

Article 2

OBJECTIVE

The objective of the present Protocol is to control and reduce emissions of sulphur, nitrogen oxides, ammonia and volatile organic compounds that are caused by anthropogenic activities and are likely to cause adverse effects on human health, natural ecosystems, materials and crops, due to acidification, eutrophication or ground-level ozone as a result of long-range transboundary atmospheric transport, and to ensure, as far as possible, that in the long term and in a stepwise approach, taking into account advances in scientific knowledge, atmospheric depositions or concentrations do not exceed:

- (a) For Parties within the geographical scope of EMEP and Canada, the critical loads of acidity, as described in annex I;
- (b) For Parties within the geographical scope of EMEP, the critical loads of nutrient nitrogen, as described in annex I; and
- (c) For ozone:
 - (i) For Parties within the geographical scope of EMEP, the critical levels of ozone, as given in annex I;
 - (ii) For Canada, the Canada-wide Standard for ozone; and
 - (iii) For the United States of America, the National Ambient Air Quality Standard for ozone.

Article 3

BASIC OBLIGATIONS

1. Each Party having an emission ceiling in any table in annex II shall reduce and maintain the reduction in its annual emissions in accordance with that ceiling and the timescales specified in that annex. Each Party shall, as a minimum, control its annual emissions of polluting compounds in accordance with the obligations in annex II.
2. Each Party shall apply the limit values specified in annexes IV, V and VI to each new stationary source within a stationary source category as identified in those annexes, no later than the timescales specified in annex VII. As an alternative, a Party may apply different emission reduction strategies that achieve equivalent overall emission levels for all source categories together.