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**EXECUTIVE BODY FOR THE CONVENTION ON LONG-RANGE
TRANSBOUNDARY AIR POLLUTION**

Steering Body to the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation
of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe (EMEP)

Thirty-second session
Geneva, 8–10 September 2008

**REPORT OF THE STEERING BODY TO THE COOPERATIVE PROGRAMME
FOR MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF THE LONG-RANGE
TRANSMISSION OF AIR POLLUTANTS IN EUROPE
ON ITS THIRTY-SECOND SESSION**

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INTRODUCTION

1. The EMEP Steering Body held its thirty-second session from 8 to 10 September 2008 in Geneva. The session was attended by representatives from the following Parties to the Convention: Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Moldova, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America. A representative of the European Community (EC) also attended.

2. Representatives of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the European Environment Agency (EEA), the European Commission and its Joint Research Centre (JRC) and the five EMEP centres (the Centre on Emission Inventories and Projections (CEIP), Centre for Integrated Assessment Modelling (CIAM), the Chemical Coordinating Centre (CCC), the Meteorological Synthesizing Centre-East (MSC-East) and the Meteorological Synthesizing Centre-West (MSC-West)) attended. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET) and the Union of the Electricity Industry (EURELECTRIC) were also represented.

I. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

3. The Steering Body adopted the provisional agenda as contained in documents EB.AIR/GE.1/2008/1 and Corr.1.

II. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT ON THE THIRTY-FIRST SESSION

4. The Steering Body adopted the report on its thirty-first session (EB.AIR/GE.1/2007/2).

III. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

5. Mr. J. Schneider (Austria), Chair of the Steering Body, informed the session that he was stepping down and proposed electing a chair to replace him as well as vice-chairs to succeed to the four outgoing members of the Bureau. Following elections based on the nominations put forward by the delegations, the Steering Body:

- (a) Thanked the outgoing Chair, Mr. Schneider, for his hard work and important contributions to EMEP over several years;
- (b) Elected Ms S. Vidič (Croatia) as its new Chair;

- (c) Re-elected Mr. P. Grennfeldt (Sweden) and Ms. M. Wichmann-Fiebig (Germany) as Vice-Chairs;
- (d) Expressed its thanks to Mr. J. Rea (United Kingdom), Ms. L. Rouil (France) and to Mr. K. Wieringa (Netherlands) for their work as Vice-Chairs over the past few years;
- (e) Elected Ms Z. Ferenczi (Hungary), Mr. J. Macoun (Czech Republic), Mr. X. Querol (Spain) and Mr. Y. Viisanen (Finland) as new Vice-Chairs;
- (f) Agreed to continue allowing representation of the European Commission, as observer, at the meetings of the Bureau.

IV. MATTERS ARISING FROM RECENT MEETINGS OF THE EXECUTIVE BODY AND ITS SUBSIDIARY BODIES AND ACTIVITIES OF THE EMEP BUREAU

6. Mr. K. Bull, Chief of the Pollution Prevention Team of the UNECE Environment, Housing and Land Management Division, provided information on the present status of the Convention and its protocols and the main decisions of the twenty-fifth session of the Executive Body (ECE/EB.AIR/91). The Executive Body had agreed the technical work on the draft revised Emission Reporting Guidelines (the Guidelines) was complete but had invited the Working Group on Strategies and Review to consider policy-related aspects of the Guidelines.

7. Mr. R. Ballaman (Switzerland), Chair of the Working Group on Strategies and Review, reported on the relevant outcomes of its forty-first and forty-second sessions¹. Following further input from legal experts to improve the language of the Guidelines; to explore all possibilities to give parts of them legally binding status, and to draft an Executive Body decision on emission reporting, the Working Group considered its work on strengthening the Guidelines' implementation to be completed. He underlined that further legally binding obligations on emission reporting could be built into the Protocols in their possible future revisions. Mr. Ballaman also provided an update on the revisions of the Gothenburg Protocol² and the Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and the review of the Protocol on Heavy Metals.

8. Mr. T. Johannessen (Norway), Chair of the Working Group on Effects, informed the session about the Working Group's upcoming twenty-seventh session drawing attention to the draft guidelines on the reporting of modelling and monitoring of air pollution effects to be submitted to the Executive Body for adoption at its twenty-sixth session. He encouraged countries, in particular from Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) and South-Eastern Europe (SEE), to increasingly participate in the monitoring and modelling of effects.

¹ ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/90 and Corr.1 and ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/92, respectively.

² 1999 Gothenburg Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone.

Mr. Johannessen also reported on new results based on the 2007–2008 call for critical load data, indicating high exceedances of nutrient nitrogen, noting the particularly severe effects of ozone causing 21,000 premature deaths in Europe. He also drew attention to the health effects of heavy metals, in particular of mercury, affecting populations with high fish consumption.

9. The Chair presented the summary report on the work of the EMEP Bureau carried out between the Steering Body's thirty-first and thirty-second sessions (ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2008/8), including communication with the Working Group on Effects. She drew attention to the assessment of the current EMEP strategy and proposals on the review and revision of the strategy for 2010–2019. The Bureau had welcomed the smooth transfer of responsibilities for the emission work from MSC-West to CEIP, with the efficient review of Parties emission inventories during the 2008 reporting round. It had acknowledged the current lack of activity data and invited the secretariat to correspond with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) secretariat to request data that would improve stage 2 emission inventory review results under the Convention and help fill current data gaps and insufficiencies in the UNECE region. The Bureau had also expressed its satisfaction with the status of cash contributions to EMEP in 2007. Contributions in kind were encouraged from all Parties.

