

# EXPANDING REGIONAL AIR POLLUTION POLICIES

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# How much attention do we need to give to Acid Rain in the next 25 years?

- In Europe, the problem-at least for policy measures-now ranks lower than many other air pollution problems
- In terms of transboundary issues, particles, eutrophication and ozone are now more important
- A job well done?!
- In Europe perhaps but other regions of the world-in Asia for example-it is recognised as a problem
- One component of the future work of UNECE/CLRTAP is fostering regional co-operation world-wide

# Air pollution problems in general are at a turning point

- Most technological solutions are or soon will be embedded in policy
- Euro 5&6 will soon be agreed – DPFs and SCR
- Euro VI will be proposed this year
- LCPD will potentially require SCR in 2016
- Smaller combustion plants are still not covered
- So what more is there to do? Non-technical measures?
- Will it be possible to convince decision makers to take further action on air quality grounds alone?

# Shipping and Aviation

- Still much to be done here – but will IMO and ICAO move fast enough?
- Action at national level can only have limited effectiveness for these sectors so a different approach is needed-how well can the EU influence these international organisations?
- What role can CLRTAP play here?

# We need to build on the strengths of CLRTAP

- CLRTAP has several attributes that would be virtually impossible to put in place if we were to start now
- It is therefore essential that we recognise this and not throw away this advantage that we start from

# What are these strengths?

## CLRTAP:

- is the only significant instrument to deal successfully with multiple pollutants and multiple effects simultaneously
- has a strong 'in-house' scientific capability, closely related to policy
- is the only international agreement dealing with oxidised and reduced nitrogen
- has wide geographic coverage including major players in the northern hemisphere (EU, Russia, US, Canada, Eecca)
- Can handle pollution problems on all spatial scales
- Has a world-wide reputation as an example of excellence in international atmospheric pollution instruments

**This provides an excellent platform on  
which to build for the future**

**But how?!**

# Synergies with Climate Change and Energy Policies

- These provide a **great opportunity for significant further reductions in air pollution**-even in the developed world
- Energy futures will be shaped by climate change concerns – in the absence of any geopolitical or economic shocks
- But the related impacts on air pollution issues will need to be recognised, quantified and managed from a position of knowledge-scientific, technological, economic and social in a way that has not been achieved before

**THERE ARE WIN/WINS AND THERE ARE  
TRADE OFFS BETWEEN AIR QUALITY  
AND CLIMATE CHANGE POLICIES**

# THE STERN REPORT RECOGNISED THE WIN-WINS AND THE CONFLICTS

- Chapter 12
- ‘Policies to meet air pollution and climate change goals are not always compatible. But if governments wish to meet both objectives together, there can be considerable cost savings compared to pursuing both separately’

# WIN/WIN POLICIES

- Measures which reduce fuel use – energy efficiency, less transport activity
- Lower carbon intensity energy generation – ‘pure’ renewables (ie not biomass/biofuels), nuclear
- Low emission vehicles (hybrids...)
- Hydrogen economy IF generation of hydrogen is low carbon
- Reducing aviation NOx
- Reducing global ozone

# TRADE-OFFS?

- Most aftertreatment techniques – FGD, particulate filters, (but note SCR can give the opportunity to optimise fuel consumption)
- Production of low sulphur fuels
- Diesel vs Petrol (Black carbon and CO<sub>2</sub> issues)
- Combined Heat and Power
- Biofuels and biomass burning

# The Future

- Protocols/instruments – ‘internal’
- Outreach – global view

# The Future – some drivers

- ‘Pure’ air pollution policies will be increasingly difficult to justify
- Air pollution policies will need to be increasingly co-ordinated with those addressing climate change and sustainable development, and shaped by energy futures
- The priorities for CLRTAP have changed and the Convention needs to reflect this – acid rain in Europe is essentially solved – some changes have been made but more may need to be done: can we redirect the resources? In the scientific work?
- The global dimension will be increasingly important-for science and policy

# The Future

- Revision of the Gothenburg Protocol-how will this proceed?
- One component similar to the revised NECD could be an 'incremental' revision, setting ceilings for, say, 2020, with reductions of the order of ~0-10% or thereabouts beyond Gothenburg I , and maintaining the geographical coverage of CLRTAP
- A further imaginative step however could be to set aspirational ceilings for air pollutants for ~2050 related to a ~60% reduction in GHGs-if reductions in carbon of that order are aspired to, then there **could be** major reductions in air pollutants
- Should CLRTAP play a stronger role in stimulating Global Nitrogen Management?

# The Future

- Outreach – this is proceeding already and is gaining momentum
- Transfer of experience in CLRTAP to other regions is successful and is building on the work of the Global Atmospheric Forum
- To continue the momentum this co-operative work, informed by further scientific work and the findings of the TFHTAP, will need to generate policy interest in the longer term
- Opening the Convention is one promising route
- But momentum is also developing on the wider aspects of International Environmental Governance – what role will CLRTAP play in this?