

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
20 April 2009, Geneva**

Prepared by the secretariat in consultation with the Bureau

1. The first meeting of the Bureau in 2009 was chaired by the Chairman of the Executive Body, Mr. M. Williams (United Kingdom), and was attended by Vice-Chairpersons Ms. S. Vidic (Croatia), Ms. Martina Motlova (Czech Republic), Mr. R. Ballaman (Switzerland), Mr. T. Johannessen (Norway) and Mr. A. Fretheim (Norway). Mr. A. Zuber attended as observer for the European Commission. Mr. M. Jones (Canada) attended the meeting as observer since Ms. V. Galatone was unable to attend. Ms. C. Masson, Ms. A. Karadjova, Mr. M. Johansson, Ms. T. Aulavuo and Mr. L. Wyrowski attended for the UNECE secretariat.

**I. NOTE OF THE BUREAU MEETING OF 15 DECEMBER 2008
(EB BUREAU/2008/3) INCLUDING MATTERS ARISING NOT ELSEWHERE ON THE
AGENDA**

2. The note of the meeting had been circulated and the Bureau agreed that it should be placed on the Convention's website at www.unece.org/env/lrtap/ExecutiveBody/bureau.html.

II. ISSUES RELATED TO THE WORKING GROUP ON EFFECTS

3. Mr. Johannessen, Chair of the Working Group, reported about the meeting of the Bureau of the Working Group on Effects of 18-19 February 2009 and on work under progress. The draft long-term strategy of the effect-oriented activities is in its finalization phase and will be submitted as an official document to the upcoming sessions of the Working Group on Effects (28th session, 22-25 September 2009) and Working Group on Strategies and Review (25th session, 31 August-4 September 2009). The intention is to submit the final draft for adoption at the 27th EB session (December 2009).

4. Making reference to the Guidelines for reporting emission data under the CLRTAP adopted in 2008, Mr. Johannessen noted that the challenge was now to implement them and get used to work with the indicators that they contain. He also informed the Bureau that a report showing adverse effects of reactive nitrogen will be issued in a few weeks by the Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen, and that the results could be useful when revising the Gothenburg Protocol.

5. **The Bureau welcomed the efforts of the Working Group on Effects to contribute to the work of the Convention.**

III. ISSUES RELATING TO THE STEERING BODY OF EMEP

6. Ms. Vidič, Chair of the Steering Body, informed the Bureau of the preparations for the stage 3 in-depth reviews of emission inventories, to be carried out from 22 to 26 June 2009, to improve the quality of emission data reporting. As of 2009, all Parties' inventories would be subject to in-depth reviews every five years, with the objective being to review approximately ten countries per year. The reviews would be conducted by expert review teams selected from a roster of experts nominated by Parties to the Convention. Ms. Vidič stressed that the current roster of 38 experts nominated by 10 Parties was insufficient and did not appropriately cover the sectoral expertise required nor the geographical area of UNECE. The Bureau agreed that in order not to endanger the review process in the future, the Executive Body, at its twenty-seventh session (in December 2009), should renew its call to Parties for the nomination of further experts.

7. Ms. Vidič also consulted the Bureau on the list of ten countries recommended by the Centre on Emission Inventories and Projections (CEIP) to be reviewed in 2009: Denmark, Latvia, Poland, Switzerland and Ireland (Group 1) and Finland, Lithuania, Belgium, Bulgaria and Hungary (Group 2). Mr. Fretheim, Chair of the Implementation Committee, suggested including Greece and Spain on the list, due to their long-standing non-compliance with their reporting obligations. He pointed out that the stage-3-review would benefit both the countries in non-compliance, in helping them to improve their emission reporting, as well as the Implementation Committee, in providing it with useful additional information. The Bureau agreed that Spain and Greece should be reviewed on a priority basis, and preferably in 2009, provided that they had submitted their Informative Inventory Reports in 2009, which the stage 3 reviews focused on. Mr. Ballaman expressed a preference for Switzerland to be reviewed only in 2010, due to an important workload that the national emission experts were tackling in 2009.

