate with other conventions and agreements such as Arctic Council, Minamata Convention, Stockholm Convention on POPs etc? Can CLRTAP serve as a knowledge centre for emissions, monitoring, modelling?
 - a. Globalization: Scientific cooperation beyond the UN ECE region: build on the Task Force on HTAP. EMEP is unique providing regular assessment and information support on HMs and POPs pollution levels in Europe and other regions. More formal agreements needed?
 - b. For POPS: CLRTAP strong on integrating monitoring and modeling, Stockholm convention includes human monitoring and more active in identification of new POPs (and related substances).
 - c. Scientific support to identify priority substances for further