10. The Steering Body took note of this information and agreed to bear it in mind in its discussions. In particular, it:

(a) Took note of the report on the activities of the EMEP Bureau; including the request made to the secretariat to correspond with the UNFCCC secretariat to obtain the necessary data to improve stage 2 emission inventory review results and help fill current data gaps and insufficiencies in the region;

(b) Took note of the information provided by the secretariat on matters arising from the Executive Body's twenty-fifth session; as well as that provided by the Chairs of the Working Group on Strategies and Review and the Working Group on Effects;

(c) Noted the plans for revision of the Gothenburg Protocol, as discussed by the Working Group on Strategies and Review, and urged all EMEP centres and task forces to make every effort to provide the necessary inputs to the planned work in a timely fashion;

V. PROGRESS IN ACTIVITIES IN 2008 AND FUTURE WORK

11. The Chair invited the Steering Body to discuss separately each area of work, considering progress made in 2008 with respect to the Convention's workplan and taking into account the draft workplan for 2009 (ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2008/9).

12. In general terms, the Steering Body welcomed the increased emphasis by the EMEP Centres on assessing pollution levels in EECCA, noting, however, that considerable further efforts are needed in order to obtain input data from this subregion and to decrease current uncertainties.

A. Acidification, eutrophication and photo-oxidants

13. Ms. L. Tarrasón (MSC-West) gave an overview of the activities on monitoring and modelling of acidification, eutrophication and photo-oxidants, including progress in work at CCC, CIAM, MSC-West's own work, discussions within the Task Force on Measurements and Modelling (ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2008/3) and plans for work up to 2009. She explained that 2006 had been an exceptionally warm year in European Arctic, with the highest ozone and particulate matter (PM) levels ever recorded in Arctic sites, but that the EMEP model had failed to capture the observed values due to the lack information on biomass burning sources. Consequently, she stressed the need for EMEP to take into account biomass burning activities (agricultural waste burning and forest fires).

14. Ms. Tarrasón also presented main accomplishments in cooperation with EECCA countries, highlighting the extension of the EMEP domain eastwards and the establishment of new EMEP monitoring stations in Georgia, Kazakhstan and the Republic of Moldova. She drew attention to country reports, available in Russian, prepared for the 12 EECCA countries, and including source-receptor calculations. She stressed that although considerable efforts had been made in EECCA to compile appropriate input information including emissions, land-use information and critical load data, and first estimates of exceedances to critical loads in the extended EMEP domain were made available, further work was required in cooperation with EECCA countries to compile more accurate data sets. She explained that while sulphur oxides and oxidized nitrogen emissions from the 27 European Union (EU) Member States had transboundary impacts overseas and over the "Balkan region", they had little impact on the EECCA subregion and that consequently the expected emission cuts in the EU following revision of the Gothenburg Protocol would have only limited benefits for EECCA. She therefore stressed the importance of regional cooperation for improving the environmental situation in EECCA.

15. Furthermore, Ms. Tarrasón summarized the outcomes from the EMEP measurement campaigns of 2006 and 2007, stressing that the data obtained has contributed to better understanding of the gas-to-particle distribution, the chemical composition of aerosols and the performance of the EMEP models. She concluded that the technical capabilities of EMEP for modelling and monitoring were considerably enhanced for the next strategic period (2010–2019), and that the EMEP model performed particularly well on a lower scale, but that it would

be important for EMEP to find ways to compile appropriate input information and measurement data for the extended and global modelling scales. In addition, EMEP should be able to address the variability of the results, in particular when considering the effects of climate change on air pollution.

16. The Steering Body welcomed this information and suggested that the recommended further work and its implications be discussed when addressing the EMEP strategy for 2010–2019. The delegation of Sweden recommended that the Steering Body consider the consequences for EMEP of extending the model to global scale, and proposed that the Working Group on Strategies and Review be invited to consider the possible need for controlling biomass burning, taking account of the work of the International Cooperative Programme (ICP) on Forests under the Working Group on Effects.

17. The secretariat presented the results of the Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen's first meeting. Decisions on the workplan had emphasized, inter alia, the development of nitrogen budgets and the continuation of work of the former Expert Group on Ammonia Abatement. The Task Force would contribute to the revision of the Gothenburg Protocol, including updating its annex IX on ammonia.

18. The Steering Body:

(a) Expressed its appreciation to MSC-West, CEIP and CCC for the progress made in the work on acidification, eutrophication and photo-oxidants, which included new scientific findings and results relevant to future work;

(b) Took note of the presentation of MSC-West on Status Report 1/08. It regretted that this report had not been made available to delegations in advance to the session, and urged the centres to issue their reports on time;

(c) Took note of the progress report by the Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen to the Working Group on Strategies and Review;

B. Heavy metals

19. Mr. O. Travnikov (MSC-East) presented an overview of MSC-East and CCC activities in heavy metals monitoring and modelling in 2008 as well as plans for future work. He introduced Status Report 2/08, reporting on (a) the availability of emissions data for modeling of heavy metals both from EMEP official reporting and non-Party estimates, (b) the current situation in

EMEP regarding monitoring of heavy metals, and (c) the work of the EMEP centres in checking and improving the quality of measurement data.

