

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

CONVENTION ON LONG-RANGE TRANSBOUNDARY AIR POLLUTION

Strategies and Policies for Air Pollution Abatement

Heralding
25 years of international cooperation
to reduce air pollution



UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Geneva

**STRATEGIES AND POLICIES
FOR AIR POLLUTION ABATEMENT**

2002 Review prepared under
The Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution



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Preface

The Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution, signed at Geneva in 1979, is a landmark international agreement. For the past 25 years it has been instrumental in reducing emissions of transboundary air pollution in the ECE region through coordinated efforts on research, monitoring and the development of emission reduction strategies on regional air pollution and its effects. This publication demonstrates successful implementation of the Convention in summarizing the policies, strategies and measures used by Governments to tackle the problems of air pollution and to minimize the effects on human health and ecosystems.

The 2002 Review of Strategies and Policies for Air Pollution Abatement is based on replies by Parties to the Convention to the 2002 questionnaire on strategies and policies. The questionnaire asked Parties for information on protocols in force and those not yet in force, as well as general policy information related to the integration of environmental policies with economic, transport, energy, waste management, spatial planning and other policy frameworks. Each of the seven protocols to the Convention now in force includes reporting obligations by Parties. Providing information to the secretariat by

means of the questionnaire is one method Parties use to convey the information in accordance with their reporting obligations under the Convention.

The overall aim of the reviews of strategies and policies is:

- To assess the progress made by Parties and the region as a whole in implementing obligations under the Convention and its protocols and to further their implementation;
- To facilitate the exchange of information between Parties, which is foreseen in the Convention and its protocols; and
- To raise awareness about the problems of air pollution, as well as to make the contribution of the Convention to its successful abatement more visible.

As of 13 April 2004, 48 member countries of ECE and the European Community were Party to the Convention. The Review reflects the continued efforts made by Parties to comply with their obligations under international environmental agreements, and to contribute to a cleaner environment in the region.



Executive Summary

The 2002 Review was prepared on the basis of replies to a questionnaire on strategies and policies for air pollution abatement received from 35 of the 49 Parties to the **Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution**. The questionnaire, circulated every two years, is used as a tool for determining compliance by Parties to the Convention and its protocols, as well as for the collection and dissemination of more general information on air pollution abatement technologies and trends. The Review shows that Parties are pursuing creative and innovative approaches to reducing air pollution, as well as drawing on the successes of those methods and measures that have proved effective over the years.

National strategies, policies and programmes used by Governments to abate or reduce sulphur emissions under both the **Protocol on the Reduction of Sulphur Emissions or their Transboundary Fluxes**

and **Protocol concerning the Control of Emissions of Nitrogen Oxides or their Transboundary Fluxes** (Sofia, 1988) calls on Parties to apply national emission standards to all major source categories and new stationary and mobile sources using economically feasible Best Available Technologies (BAT), while developing pollution control measures for existing stationary sources. Parties must also make unleaded fuel sufficiently available to encourage the use of vehicles with catalytic converters. For stationary sources, a combination of flue-gas recycling and multi-stage combustion helped to reduce NOx emissions. For mobile sources, most Parties have national emission standards in place and are using a policy mix including the use of economic instruments (e.g. excise duties on petrol and diesel) and making unleaded petrol sufficiently available, particularly

for motor fuels and encouraging sustainable mobility.

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