

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
13 March 2007, Gothenburg**

Prepared by the secretariat in consultation with the Bureau

The first meeting of the Bureau in 2007 was chaired by the Chairman of the Executive Body, Mr. M. Williams (United Kingdom), and was attended by Vice-Chairpersons Mr. R. Ballaman (Switzerland), Mr. T. Johannessen (Norway), Ms. S. Nurmi (Finland), Ms. M. Lešnjak (Slovenia) and Mr W. Harnett (United States). Mr. S. Michel (Switzerland) and Mr. J. Schneider (Austria) sent their apologies. Mr. K. Bull attended for the UNECE secretariat. Mr. M. Vainio (European Commission) and Mr A. Zuber (European Commission) attended as observers.

**I. NOTE OF THE BUREAU MEETING OF 11 DECEMBER 2006
(EBBUREAU/2006/2) INCLUDING MATTERS ARISING NOT ELSEWHERE
ON AGENDA**

1. The note of the meeting had been circulated and the Bureau agree that, provided no further amendments were proposed by 23 March, it should be placed on the Convention's website at www.unece.org/env/eb/bureau.

II. PARTICIPATION IN GEO (GROUP ON EARTH OBSERVATIONS)

2. The secretariat explained that a suggestion for joining GEO had come from the recent workshop of the Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution, which was hosted by WMO and GEO in Geneva. Mr Zuber provided some additional background information on GEO and noted the benefits of the Task Force linking with the GEO community.

3. The Bureau was informed that Mr. Brendan Kelly of the GEO secretariat would be providing a draft of a letter of invitation for the Executive Body's consideration. It was agreed that the draft should be circulated to Bureau members for comment. A suitable text should then be available for consideration by the EMEP Steering Body and the Executive Body.

III. ENVIRONMENT FOR EUROPE, BELGRADE MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE

4. The secretariat noted the ongoing preparations for the Conference and the revision of the "category I" paper on implementation of multilateral environmental agreements. The revised document would be further scrutinized by the Committee on Environmental Policy and the Working Group of Senior Officials in June. It was noted that executive summaries of category II documents and proposals for side events needed to be submitted by 1 May 2007.

5. Bureau members discussed issues that could be brought to ministers' attention at the Conference, in particular, outreach and work on hemispheric transport, nitrogen and climate change synergies with air pollution.

IV. EMISSION INVENTORIES

6. The Bureau noted that the EMEP Steering Body Bureau would be discussing possibilities for improving the quality of emissions data and addressing the resource needs for such work. It would also consider the issue of hosting the emissions database, since MSC-West had indicated it no longer wished to continue with this work.

7. Mr. Schneider had previously circulated some proposals that would be considered by the EMEP Bureau later in March. In the absence of Mr Schneider at the meeting, the Bureau agreed to defer further discussion until its next meeting.

V. CSD 15

8. Mr. Williams informed the Bureau of his attendance at the preparatory meeting for CSD15 held in New York. He had the opportunity to speak of the Convention's work on outreach and a number of speakers had spoken of the important work of the Convention as a model for other regions. Mr. Williams was intending to attend CSD 15, which would be held 30 April to 11 May 2007 and hoped to have further opportunities to promote the work of the Convention.

VI. SECRETARIAT STAFFING

9. Mr Bull explained that, to address UN mobility requirements, Ms Brinda Wachs was to be replaced by Ms Tea Aulavuo in the Convention's secretariat. Ms Wachs would remain in UNECE taking up Ms Aulavuo's post with responsibilities for the Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE-PEP). He also announced that Mr. H. Wuester had informed UNECE that he would not return from his secondment to the UNFCCC secretariat in Bonn. Steps were being taken to advertise Mr. Wuester's post.

VII. SEE/EECCA PROJECTS

10. The Bureau noted the workshop being organized by the Committee on Environmental Policy's Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment would be held on 22-24 May 2007 in Belarus. It considered the workshop

of relevance to the work of the Convention and decided to include it in the Convention's 2007 workplan. It suggested that information on the workshop was drawn to the attention of relevant experts and bodies in EMEP to encourage effective participation.

11. The secretariat provided an update on projects that were to be funded by the Czech Republic, focused on Moldova, and the Netherlands, focused on five Balkan countries.

VIII. OPENING THE CONVENTION

12. The Bureau noted that it needed to take further action on the issue of opening the Convention, as requested by the Executive Body at its session in December 2006.

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

13. Mr. Williams noted 2008 would be the 25th anniversary of the Convention entering into force. He suggested that this would be a good opportunity to draw attention to the work of the Convention and the successes it had achieved. This could be done at the Executive Body session in December 2008. The Bureau agreed to consider the matter further at its next meeting.

14. Mr. Bull noted that the secretariat Trust Fund for travel had not yet received any donations.

X. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

15. Mr Williams indicated that he would not be available at the time of the Working Group on Strategies and Review meeting in April. It was agreed that, unless other opportunities arose, the Bureau should meet next at the time of the September session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review (week of 17-21 September).