20. Mr. Travnikov also informed about the further development of the MSC-East model for heavy metals in accordance with the recommendations of the workshop on the model review, and noted progress in the development of the common EMEP global modeling framework in collaboration with MSC-West. He presented the main results of the assessment of heavy metal transboundary pollution in Europe and Central Asia and the evaluation of the modeling results against observations, including the heavy metals in moss survey by ICP Vegetation. Cooperation by EMEP with other international organizations and programmes, as well as with national experts, was also highlighted.

21. The Steering Body:

(a) Noted with appreciation the work and progress in monitoring and modelling of heavy metals by MSC-East and CCC that had focused in particular on emission data, model development, evaluation of modelling results, assessment of pollution levels in 2006, exceedance of critical loads for heavy metals in collaboration with the Coordination Centre for Effects (CCE) under the Working Group on Effects, and cooperation with Parties and other organizations;

(b) Welcomed the further work by MSC-East to implement the recommendations of the workshop for the review of the MSC-East model for heavy metals;

(c) Took note of Status Report 2/08.

C. Particulate matter

22. Ms. W. Aas (CCC) presented activities on atmospheric monitoring and modelling of PM, including progress made in work at MSC-West, CIAM and CCC; discussions in the Task Force on Measurements and Modelling (EB.AIR/GE.1/2008/3); and plans for work up to 2009. She noted that improving official reporting on PM from EECCA countries was a priority, drawing attention to the results of concurrent measurements of PM and carbonaceous material as well as the results of the source apportionment of carbonaceous matter. Ms. Aas also described the detrimental impact to air quality in large parts of Europe of emissions from agricultural waste burning in Eastern Europe in spring 2006, which had spread to natural vegetation and had led to concurrent fires over large areas, causing important PM and gaseous emissions to the atmosphere. Changes in the aerosol chemical composition during the wildfire event had been reflected by increased levels of carbonaceous matter. She reviewed data from the EMEP

intensive measurement periods in 2006 and 2007 as well as plans for the upcoming intensive measurement period that would, inter alia, include tracer analysis for source apportionment of the carbonaceous matter. Ms. Aas stressed that outcomes of the work on remote sensing had been encouraging in terms of the expected future development in remote sensing capacities, and that further work would focus on outlier rejection criteria, effect of cloud cover and particle size effect.

23. The Steering Body:

(a) Noted with appreciation the work done by MSC-West, CIAM, CEIP and CCC on atmospheric monitoring and modelling of PM focused on regional and spatial variations of PM, emissions, assessment of model performance, exceedance of air quality guidelines, PM chemistry, impacts of the agricultural waste burning and wildfires in spring 2006 and remote sensing, and welcomed the progress made;

(b) Took note of Status Report 4/08.

D. Persistent organic pollutants

24. Mr. V. Shatalov (MSC-East) drew attention to the EMEP Status Report 3/08 and reported on activities on monitoring and modelling of POPs as well as plans for work up to 2009. He presented an overview of available official and unofficial emission data used for modelling purposes. He stressed that the EMEP and UNEP work in passive sampling could improve spatial coverage of monitoring data needed for model validation. He presented the further development of the MSC-East model for POPs in line with the recommendations of the workshop on the model review. He also presented the main results of the evaluated contamination in the extended EMEP domain as well as progress in the work on source-receptor relationships at the regional level with emphasis on EECCA countries. This work had included preparation of country specific reports in Russian. He also drew attention to the MSC-East support to the Task Force on POPs, through EMEP modelling activities related to the new substances proposed for inclusion in the Protocol on POPs and its cooperation with the European Chemical Agency on toxic substances in the context of the REACH³ process as well as its cooperation with the Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution, the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (HELCOM), the OSPAR Commission for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic and national experts.

³ EC regulation on the registration, evaluation, authorization and restriction of chemical substances.

25. In the discussion that followed, Mr. A. Zuber (European Commission) stressed that it would be important for the Convention to be able to keep track of the original sources for emitted substances, possibly through establishing a “blame-matrix” laying out the source-receptor relationship for emissions. In reply, Mr. Shatalov pointed out that the difficulty of obtaining accurate historical data made it problematic to establish source-receptor relationships.

26. The delegation of Norway provided additional information of the work carried out at the national level, drawing attention to reports covering 2006 and 2007 measurements of depositions of two (brominated) POPs compounds and their depositions in fresh water and fish; and to the compilation of POPs in air, human blood and mothers’ milk.

27. The Steering Body:

(a) Took note of the report of MSC-East and expressed its appreciation for the work and results of MSC-East and CCC on monitoring and modelling of POPs focused on emission data and the model development, the evaluation of contamination in the extended EMEP domain and source-receptor relationships as well as the preparation of country-specific reports for Central Asian countries;

(b) Took note of Status Report 3/08.

