A Process for Technical Revisions During CLRTAP Emissions Inventory Review

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TFEIP TASK FORCE ON EMISSION INVENTORIES & PROJECTIONS

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1 Context

1. At its 2016 meeting, the EMEP Steering Body agreed to adopt updated Emission Review Guidelines, as presented in the 'Methods and Procedures' document, for a one year trial period. The document presents the individual steps in the process of undertaking technical reviews of national emission inventories under the CLRTAP (so called 'Step 1, 2 and 3' reviews).

2. One of the key additions to the revised 'Methods and Procedures' document is the inclusion of 'Revised Estimates' and 'Technical Corrections', collectively termed Technical Revisions. These allow revisions to be made to a national emissions inventory during the review process.

3. This document has been drafted for discussion at the 2017 meeting of the Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projections in Krakow (11-12th May 2017) and describes a process for undertaking Technical Revisions as part of an emissions inventory review.

4. Following discussions at the 2017 meeting of the TFEIP, it is planned that an updated document will be provided to the CLRTAP Secretariat to be included as a formal meeting paper for the EMEP Steering Body Meeting in September 2017.

5. A process for Technical Revisions within the 2017 review of emissions inventories under the National Emissions Ceilings Directive has recently been drafted. The proposed guidance included here for Technical Revisions within the CLRTAP emissions inventory reviews aligns with this process to the extent possible, and also processes used during greenhouse gas emissions inventory review.

2 Introduction

6. The process of establishing Technical Revisions already exists as part of the annual review of greenhouse gas emissions inventories (under the EU MMR and UNFCCC). However, it is a new concept in the field of air pollutant emissions inventory reviews.

7. Including Technical Revisions in the review process allows the ERT to work with Parties to deliver corrections to the national inventory where reported data are found to be inconsistent with the recommended methodologies of the EMEP/EEA Guidebook or where emission estimates are not provided for an NFR source category.

8. The objective of the Technical Revisions process is to establish improvements in completeness, consistency, comparability and accuracy of the reported emissions data from Party.

9. Where reported data are found to be inconsistent with the CLRTAP reporting requirements, and in particular the recommended methodologies of the most recent version of the EMEP/EEA Guidebook, or where emission estimates are not provided for

an NFR source category, the ERT liaise with the Party to understand the issue in detail. Where necessary the ERT work with the Party to quantify the extent to which emissions might be corrected to ensure best practice and compliance with CLRTAP reporting requirements.

10. If the ERT considers that emissions are significantly under or overestimated[1], then the Party is invited to submit Revised Estimates that address the issue raised. Should the Party decline to do this, or quantification of the Revised Estimates cannot be agreed, then the ERT may calculate a Technical Correction. Revised Estimates and Technical Corrections will be included in the country specific review report.

11. A summary report will be provided to the EMEP Steering Body which will include an overview of all Technical Revisions, and in particular, details of any Technical Corrections not agreed with the relevant Party during the review. The EMEP Steering Body will then make the formal decision regarding the adoption of the review findings, including each Technical Correction.

3 The Process of Determining and Calculating Technical Revisions

12. The following provides a summary of the process by which Technical Revisions are determined. A Technical Revision may be relevant for more than one emission source category, the whole time-series or for a selected year, and may also be applicable for more than one pollutant:

    a) During an emissions inventory review, the ERT highlights an observation and issues questions to the Party. The ERT mentions in their questioning whether this could relate to a 'significant'[1] over or under estimate, and hence a possible Technical Revision.
    b) The Party responds with clarifications and/or answers. The Party can provide a justification for their existing estimate, or propose a Revised Estimate that addresses the issue raised by the ERT. The Revised Estimate may span several sources, several pollutants, and be relevant for multiple years.
    c) If the ERT agrees with the Party's response (a justification or Revised Estimates) the issue is closed and a recommendation made. However, should the ERT not be able to reach agreement with the Party, then the ERT will calculate a Technical Correction which is sent to the Party.
    d) A Party can respond during the review to indicate that they agree with the proposed Technical Correction. The issue is then dealt with as a Revised Estimate (see points 2 and 3 above). Alternatively, a Party can respond to indicate that they disagree with the ERT, and provide a justification for their position.

[1] The term "significant" is defined by the use of a threshold of significance. See Section 4.

e) If the ERT do not agree with the information provided by the Party (or no response is provided), they inform the Party, and include the Technical Correction in the draft review report that is sent to the Party.
f) The Party will have the opportunity to respond to the ERT's conclusions in the draft review report.
g) The ERT will make a final decision whether to uphold the Technical Correction, and include it in the final version of the review report.
h) Technical Corrections (and Revised Estimates) will be provided to the EMEP Steering Body for consideration in a summary report. The EMEP Steering Body will then make a final decision on whether to uphold the proposed Technical Revisions.

4 Quantification of a Technical Revision

13. **Threshold of Significance Exceedance:** Should the impact of an issue raised during the review (aggregated across all relevant sources) exceed a "threshold of significance", then a Technical Revision will be required. The threshold of significance will be established prior to each emissions inventory review. Different metrics may be used (e.g. a percentage of the national total, an absolute value etc.).

14. **Threshold of Significance Non-exceedance:** Should the aggregated impact of an issue raised during the review not exceed the threshold of significance, then the ERT will make a recommendation for improvement to be addressed in the next version of the emissions inventory, unless the Lead Reviewer considers there to be exceptional circumstances.

15. **Methodologies:** Technical Revisions will be calculated in consultation with the respective Party by using the default methodologies and emission factors (Tier 1 or Tier 2) provided in the most recent version of the EMEP/EEA Guidebook. Activity data will be taken from the Party's submission, the IIR, and/or other appropriate sources including national and international statistical organizations. A Tier 2 approach will be used for the calculation of Technical Corrections for key categories where this is possible. The ERT will document and justify cases where a Technical Correction cannot be performed, while making every effort to keep those cases to a minimum.

16. **Adjustment Applications:** Where a Technical Revision is required for a source, or sources, which are also involved in an Adjustment Application, the Technical Revision will be resolved first. The Adjustment Application may then require amendment.