8. **With these amendments, the Bureau approved the list of Parties to be reviewed in 2009, inviting the secretariat to inform them accordingly and the CEIP to proceed with the reviews. The EB Bureau also invited the EMEP Steering Body to submit for approval by the Executive Body at its twenty-seventh session a list Parties to be reviewed during the next four to five years, in order to allow Parties' to plan and prepare for the reviews well in advance.**

IV. ISSUES RELATING TO THE WORKING GROUP ON STRATEGIES AND REVIEW (WGSR)

9. Mr. Ballaman, Chair of the Working Group, noted the amendment to the 2009 work plan of the Convention to reflect the mandates of the Working Group to work on POPs and heavy metals as agreed by the EB Bureau on 5 March 2009 (See text in annex I). He informed the Bureau that the Working Group had made progress in the negotiations on the proposed amendments to the Protocol

on POPs at its 43rd session (9-13 March 2009) and that its objective remained to finalize the negotiations at the 45th session of the WGSR in September 2009, i.e. in time for adoption of an amended Protocol by Parties to the Protocol present at the 27th EB session in 2009 (provided that one or several Parties to the Protocol submit an official amendment proposal in line with article 14 to the Protocol).

10. About the revision of the Gothenburg Protocol, Mr Ballaman pointed out that the work was not that advanced; the intention of the coming 44th session of the WGSR (21-23 April 2009) would be to clarify the different options/scenarios as much as possible so that to facilitate further negotiations at the 45th session of the WGSR in September 2009. Mr Ballaman stressed that a particular problem was that member countries still not had submitted their emission data for establishing the baseline scenarios for 2020, and if not done by end of May 2009, other options needed to be found as basis for negotiations.

11. Mr. Williams reminded that the deadline for countries to submit their emissions data for further work on the Gothenburg protocol had been set on May 2009 by the EB and that there was no reason to change this timeline. In absence of reported data, then other data will be used and work should proceed further. Mr Zuber confirmed that, for the EU, the proposal for the revised NEC Directive would probably not appear before November 2009, and that the EU countries would not transmit any figures before the Directive would be adopted. Ms Motlova indicated that the EU countries would accept to work on scenarios.

12. Mr. Williams highlighted the overloaded agenda resulting from the revision in parallel of the 3 protocols (POPs, Heavy Metals, and the Gothenburg). Some doubts were expressed about the ability to conduct these revisions within the expected timeline. Mr. Ballaman stressed the need to have some deliverable for the 30th anniversary of the Convention in April 2010, which seemed possible for the POPs protocol if it is adopted in end 2009; the Bureau agreed therefore that the POPs and Gothenburg Protocols were a higher priority and this conclusion should inform the activities of the EB and WGSR if conflicts or difficulties arose. The aim was still agree the revised Gothenburg Protocol in 2010.

13. **The Bureau :**

- welcomed the progress in the negotiations on the options for revising the Protocol on POPs and the objective to finalize the negotiations in September, in time for Parties to the Protocol to adopt amendments to the Protocol at the twenty-seventh session of the Executive Body in December 2009;

- reminded that the deadline for countries to submit their emissions data for further work on the Gothenburg protocol was 31 May 2009 and that, should these emission data not been submitted in time, the work should further proceed based on other existing data.

V. ISSUES RELATING TO THE IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

14. Mr. Fretheim reported on the recent meeting of the Implementation Committee (London, 31 March-2 April 2009) and on the situation of non-compliance by Spain, Greece, as well as by Denmark and Cyprus. He suggested that stronger measures needed to be taken in cases of long-standing non-compliance and serious discussion in the EB would be needed to decide how to proceed in such cases.

15. The secretariat informed that another issue for discussion could be the problem related to the different targets for the same pollutant defined for the same country under different Protocols, which was a problem for Cyprus and Spain. The secretariat also stressed the long process needed for the organization of an information-gathering mission in Spain and felt that the review report could not be ready in time for the EB session in December 2009.

16. Mr. Fretheim further informed the Bureau about progress with the in-depth reviews of the Protocols on POPs and Heavy Metals, stressing that these in-depth reviews represented a significant effort for both the secretariat and the Committee. The need for revising and improving the methodology of these reviews was evoked.

17. The Bureau invited Mr. Fretheim, as Chair of the Implementation Committee, to prepare a paper for further discussion on these questions at the next Bureau meeting in September 2009.

VI. STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR THE CONVENTION

18. Martin Williams introduced the strategic framework currently worked out under the Convention, including the Long-term Strategy for the Convention (LTS), the draft EMEP Strategy for 2010-2019, the Long-term Strategy of the Working Group on Effects and how they relate to each other; and stressed the interest to have the LTS ready for the 30th Anniversary celebration in April 2010. He also suggested to establish a drafting group to move forward and help the secretariat establish a revised draft for consideration by the EB Bureau at its meeting in September 2009 and further by the Executive Body at its session in December 2009.