E. Measurements and modelling

28. Ms. L. Rouil (France), Co-Chair of the Task Force on Measurements and Modelling, reported on progress, including the results of the eighth meeting of the Task Force (Bordeaux, France, 23–25 April 2008; ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2008/3). She informed about work on uncertainties in emissions, modelling and measurements, drawing attention to the joint workshop organized by the Task Force and the Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projections (Dublin, 22 October 2007), as well as to the plans to further strengthen links with the emission and measurement and modelling communities. She also reported on lessons learned and issues to be improved from the EMEP field measurement campaigns in 2006 and 2007, involving spatial coverage, measured compounds and measurement techniques, as well as the preparatory work for the next campaigns., The latter would focus on PM components and involve national experts, the EMEP centres and the research community, in particular the EU European Supersites for Atmospheric Aerosol Research (EUSAAR) project and European Integrated Project on Aerosol Cloud Climate Air Quality Interactions (EUCAARI) campaigns. Ms. Rouil presented the contributions made to revising the EMEP strategy, including national projects such as the German initiative for assessing the representativeness of the EMEP network, the work of the technical centres as well as cooperation with the earth observation community, (e.g. Group on

Earth Observations (GEO), the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) and the Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES)) to assess the interest of future use of satellite data.

29. Ms. Rouil drew attention to the future priorities and plans for work for 2009 as presented in document EB.AIR/GE.1/2008/9.

30. Mr. K. Tørseth (CCC) reported on the status and main achievements of the current EMEP monitoring strategy and presented a first draft of its revision, which CCC had prepared in consultation with the EMEP Bureau and made available to the Steering Body as an informal document. He referred to the conclusion of the Task Force on Measurements and Modelling that the EMEP measurement data should be made available earlier, while ensuring its quality, and to its proposal that Parties deliver their measurement data by 31 July to allow CCC to deliver the analysed data to the EMEP modelling centres by 30 September 2008, and to make the data available to the Task Force by 30 December 2008.

31. In the ensuing discussion, the delegation of Germany expressed its concerns about the delivery of near-real time (NRT) data, wishing more information about the plans for obtaining and storage of data, and on how and when they would be replaced by the final data. CCC explained the difficulty of providing exhaustive information on NRT data, which was still partly in a “research mode” and an area under development with ongoing debates e.g. on the property rights of the data. Ms. Tarrason stressed the importance of ensuring above all the validity of the data through quality assessments. Ms. A. Mourelatou (EEA) informed the meeting about the discussions and the recent agreement between EEA and CCC for carrying out a feasibility study on how to most efficiently proceed with NRT data in taking into account the already existing NRT data exchange. She suggested that the Task Force on Measurement and Modelling wait for the study results before pursuing further work in this area. The Chair proposed holding a dedicated meeting on NRT data together with WMO, which had extensive experience in NRT data exchange, with a focus on research rather than application.

32. The delegation of Spain drew attention to the influence of mineral dust and to the results in Cyprus, Greece and Spain illustrating a relationship between mortality and dust from North Africa, and invited EMEP to take it into account in its work. The representative of WMO provided information on the work for coordinating existing initiatives of modelling, observation and use of sand and dust data.

33. The Steering Body:

(a) Took note of the report by the Task Force on Measurements and Modelling, expressing its appreciation for the work of that Task Force, MSC-W, MSC-E and CCC on uncertainties in emissions, modelling and measurements; on lessons learned from the 2006–2007 EMEP field campaigns and preparations of the new campaigns as well as on contributions to the revisions of the EMEP monitoring strategy;

(b) Welcomed the outcomes of the workshop held by the Task Force on Measurements and Modelling jointly with the Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projections on uncertainties in inventories and atmospheric models, and invited the two Task Forces to reinforce the cooperation through regular exchanges and joint workshops;

(c) Decided to advance the date for submission of the measurement data by Parties to 31 July, to allow for quality control and analysis of the data by the end of the year;

(d) Welcomed further work on urban scale increment as well as on dust aerosol in cooperation with WMO;

(e) Welcomed the joint initiative by EEA and CCC and NILU to conduct a feasibility study on how to most efficiently proceed with NRT data, taking into account the already existing NRT data exchange, and invited the Task Force on Measurements and Modelling to pursue its discussions on NRT following the completion of the feasibility study;

(f) Took note of the first draft of a revised EMEP monitoring strategy and measurement programme for the period 2010–2020 prepared by CCC in consultation with the EMEP Bureau (informal document no. 1), and invited delegations to send comments by 31 January 2009 on the draft to CCC to be incorporated into a next draft to be submitted to the Steering Body at its thirty-third session;

F. Integrated assessment modelling

34. Mr. R. Maas, Chair of the Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling, presented some key issues of the workshop on integrated modelling of nitrogen, including the need for nitrogen balance calculations, integrated agricultural management practices, exploration of non-technical measures such as diet, and policy-relevant effects indicators. These had already been addressed by the work of the Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen and CCE work on a regionalized Europe-wide species richness ratio indicator for nitrogen deposition. He also introduced recent exchanges of national experiences, which had become the Network of National Integrated Assessment Modelling, drawing participation from 16 countries.

35. Mr. M. Amann (CIAM) outlined the work on baseline emission projections for revision of the Gothenburg Protocol, noting that future air pollution emissions would depend on climate policies and that costs for changes in the energy system to meet climate and energy targets would lead to significant reductions in air pollution specific abatement costs. He emphasized that several underlying assumptions should be shared when adopting the baseline projection, including nationally agreed climate policy compatible activity pathways, assumptions for non-EU countries and international shipping. In addition, he requested the Steering Body to clarify some boundary conditions for integrated modelling, including the future background ozone concentration and the choice of meteorological years.

