



Revision of the Gothenburg Protocol: IAM specific items

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Reminder: Air Convention, Gothenburg Protocol, revision



- 1979 *LRTAP Framework Convention (in the midst of the Cold War)*
- 1983 -> *Various single-pollutant Protocols implementing the Convention*
- 1999 / 2012 *Gothenburg Protocol / Amendments: multi-pollutant, multi-effect*
- 2016/19 - 2022 *Comprehensive **Review** based on thorough scientific assessment*
- Dec 2023 *Executive Body **Decision** 2023/5 to revise the GP as amended in 2012*
- Dec 2024 *EB decides detailed **Plan** on how to deal with 8 main revision issues, keeping in mind non-Parties*
- 2024 – 26(+x) ***Negotiations***

Main negotiation items (EB Decision 2023/5, OP 2)



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- (a) New **emission reduction commitments** (for current GP pollutants)
 - (b) **Technical Annexes** (scope and level of ambition)
 - (c) further **black carbon** emission reductions
 - (d) whether and how to address **methane** emissions
 - (e) additional **ammonia** emission reductions
 - (f) new **flexibilities** etc. to facilitate ratification & implementation by non-Parties
 - (g) overarching, collective **risk-based target(s)** (health and ecosystems/biodiversity)
 - (h) **integrated approaches** among climate, energy and air policies

Gothenburg Protocol Revision Plan



- GPR Plan
 1. activities and deliverables related to 8 negotiation items
 2. interrelations between items and timing of activities
 3. keeping in mind non-Parties
- to be updated in the course of negotiations
- IAM related items will be discussed at WGSR63 (26-28 May 2025), Heads of Delegation meeting (20-23 October 2025) and thereafter:

GP revision plan 2025

Meeting	Topics Covered (see para.s 15 & 16 for elucidation)	Recommendations and Decisions anticipated
WGSR 63 <i>May</i>	Items (a) (ERCs) and (b) (TAs) in connection with (f) (<i>flexi / new approaches</i>); Item (d) (CH_4)	WGSR recommendations to EB on the topics covered
Heads of Delegation meeting <i>October</i>	Thematic meeting on certain pollutants: Items (c) (BC), (d) (CH_4) and (e) (NH_3) Discussions on item (a) (updating ERCs, ambition level)	WGSR recommendations to EB on the topics covered
EB 45 <i>December</i>	Start negotiations on revising Protocol text and annexes Decisions on how to deal with items (a) to (h)	

GP revision plan 2026

Meeting	Topics Covered (see para.s 17 & 18 for elucidation)	Recommendations and Decisions anticipated
WGSR 64	<p>Updates to items (b) and (f) (<i>TAs and Flexibilities</i>)</p> <p>Thematic meeting on: Items (g) and (h) (<i>Targets / Integration</i>), also in relation to item (a) (<i>ERCs</i>)</p>	WGSR recommendations to EB on the topics covered
WGSR 65 / informal meeting?	Updates to Technical Annexes including Annex II , and protocol text	WGSR recommendations to EB on the topics covered
EB 46 <i>December</i>	Second set of revisions to text and Annexes (subject to previous decisions)	

EB 44 conclusions related to IAM: overarching goals



...”(a) Agreed that any overarching collective health and biodiversity goals would be **aspirational** and be **for the ECE region** as a whole and not for individual countries;

(b) Noted that some Parties showed a preference for any overarching collective health and biodiversity goal(s) to be **non-binding**;

(c) Agreed that the **ambition level and timeline** of the goal(s) **need not be the same** as those of the emission reduction commitments. ”

EB 44 conclusions related to IAM: emission reduction commitments



...” (a) Agreed that **emission reduction commitments remain the core basic obligation** of the revised Protocol, and **should be updated**;

(b) Agreed that it should be a priority to facilitate the setting of emission reduction commitments for **non-Parties** of the present Gothenburg Protocol to potentially increase ratification and implementation of the revised Protocol.”

Requests by EB 44 to TFIAM



- ...”provide several effect-based scenarios at different levels of ambition for cost-effective strategies to reduce emissions, with 2015 as base year and 2040 as target year” for WGSR63
- “[provide] other work contained in table 1 of the GPRev plan”

EB 44 discussion related to IAM: additional recommendations by individual Parties



- *optimization target for UNECE, accompanied by sub-regional analysis (EU)*
- *projections in five-year steps up to 2050 (EU)*
- *ambition levels 50/60/70% for static (or equivalent for dynamic) population (EU)*
- *use premature deaths and years of life lost / 100,000 inhabitants as health indicator; accumulated average exceedance based on minimum or mean empirical critical loads for ecosystem protection (EU)*
- *ERCs to remain indicative for (US & CA)*
- *voluntary goal similar to GMP (UK, CA)*
- *base and target year of ERCs may be different than of optimization (US, CA, ...)*

Next steps



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- Discussions at WGSR63 (26-28 May), HoD mtg (20-23 October) and EB45 (8-11 December 2025) with potential outcomes listed in GPrev Plan
 - Scenario criteria and results relate to all 8 negotiation items! E.g.,
 - Scenarios for new emission reduction commitments and collective risk-based goals
 - Take into account focus on non-Parties (Technical annexes, flexibilities)
 - Focus on ammonia, BC and possibly methane reductions
 - Integrate with climate, energy, agriculture, biodiversity, ... policies
 - EB to develop possible text (Protocol, Annex(es), EB Decision(s))

Thank you for your attention!



Back-up Slides

Leuven Workshop Session C Lead Questions

- What should the overarching collective risk-based targets aim to achieve?
- How are the overarching targets and the Emission Reduction commitments linked?
- Should annex II be revised?
 - How do we achieve the GP objectives?
 - ❖ Optimize toward health and ecosystem objectives; mid-term/long-term objectives
 - If so, how and when? Mandatory and/or indicative and/or staged ERCs for new parties?
 - Which base and target year?
 - Which substances? Include methane?
 - Specific focus/ tougher requirements for certain substances? Which? Why?
 - Alternative approaches? Sectoral ERCs instead of national ERCs?