19. In general, it was felt that the LTS should come as a second priority after the finalization of the Gothenburg Protocol, that it should be developed further in a more transparent and participative way. Regarding the time schedule for the adoption of the Strategy in 2010, a number of the Bureau members estimated that Autumn 2010 would be more realistic than Spring 2010. Different opinions were expressed about the fact that the LTS should reflect objectives and goals for various substances, with clear link to the protocols and their present objectives, or should rather contain more long term objectives far beyond the current situation. The Bureau also stressed the need to align the EMEP and the WGE strategies in function of the LTS.

20. **The Bureau decided that the secretariat would prepare a draft of the LTS taking into account of the written comments submitted by Canada, EU, Norway, USA, and the World Chlorine Council in particular, for further discussion by the EB Bureau at its meeting in September 2009 and by the Executive Body at its twenty-seventh session in December 2009. The document would be submitted as an informal document to the meetings of the four subsidiary bodies in English only.**

VII. WORK PLAN 2009

21. The first draft of the agenda for the workshop on AP/Climate Change to be hosted by Sweden in October 2009 was being circulated for comments and would be finalized soon. The secretariat will issue a corrigendum to amend the 2009 Work Plan, including the updated mandate for the WGSR and the workshop on AP/Climate Change.

VIII. 30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

22. To follow-up on the proposal from the Russian Federation to organize a special session of the EB in St Petersburg in April 2010 during which the 30th anniversary of the Convention would be celebrated, M. Williams pointed out that such a session outside the UN premises would involve important administrative extra-costs for the EB. He also remarked that, in order to increase the visibility of the celebration, a side event of significant importance would also need to be organized, such as a ceremony to mark the adoption of an amended Protocol on POPs. Another option could involve a formal and high-level political engagement by the Parties to increase cooperation and technical assistance to EECCA countries for implementing the Convention and its protocols as a priority. **The EB Bureau decided to pursue discussion on this issue at its next meeting (31 August 2009).**

IX. OTHER ACTIVITIES

23. 63rd session of the ECE Commission : Mr. Williams reported on his presentation on links between Climate Change and Air Pollution to the 63rd session of the ECE Commission (April 2009, see summary of the presentation in annex II). The secretariat will inform the Bureau of the report of the session regarding the directions for further work of the Commission on climate change as soon as issued.

24. Capacity building activities: The secretariat informed on progress made on the capacity building projects for Moldova financed by the Czech Republic and for the SEE countries financed by the Netherlands. For Moldova, the project document was being discussed with the newly appointed recipient institution, the Carbon Fund Office. It was expected that a meeting with the Moldovan and the Czech delegations could be held in the margins of the WGSR 44 on this subject. With regard to the second project, the Bureau was informed that a kick-off meeting had taken place in Netherlands in February 2009. By 1st July 2009 the secretariat was expecting to receive from the

recipient countries (Albania, Bosnia Herzegovina, fYRMacedonia, Montenegro, Serbia) their respective draft National Actions Plans for implementation of the three most recent Protocols. This first step would give the countries access to a first installment under the grant procedure.

25. Cooperation with UNFCCC: The Bureau was informed that the letter sent by the UNECE Executive Secretary, Mr Kubis (See annex III), to submit the conclusions of the workshop on co-benefits, held in September 2008 to UNFCCC had been forwarded by Mr. Wuester (UNFCCC secretariat) for discussion in the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention (AWG-LCA), fifth session, Bonn, Germany, 29 March - 8 April 2009, but that no feedback was received at the time of this meeting.

26. Cooperation with IPCC: As requested by EB and its Bureau, the secretariat had direct contact with the IPCC secretariat, and informed them on the workshop on air pollution/climate change in Sweden in October 2009. The bureau felt that while there was a clear interest to develop further collaboration with IPCC, it was nevertheless premature to commit into the preparation of a joint assessment report as it would require resources and as it was deemed too early for transmitting any results or data on scientific work under the EMEP or Effects bodies, and in particular on combined effects between air pollution and climate change.

27. **The bureau decided that by the end of the week, Mr. Williams, as Chair of the EB, would send a message to the IPCC Bureau through its secretariat to indicate wish to pursue informal cooperation with IPCC at technical level.** Copy of the message sent on 23 April is attached in annex IV.