36. The Steering Body:

(a) Took note of progress in integrated assessment modelling, in particular the background report for the review of the Gothenburg Protocol prepared by the Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling;

(b) Took note of the conclusions and recommendations of the workshop on integrated modelling of nitrogen;

(c) Took note of the report of the Task Force, expressing its appreciation to the Chair, the lead country, and CIAM, hosted by the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA);

(d) Welcomed the activities of the network for national integrated assessment modelling and encouraged all Parties to join the network to exchange experiences;

(e) Took note of the requests of the forty-second session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review that required amending the workplan of the Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling.

G. Emissions

37. Ms. K. Kindbom (Sweden), Co-Chair of the Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projections, reported on progress made, including the results of the Task Force's nineteenth meetings () and twentieth (respectively, Dublin 23–24 October 2007, and Tallinn, 26–27 May 2008 (ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2008/6)), and presented progress in updating of the *EMEP/CORINAIR Emission Inventory Guidebook*, the revision of the Emission Reporting Guidelines (ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2008/11) and the inventory improvement programme, in particular regarding the stage 3 in-depth reviews of the emission inventories.

38. Ms. Kindbom informed that in 2008 the stage 3 reviews would be carried out on voluntary basis, with the review of France, Norway, Portugal and Sweden taking place from 6 to 10 October 2008 in Copenhagen, and starting from 2009 as a mandatory exercise. Five Parties would be reviewed each year (in October) by a lead reviewer and a team of review experts selected by CEIP from a roster of experts nominated by Parties. Draft review findings would be sent to the Parties' designated emission experts for comments, and once finalized, the reports would be submitted to the Executive Body and the Implementation Committee. The Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projections had stressed the importance of timely publishing of the review reports on the EMEP-CEIP website, and recommended that this be done immediately after their finalization. Requiring a prior approval by the Steering Body would delay their publishing by nearly a year.

39. Ms. K. Mareckova (CEIP) informed the Steering Body about the status of emissions data reporting (ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2008/12), its own work and the work of CIAM on data quality. She noted that out of the 51 Parties to the Convention, only 40 were Parties to the protocols and consequently subject to reporting obligations, stressing the importance of receiving further data from the non-Parties. The representative of MSC-East emphasized the need for historical data for POPs and heavy metals. Ms. Mareckova also highlighted the difficulties for CEIP to make use of the Informative Inventory Reports (IIRs) prepared in national languages and urged Parties to summarize the key information in English.

40. In the discussion that followed, the Steering Body considered the process and the delay in the revision of the *Guidebook*, carried out by the consultants financed by the European Community and the expert panels of the Task Force. It agreed on the need for appropriate resources for maintaining and further improving the *Guidebook* and requested the preparation of a maintenance plan specifying tasks, responsibilities and costs involved. The Steering Body recommended making the revised *Guidebook* available online as soon as its revision had been completed by the technical experts, and also the simultaneous start of its translation into Russian. Belarus voiced its willingness to do the translation and to cover some of the costs (up to €3,000) for this work. The Russian Federation had also submitted a written proposal with cost estimates and a time schedule for translating the *Guidebook*. Mr. E. Dame (EC) emphasized the key importance of the *Guidebook* for improving national emission inventories. He also informed about the possibility that further amendments to the draft revised Emission Reporting Guidelines be proposed at the twenty-sixth session of the Executive Body. A number of delegations stressed the importance of adopting the draft revised Guidelines in 2008 to allow Parties to use them as a basis for reporting in 2009.

41. The Steering Body:

(a) Took note of the results and conclusions of the Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projections and expressed its appreciation to CEIP, CIAM and EEA for their work in this area;

(b) Thanked the outgoing Chair of the Task Force, Ms. K. Rypdal (Norway) for her dedicated work and Norway for having acted as a lead country for the Task Force, and welcomed the offer of the United Kingdom to take on the lead country responsibilities as well as its nomination of Mr. C. Dore as its new Chair, which would be presented to the Executive Body at its twenty-sixth session;

(c) Took note of the draft Guidelines for Reporting Emissions and their annex I as revised by the ad hoc group of legal experts (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2008/6) as well as of the draft decision of the Executive Body on emission data reporting under the Convention and its protocols (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2008/1, annex) as amended by the Working Group on Strategies and Review;

(d) Took note of the change of name from *EMEP/CORINAIR Emission Inventory Guidebook* to “EMEP/EEA Air Pollutant Emission Inventory Guidebook –Technical Guidance to Prepare National Emission Inventories following the LRTAP Convention’s Reporting Guidelines and the EU National Emission Ceilings Directive”;

(e) Welcomed the improvements made to the *Guidebook*, acknowledging that the provision of up-to-date and good-quality guidance was a prerequisite for improving national emission inventories, and recommended that further work be carried out by the Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projections to finalize the revision of the *Guidebook* and invited the Task Force to submit it to its thirty-third session for adoption and subsequent endorsement by the Executive Body. The Steering Body also agreed that the revised *Guidebook* could be made available for the national experts to use prior to its formal adoption, as soon as the Task Force had finalized its work;

(f) Acknowledged the lack of dedicated resources and the absence of a systematic approach for improving and maintaining the Guidebook, invited the Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projections to present to the Steering Body at its thirty-third session a draft maintenance plan specifying tasks, responsibilities and estimated costs for the *Guidebook* maintenance. The Steering Body also called upon the Parties to the EMEP Protocol⁴ to consider making voluntary contributions to guarantee the provision of up-to-date and good-quality data;

⁴ Protocol on Long-term Financing of the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe.

