I. Introduction

The Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (LRTAP Convention) was concluded in 1979 under the auspices of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.\(^1\) The Convention does not include reduction limits or control measures, but rather provides a framework within which the Contracting Parties can agree on specific regulations. To this end, the Executive Body\(^2\) was established to serve as the supreme body of the Convention.

After the conclusion of the LRTAP Convention, the Parties adopted eight specific Protocols in order to arrange international cost-sharing of a monitor-

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** Legal Counsellor, Ministry of the Environment, Finland; Member of the Implementation Committee. The views expressed are my own and are not statements of or on behalf of the Implementation Committee.


\(^2\) Art. 10 of the 1979 LRTAP Convention.
ing programme and to control various adverse effects such as acidification, eutrophication, photochemical oxidant creation and bioaccumulation. As a first step, the Parties agreed in 1984 on long-term financing for the Cooperative Programme and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe (EMEP). Thereafter, they agreed in 1985 to reduce sulphur emissions by 30 percent and in 1988 to put a freeze on nitrogen emissions. In 1991, the Parties adopted a protocol on the control of volatile organic compounds (VOCs). In consequence of increased scientific knowledge, a new protocol on further reduction of sulphur emissions was adopted in 1994. Four years later, two more protocols were adopted: one on heavy metals and the other on persistent organic compounds. The most recent protocol on the abatement of acidification, eutrophication and ground-level ozone was adopted in 1999.

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