28. Global Air Pollution Forum (GPF): Mr. Williams informed the bureau that he received from Richard Mills of the GPF their draft work programme, including in Annex 2 proposal to support the LRTAP “outreach” programme.

X. OTHER BUSINESS

29. Environment for Europe Process: The secretariat explained that in view of defining the contribution of the UNECE to the next Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference (Astana, 2011), the secretariat needed to consult the Chairs of the respective Conventions, working groups and programmes. A brainstorming session would take place on 19 May 2009 at the Palais, to which all Chairs have been invited (See in annex V the letter sent to Mr. Williams).

30. Letter from EEA inviting the LRTAP Secretary to a senior-level meeting on collaboration on environmental monitoring (Copenhagen, 13-15 May 2009): the secretariat indicated that such a letter had been addressed to a large number of colleagues in the EHLM Division and that one representative of the secretariat, Mikhail Kokine, secretary of the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment, has been designated by the Director to represent all the activities serviced by the EHLM division in this meeting. Feedback on the objectives and results of the meeting will be

given to the different bodies as appropriate, and in particular to the CLRATP EB Bureau by the secretariat

31. Scheduling of the meetings of EB and subsidiary bodies in 2010 in Geneva:
The meeting dates for 2010, as consolidated and checked by the secretariat after the EB Bureau meeting are as follows:

Date and Venue	Body and session/meeting
1 – 3 March	EMEP Bureau
12 – 16 April	Working Group on Strategies and Review, 46th session
12 April (morning)	EECCA/SEE meeting
12 – 16 April	EU Coordination
30 August (morning)	EB Bureau (morning)
30 August – 3 September	Working Group on Strategies and Review, 47th session
30 August (morning)	EECCA/SEE meeting
30 August – 3 September	EU Coordination
13 – 15 September	EMEP Steering Body, 34th session
21 September	WGE Bureau (whole day)
22 – 24 September	Working Group on Effects, 29th session
13 – 17 December	Executive Body, 28th session

XI. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

32. The Bureau agreed to meet a.m. 31 August 2009 just prior to the September session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review (Geneva, 31 August-4 September 2009).

Annex I

Mandates for the Working Group on Strategies and Review to work on heavy metals and POPs in 2009, as agreed by the Bureau of the Executive Body after the twenty-sixth session of the Executive Body and in advance of the forty-third session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review (on 5 March 2009)

1. The Executive Body mandates the Working Group on Strategies and Review to:
 - (a) Based on the proposal of the European Union, consider the work of the Task Force on Heavy Metals on track A and B reviews on mercury containing products, and decide appropriate action;
 - (b) Consider possibilities to produce a guidance document on BAT instead of the current recommendatory annex III to the Protocol;
 - (c) Explore the possibilities for increasing ratifications of the protocols. These possibilities could include, inter alia, flexibilities regarding emission limit values and the application of BAT and timescales for implementation, management options for products, as well as through encouraging countries to provide bilateral support and capacity-building activities for countries in EECCA and SEE regions taking into consideration possible options put forward by the Task Force on Heavy Metals (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2008/9);
 - (d) Report to the twenty-seventh session of the Executive Body in 2009.
2. The Executive Body mandates the Working Group on Strategies and Review to continue negotiations with a view to finalizing discussions on amendments submitted by the European Union and Norway, and other formally proposed amendments to the annexes for consideration by the Parties to the POPs protocol at the twenty-seventh session of the Executive Body in December 2009.
3. The Working Group on Strategies and Review is also mandated to:
 - (a) Explore possibilities for increasing ratifications. These possibilities could include, inter alia, flexibilities regarding emission limit values, and the application of BAT and timescales for implementation, as well as through encouraging countries to provide bilateral support and capacity-building activities for countries in EECCA and SEE regions;
 - (b) Explore potential revisions to Annexes IV–VIII of the Protocol on POPs related to BAT and ELVs;
 - (c) Consider updates to the text of the POP Protocol as necessary to reflect the amendments to the annexes;
 - (d) Consider, at its forty-fifth session, the track A and B reports from the Task Force on Persistent Organic Pollutants on dicofol, endosulfan, hexabromocyclododecane (HBCDD), pentachlorophenol, and trifluralin, as submitted by Executive Body, and decide on the need for further action;
 - (e) Submit recommendations on next steps to the Parties to the Protocol to the twenty-seventh session of the Executive Body in December 2009.