(g) Stressed the importance of translating the *Guidebook* into Russian with a view to improving emission reporting in EECCA, agreed that this work should start as soon the revision was completed by the Task Force in spring 2009, took note of the offers of the Russian Federation and Belarus to carry out this work; and invited delegations to explore opportunities to provide funds to this end;

(h) Took note of the information on the stage 3 reviews of the emission inventories submitted to the Convention, including on preparatory work of the voluntary review of four Parties: France, Norway, Portugal and Sweden, to be carried out in October 2008, and on the plans for the compulsory reviews as of 2009;

(i) Welcomed the further guidance to the stage 3 reviewers and the templates for the use by the stage 3 review teams (informal document 3);

(j) Encouraged more Parties to nominate experts for the roster of review experts (involving both identifying national experts and funding for their work) as well as to financially support the participation of representatives from EECCA in the reviews;

(k) Acknowledged the need to ensure the timely publishing of the stage 3 review reports on the EMEP-CEIP website and recommended the timely publishing of the stage 3 review reports on the EMEP-CEIP website as soon as the reports were finalized in consultation with the emission experts from the reviewed Parties;

(l) Noted with appreciation the efficient transfer of responsibilities for the emission work from MSC-W to CEIP and the excellent work in collecting and reviewing emissions and projections submitted during the 2008 reporting round, including the launch of a new website with emission reporting information;

(m) Took note of the results of the 2008 reporting round provided by CEIP;

(n) Welcomed the increase in number of IIRs submitted, but urged Parties to prepare them using the template contained in annex VI to the revised Emission Guidelines as well as to provide an English summary of key information on the inventories, including reasons for recalculations, on new emission sources and explanation of trends and the implementation of country specific methods and data;

(o) Invited non-Parties to the Protocols to submit emission data for them to benefit from assistance in improving their emission inventories as well as for the improvement of the atmospheric monitoring and modelling under the Convention;

(p) Invited Parties to provide projections for 2030 and 2050 in view of the analysis of the links between air pollution and climate change;

H. Hemispheric air pollution

42. Mr. A. Zuber (EC), Co-Chair of the Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution, reported on the fourth meeting of the Task Force (Rome, 7–10 May 2008; ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2008/7); (b) the results of the Workshop on Global and Regional Modelling for Assessing Hemispheric Air Pollution (Jeulich, Germany, 17–19 October 2007); (c) the Workshop on Atmospheric Chemistry, Climate and Transboundary Air Pollution, held from (Washington, D.C., 9–13 June 2008); (d) the publication of the interim assessment report; and (e) plans for future work, including a timetable for preparation of the Task Force report.

43. Mr. Zuber drew attention to the progress made in the Task Force's work and the important contributions being made by experts, both those from Parties and from countries outside the UNECE region. There remained strong interest from non-UNECE participants, and the Co-Chairs continued to encourage their involvement as a major contribution to outreach. He noted that the timetable for completing of the Task Force's major report had shifted slightly; publication was now planned for 2010.

44. The Steering Body:

(a) Took note of the progress made in the work of the Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution on emission and projections, integration of observational evidence and on hemispheric transport of air pollution multi-model experiments, as well as noting its important contribution to outreach through holding meetings outside the UNECE region;

(b) Encouraged continued active participation of national experts in the work of the Task Force; in particular through taking part in the multi-model comparison on POPs;

(c) Welcomed the publication of the interim report of the Task Force, *Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution 2007* (Air Pollution Studies No. 16, ECE/EB.AIR/94), and noted the important results presented;

(d) Welcomed the joint activities of the Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution with other EMEP task forces, and noted the important contributions by the EMEP centres to the work of the Task Force;

(e) Noted the plans of the Task Force to continue its work, with the aim of producing an updated, major report in 2010.

VI. STRATEGY FOR 2010–2019

45. Mr. O. Hov (MSC-West) introduced the document on revising the EMEP strategy for the period 2010–2019 prepared by the Bureau (ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2008/13). He presented an assessment of the achievements of the EMEP strategy for 2000–2009 as well as current and future priorities in policy and scientific issues, goals and driving forces to be covered by the revised strategy.

46. The Steering Body welcomed the work carried out and provided feedback for finalizing the document. Delegations and Convention bodies were also invited to send further comments to the Bureau. Mr. Johannessen suggested that the Bureaux of EMEP and the Working Group on Effects work together to clarify the respective responsibilities of the subsidiary bodies during the next strategic period. Mr. Zuber noted that EMEP should follow-up and fulfil the engagements already taken but also be prepared to meet future needs, taking into account the overall strategy for the Convention that would be discussed by the Executive Body at its twenty-sixth session. The WMO representative agreed on the timeliness of focusing on linkages between climate and air quality. The delegation of Italy welcomed further collaboration with global organizations such as WMO and WHO as well as better cooperation between the Convention bodies, in particular with the Working Group on Effects. It stressed the importance of coordinating the EMEP strategy with the overall strategy of the Convention. The delegation of Germany recommended adding the loss of biodiversity as an aspect to be addressed by EMEP in collaboration with the Convention on Biological Diversity. It further stressed that a more focused approach was needed when communicating and collaborating with the climate community and other United Nations bodies, e.g. through mandating chairs of the task forces or the Steering Body to convey the Steering Body's messages.

