



REGERINGSKANSLIET

Non-paper

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Division for Climate

**An Arctic States' black carbon instrument/arrangement -
Next step**

Short-Lived Climate Pollutants (SLCPs) are a set of air pollutants that have both significant climate impacts and negative health and environmental effects. According to UNEP, millions of premature deaths and the loss of tens of millions of tonnes of crops could be avoided each year by implementing selected measures. These actions can further reduce global warming by between 0.4 and 0.5°C and Arctic warming by 0.7°C in the coming decades.

Carbon dioxide is the dominant factor contributing to observed and projected rates of global warming, and carbon dioxide emission reductions should be the backbone of any climate change mitigation strategy. However, SLCPs contribute significantly to warming and particularly so in the Arctic. Reductions of black carbon emissions in the Arctic could play an important role for the Arctic climate, for slowing the melt of ice and snow, and would have positive health effects in the Arctic due to reduced particulate matter concentrations in the air.

When the Arctic Environment Ministers met in Jukkasjärvi, 5-6 February 2013, they stressed the need for urgent action to reduce SLCP emissions and encouraged the Arctic Council to proceed in its efforts to reduce emissions of SLCPs and black carbon in particular. They underscored the importance of continuously improving the scientific knowledge of SLCPs and how they impact the climate. Ministers also emphasized the importance of emission inventories for black carbon to identify emission trends and mitigation opportunities and concurred that each Arctic State should periodically produce national emission inventories for black carbon.

The Swedish Chairmanship suggests that the Arctic Council establishes a process, at the Kiruna Ministerial meeting, aiming for an instrument or other arrangements to enhance efforts to reduce emissions of black carbon from the Arctic States. The instrument or

other arrangements should preferably be ready for review and appropriate decision at the next Ministerial meeting in 2015.

If the process described above is launched by the Arctic Council at the Ministerial meeting in May 2013, it is important that work on an instrument/arrangements is initiated without delay as a review and appropriate decision in 2015 implies that an advanced draft needs to be ready by early autumn 2014.

What could be the content of a black carbon instrument/arrangement? The chairmanship, encouraged by the conclusions from the Arctic Environment Ministers meeting, suggests that an instrument/arrangement could include the elements listed below (among others). Not all elements are necessarily ready for inclusion in an instrument/arrangement already by 2015 but could be added later on.

- Provisions on inventories – Black carbon emission inventories should be developed in line with the guidelines that are to be agreed upon under the Convention on Long Range Transboundary Air Pollution (CLRTAP). Inventories should be submitted to CLRTAP and shared within the Arctic Council, with the ambition to have submissions starting from February 15, 2015. Arctic States could cooperate to develop inventory methods and work together to increase transparency and harmonisation in emissions reporting. Emission inventories from the Arctic States could be compiled, analysed and the results presented to the Arctic Council.
- Provisions on national action plans – National action plans on black carbon should be submitted to, and compiled by, the Arctic Council. National action plans could list measures to reduce black carbon emissions that have been implemented and measures that are in the pipeline to be implemented. The development of more long-term national strategies should be encouraged and available information summarized in the action plans. National action plans could contain information about projected future emissions of black carbon. The information in the national action plans could be compiled on a regular basis and presented to the Arctic Council along with recommendations for further action.
- Science – Arctic States should strive to support and coordinate efforts to improve our understanding of how black carbon and other SLCPs influence the climate and people in the Arctic. The value of regular update reports on the scientific standing, presented to the Arctic Council, should be explored. The organisation of workshops could be considered.

- A common vision – The Arctic States could strive to formulate an aspirational common objective to guide their efforts to significantly reduce emissions of black carbon. The objective could be a collective reduction goal in quantitative terms (e.g. -50% by 20XX compared to 2005) or be expressed in qualitative terms. A common vision would most likely not be of a binding nature.
- Best mitigation practices and technologies - Best mitigation practices and technologies available for relevant pollution sources in the Arctic States, and the polar region, should be identified through collective efforts, compiled and promoted. A sector by sector approach in close cooperation with relevant industry/stakeholders could be feasible. An information clearing house could be established.
- Engagement by the private sector and other international organisations – The potential for collaborative measures with the private sector and cooperation with other international organisations should be explored and public-private partnership initiatives to reduce black carbon emissions should be promoted.
- Benchmarks or targets – The establishment of benchmarks or some kind of national/sectorial/regional targets should be considered. Benchmarks could represent the desired emission intensity for a sector or activity a certain year (e.g. black carbon emission per produced MWh off-grid electricity in 20XX). Targets could be binding or non-binding.