

EXECUTIVE BODY FOR THE CONVENTION ON
LONG-RANGE TRANSBOUNDARY AIR POLLUTION
Bureau to the Executive Body

**REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE BUREAU
TO THE EXECUTIVE BODY FOR THE CONVENTION
11 a.m. 18 December 2003, GENEVA**

Prepared by the secretariat in consultation with the Chairman

1. The third meeting of the Bureau in 2003 was chaired by the Chairman of the Executive Body, Mr H Dovland (Norway), and was attended by Vice-chairmen Mr L Lindau (Sweden), Ms Peggy Farnsworth (Canada), Mr R Ballaman (Switzerland), Mr P Széll (United Kingdom) and Mr H Gregor (Germany). Mr K Bull attended for the UNECE secretariat. Mr W Harnett (United States) also attended as a recently-retired Vice-Chair.
2. The Chairman proposed a short agenda mainly focused on preparations for the celebrations of the 25th anniversary of the Convention. However, he suggested that the next High Level Coordinating Group meeting with the CAFÉ secretariat, and the IUAPPA suggestion for an inter-regional forum on air pollution in August 2004 should also be discussed. The Bureau agreed an agenda based on these three items.

I. HIGH LEVEL COORDINATING GROUP (HLCG)

3. The chairman noted that it was important to maintain continuity when collaborating with the CAFE and suggested that a meeting with the European Commission CAFE secretariat should take place early in 2004.
4. The Bureau discussed various options for dates to propose to the European Commission staff, in particular those associated with other meetings where the Bureau members were likely to attend. It was noted that the CAFE Steering Group was due to meet on Monday-Tuesday 17-18 May and it was agreed that Wednesday 19 May would be a possible date for the next Bureau meeting and HLCG meeting (which could be held in the morning and afternoon respectively).
5. The secretariat was asked to contact Mr Wicks to enquire if the 19 May was convenient for the CAFE secretariat.

II. IUAPPA INTER-REGIONAL FORUM ON AIR POLLUTION

6. The Bureau noted that the IUAPPA world congress was planned for 23-27 August 2004 in London. Mr Mills had indicated that the inter-regional forum might be held on 25-26 August. Mr

Bull indicated that he hoped the secretariat would be able to attend. Bureau members each indicated their possibilities for attending.

7. The Chairman requested all Bureau members to check on their availability for those dates so that the Bureau could discuss the matter at its next meeting, possibly in May 2004.

III. TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONVENTION

8. The chairman opened the discussion reflecting upon suggestions made at the last Bureau meeting. He believed that a ministerial event was unlikely to attract ministers without an issue of substance to attract them. He further considered that a special event on the anniversary of the Convention, 13 November, was too close to the Executive Body session to attract sufficient attention itself. He therefore felt that using the Executive Body session was the best option to ensure good attendance.

9. In agreeing that this was the best way forward, the Bureau proposed that broader participation should be encouraged, for example Task Force chairpersons and representatives of programme centres and ICPs should also be invited.

10. It was suggested that each Party to the Convention might consider having a national day when the work of the Convention could be highlighted. Some countries already had, or had planned, such days. A day close to the 13 November might be suitable as this might give a lead in to the celebrations in Geneva.

11. The Director of the Environment and Human Settlements Division had suggested compiling a booklet of "ministerial writings" on the Convention and air pollution. Ministers could be invited to submit a short (1-2 page) text on some issue related to the Convention that was of special interest to their country (past or present). Such an invitation should be copied to Heads of Delegation, who were likely to be involved in drafting suitable text. The text could be made available for national days and the compilation of texts produced for the Geneva celebrations.

12. It was agreed that use should be made of UNECE weekly and UNECE press releases.

13. Mr Gregor indicated that Germany would finance a brochure that was focused on the Working Group on Effects.

14. It was suggested that Christer Agren might be invited to consider preparing a special issue of Acid Rain magazine on the Convention for that time.

15. Mr Ballaman had had contact with Jean-Guy Bartaire, editor of the scientific journal "Pollution atmosphérique" who is considering the publication of a special issue for the 25th anniversary of the Convention. The Bureau welcomed this information and suggested that further contacts should be made directly with Working Group chairpersons.

16. Ms. Farnsworth indicated that Canada might support a new brochure on the Convention. For this text would be needed by about April/May – it could be finalized at the proposed Bureau meeting. The aim would be to complete printing by September. The secretariat reported that the

head of the UK delegation had said that the UK may be able to offer help. It was suggested that it would be best to aim at having the brochure in the three languages (English, French and Russian) noting that the Russian text was particularly important.

16. The Bureau discussed the idea of a children picture competition. This would best be organized at a national level. The international schools in Geneva could be targeted by the secretariat. The winning picture(s) could be used as the basis for a poster for the Convention. If there were to be judges the Bureau should play a role (there was a suggestion that a small team of some Bureau members and some members of the secretariat would be suitable).

17. Mr Ballaman demonstrated a prototype children's game on air pollution and the Convention that was being developed with support from the Swiss government. The Bureau agreed that the game should be developed further with the aim of completing it in readiness for the anniversary. **

18. With regard to the Executive Body session, it was proposed that the celebration day be on the Wednesday, with the session running from Monday to Friday. Presentations should be short 10-15 minutes, and, at least in the morning, targeted at members of the press. After a few presentations a panel question and answer session should be convened. Suggestions for presentations were made for topics including: Atmospheric science, effects, integrated assessment modelling, European policy, North American policy, NGO perspective, linkages with greenhouse gases, hemispheric issues. Presenters should be invited to submit their presentations early to ensure that presentations were short and to the point. A number of former members of the secretariat and delegations were suggested as possible presenters.

19. It was suggested that additional invitees should be a national responsibility. Heads of Delegation might be invited to extend participation.

20. It was proposed that the evening reception should take place on Wednesday, and opportunities for extending it beyond the usual 2 hours should be sought.

** Note. UNECE has prepared a "generic board game" that could be adapted and also used for publicity for the Convention.