47. The Steering Body:

(a) Took note of the draft outline strategy document prepared by the Bureau and invited the Bureau to continue its work, taking into account the comments made by the Steering Body as well as the longer term needs of the Convention and the future plans of the Working Group on Effects, in order to present a draft strategy document to the thirty-third session of the Steering Body in 2009, and invited delegations and all Convention bodies to provide further comments in writing to Mr. O. Hov (MSC-West) by 31 January 2009.

VII. COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AND PROGRAMMES

48. Ms. Morelatou reported on some of the EEA activities and processes of relevance to the Convention. She noted that EEA had nearly completed its new five-yearly strategy for 2009–2013. During this period, EEA would continue through its Air Data Centre to provide data on air pollutant emissions and ambient air quality, including, where possible, NRT data. It planned to improve access to these data and to improve their multimedia presentation to the public, policymakers and experts, and intended to make increasing use of modelling techniques and advanced spatial mapping techniques, continue the well-established cooperation with EMEP and its other partners, and to contribute to the GMES atmosphere services. A number of integrated assessments of air pollution, impacts on human health and the environment and the effectiveness of related policies and measures would be produced. Ms. Mourelatou drew attention to the extensive collaboration between EMEP and EEA and its European Topic Centre on Air and Climate Change, in the annual review of the data submitted under the Convention and the National Emissions Ceiling (NEC) Directive. She also reported on a number of relevant publications and drew attention to the EEA website, which displayed NRT data on ozone, and on preparations for a similar service for PM.

49. The European Community's JRC (Joint Research Centre) reported on its recent collaboration with the EMEP task forces and centres. Attention was drawn, inter alia, to work on model intercomparisons and to the contributions to the interim assessment report of hemispheric transport of air pollution. In the field of monitoring, JRC had worked on the reference analytical method for elemental/organic carbon (EC/OC) and taken part in the activities of EARLINET Lidar Network and the Global Atmosphere Watch World Data Centre for Aerosols. It had contributed actively to the work of the Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projections through its expert panels, notably to revision of the *Guidebook*, scientific workshops and the activities of the Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution on the global emission inventory. Other relevant activities included integrated studies on air quality and climate change.

50. Mr. M. Iyngarasan (UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific) presented information on regional air pollution activities in Asia. These included the Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and Its Likely Transboundary Effects in South Asia, EANET, Project Atmospheric Brown Clouds and the Global Atmospheric Pollution Forum. He informed the session about an upcoming meeting of regional air pollution networks in Asia and the Pacific region in November 2008 to discuss a joint plan for the networks. He also noted the ongoing collaboration between the Asian networks and the Convention.

51. WMO informed the session about some of its activities during the past year, including an internal restructuring of its research department from the beginning of the year. It drew attention,

inter alia, to its activities in building expertise for sand and dust storm warning systems, as well as in establishing and improving operational weather systems for fire danger rating to help tackle the growing threat of forest fires worldwide.

52. The United States delegation reported on its air quality management activities, including the review of the existing secondary (welfare-based) national ambient air quality standards for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and sulphur dioxide (SO₂) and the exploration of the potential for using critical loads as a tool to protect sensitive ecosystems from SO₂ and NO_x deposition impacts. The session was informed about the NARSTO Multi-pollutant Assessment of the technical challenges of designing and implementing multi-pollutant air quality management with an accountability framework. Further activities included: the study by the U.S. National Academy of Sciences of the significance of international transport of air pollutants for the achievement of environmental policy objectives; a multi-partner field campaign to investigate ammonia bi-directional fluxes for North American conditions and crop types; and the initiative of the National Atmospheric Deposition Program (NADP) to develop a pilot network to measure air concentrations of mercury in its gaseous and particulate forms to augment wet deposition measurements. Activities in the field of modelling included the release of the 2008 Community Multi-scale Air Quality model (CMAQ) and the international initiative on air-quality model evaluation as well as the CMAQ Users workshop.

53. The delegation of Canada reported on relevant activities in the field of policy, regulations and assessments, including setting of national air-quality objectives for PM and ozone as part of the implementation of the national regulatory framework to reduce emissions and the preparation of the 2008 Canadian Smog Science Assessment to provide the scientific support needed for this. Information was provided on the implementation of the Agricultural Policy Framework (APF) to develop environmental performance standards and farming practices to reduce ammonia and particulate concentrations in the atmosphere, including updating of the Canadian ammonia emission estimates. The 2008 Canadian Assessment of Agricultural Ammonia was to be released shortly. In the field of regional and urban monitoring, a major focus was on provision of real time data for air quality forecasts, indices and environmental indicators. The Canadian Air and Precipitation Monitoring Network was expanding, with new wet deposition sites. In the field of monitoring, information was provided on Canada's next-generation operational air quality forecast model Global Environmental Multi-scale Model – Modelling Air Quality and Chemistry (GEM-MACH).

54. The Steering Body:

(a) Took note of the information presented by other organizations and programmes, welcomed the useful cooperation, expressed its gratitude for the contributions made to EMEP and the Convention, and stressed the importance of continued cooperation;

VIII. WORKPLAN FOR 2009

55. The secretariat introduced the EMEP draft workplan for 2009 (EB.AIR/GE.1/2008/9), prepared on the basis of the priorities of the Executive Body reflected in recent workplans, as well as the input by the task forces and centres.

56. The Chair stressed the need for EMEP to increase cooperation with EECCA and SEE. She reported on the outcomes of the informal consultations with representatives from EECCA and SEE countries held during the lunch break, with participation of CCC, CEIP, MSC-East and the Task Force on Measurements and Modelling. Their objective was to learn more about the specific national circumstances and difficulties with respect to reporting emission data and establishing monitoring and modelling activities, so as to better target assistance and involve EECCA and SEE in the activities of EMEP as well as to improve the input data available for the Convention. Many delegations had expressed a need for capacity-building and specific guidance to better understand the required national actions for implementing protocol obligations and as well as the human and financial resources needed. The meeting had suggested the establishment of an action plan with a step-by-step approach. As a first step, the EMEP centres and task forces should carry out a questionnaire survey to assess the specific needs for assistance and gaps as well as the resources already available. Based on the questionnaire survey, an action plan would be established, in cooperation with EECCA and SEE countries, with a time frame and cost estimates for the future steps to be taken to address the issues identified. Furthermore, following the identification of gaps, the Centres and task forces should explore possibilities for organizing subregional workshops to explain methodologies.

57. The Steering Body welcomed the information provided and decided to add a new item to its workplan aiming at enhancing cooperation with EECCA and SEE countries, involving them in EMEP activities and providing them assistance, as needed, to implement the EMEP programme, in particular with a view to obtaining emission data and establishing monitoring and modelling activities.

58. Delegations and centres proposed amendments to the workplan, and the Steering Body agreed on the changes to be made.

59. The Steering Body:

(a) Requested the secretariat to amend the workplan to reflect the decisions taken by it during the present session and the suggestions made by delegations under this agenda item;

(b) Agreed its draft workplan for 2008 as presented in document EB.AIR/GE.1/2008/9, as amended, and recommended it to the Executive Body for adoption.

IX. FINANCIAL AND BUDGETARY MATTERS

60. The secretariat introduced the note on financial and budgetary matters (EB.AIR/GE.1/2008/10) informing the Steering Body on the current state of contributions. The note also presented the budget proposal for 2009 prepared on the basis of the decisions of the Bureau. The secretariat drew attention to the 2008 EMEP scale of mandatory contributions based on the 2007 United Nations scale of assessments and the proposed increased budget. The secretariat also drew attention to issues related to proposed decisions.

61. The Steering Body noted with concern the pending arrears of Ukraine for the periods 1992–1994 and 1996–2001, amounting to a total of US\$ 343,657 that were to be covered through the implementation of two projects. It urged Ukraine to propose a new focus for the project to cover its arrears for 1992–1994 (equivalent to \$140,989) at the twenty-sixth session of the Executive Body. If there was no agreement on modifying the project, Ukraine should be requested to pay its arrears in cash. With regard to the project for the establishment of an international EMEP monitoring station in Ukraine, the Steering Body was informed that the Kosa site first proposed by Ukraine had not met the EMEP criteria for representativeness because it fell in the same grid cell as the town of Ismail. However, following a dialogue between Ukraine and CCC to find a suitable solution for the location of the site, the site of Trudovoye had been approved and, consequently, the implementation of the project could proceed.

62. The delegation of Germany expressed a reservation with regard to the proposed increase of the budget and its contribution for 2009, calculated on the basis of the 2007 United Nations scale of assessments.

63. The Steering Body may wish to:

(a) Take note of the status of contributions to the financing of EMEP provided in document EB.AIR/GE.1/2008/10 and the additional information provided by the secretariat during the session;

- (b) Approve the use of resources by the EMEP centres in 2007, as presented in table 2 of EB.AIR/GE.1/2008/10;
- (c) Also approve the 2007 voluntary contribution in kind from Belarus;
- (d) Agree on the detailed budget for 2009 set out in table 3 of EB.AIR/GE.1/2008/10 and the schedule of mandatory contributions from Parties for 2009 as set out in the last column of table 4 of that document;
- (e) Also agree on keeping the total budget of CIAM for 2009 at \$395,000 and on keeping the provisional budgets for 2010 and 2011 at the same level;
- (f) Recommend to the Executive Body to adopt the 2009 budgets and schedule of contributions;
- (g) Call upon the Parties to the EMEP Protocol to consider making voluntary contributions (in kind or in cash through the EMEP trust fund) to ensure that the work, especially the difficult tasks required in 2009 for carrying out the protocol revisions, including the work on integrated assessment modelling, can be accomplished as foreseen in the workplan;
- (h) Request Ukraine to propose a new focus for the project to cover its arrears for the period 1992–1994 (equivalent to \$140,989) at the twenty-sixth session of the Executive Body.

X. OTHER BUSINESS

64. There were no issues for discussion under this agenda item.

XI. CLOSING OF THE THIRTY-SECOND SESSION

65. Based on an informal outline of the report, presented by the secretariat, the Steering Body agreed on the main decisions taken during the session.
66. The thirty-third session of the EMEP Steering Body was scheduled to be held from 7 to 9 September 2008 in Geneva.