Annex II

Summary of the main points presented by M Williams at the 63rd session of the Commission on 31 March 2009

PANEL ONE: UNECE ACTING ON CLIMATE: ENERGY EFFICIENCY, AIR POLLUTION AND GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

“Co-benefits from integrated strategies on air pollution and climate change”

- Current science demonstrates significant co-benefits, including important cost savings, from addressing air pollution (in particular ground-level ozone and black carbon aerosols) and climate change in an integrated way;
- It is important to bring these co-benefits to the urgent attention of policymakers and to encourage an integrated approach. The UNECE Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (LRTAP) has a key role to play. Initiatives have already been taken within the framework of the Convention to integrate air pollution and climate change and these should be pursued.
- A substantial programme will be needed to enhance and build capacity to fully implement a co-benefits approach, requiring significant resource mobilization. Such investment would be highly cost-effective.

Annex III

Letter sent by Mr. Jan Kubis Executive Secretary UNECE to Mr. Yvo de Boer, Executive Secretary, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on 4 February 2009:

Dear Mr. de Boer,

I am writing to draw your attention to the UNECE Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (LRTAP) and to the decisions taken by its Executive Body at its session in December 2008.

At this session, the Executive Body considered the report of an important conference and workshop, held in Stockholm in September 2008 under the auspices of the Convention and UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, entitled **“Air Pollution and Climate Change: Developing a Framework for Integrated Co-benefits Strategies”**. It decided to submit the results in response to the invitation extended by the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action for intergovernmental processes to provide input to future deliberations.

Please find appended a submitted text from the LRTAP Convention secretariat together with the complete report of the conference.

Yours sincerely,

Jan Kubiš

Annex IV

Message by email from M. Williams to Renate Christ/IPCC secretariat, 23 April 2009.

Dear Renate,

Could you kindly transmit the following message to the Bureau of IPCC at the earliest opportunity for their information and possible discussion.

Thanks and kind regards,

Martin

--

Dear Bureau of IPCC,

The secretariat of the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (LRTAP) had contacts with the IPCC secretariat in the end of 2008 and informed the Convention's Executive Body and its Bureau about the discussions. The Bureau invited the secretariat to further scope the possibilities for technical collaboration.

The Executive Body at its 26th session in December 2008 invited the secretariat to explore ways of promoting stronger scientific and technical cooperation with IPCC, including possibilities for exchange of information and joint activities, through further discussions with the IPCC secretariat as appropriate, and requested the secretariat to keep the Bureau informed of progress achieved.

After some further discussions between the secretariats in early 2009, the Bureau of the Executive Body again discussed the possibilities for collaboration in its meeting on 20 April 2009.

It noted the Convention had informed UNFCCC in February 2009 on the results of the Convention workshop on the co-benefits between air pollution and climate change policies, held in October 2008 in Sweden. It also noted that some links at technical research work existed between experts on air pollution and climate change. It further noted that the format of collaboration was still to be defined and agreed by the Parties to the Convention before establishing a formal contact with IPCC. It concluded that it wished to send a representative to the scoping meeting of the fifth assessment report, to be held in July in Italy, in case this would be possible after the registration deadline.

We hope that this message will encourage further scoping of potential technical collaboration between IPCC and the LRTAP Convention and that the Bureaux and the secretariats would maintain close contacts in exploring such possibilities.

Best regards,

Martin Williams
Chair of the Executive Body of LRTAP Convention

Annex V

12 May 2009

Extended Bureau meeting of the Committee on Environmental Policy, Geneva, 19 May 2009

Dear Mr. Williams,

On behalf of the Chairman of the Committee on Environmental Policy (CEP), Mr. Zaal Lomtaadze, I would like to invite you, as the Chair of the Executive Body for the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution, to a meeting of the Extended Bureau of the CEP on Tuesday, 19 May 2009 in Geneva.

The purpose of this meeting is to brainstorm on possibilities for the preparation of the assessment report(s) required for the Seventh Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe", to be held in Astana/Kazakhstan in 2011.

The EfE reform plan adopted by the Committee on Environmental Policy (CEP) for endorsement by the UNECE Commission stipulates that, when deciding on the themes of the next EfE Ministerial Conference, CEP will take into consideration preliminary findings of available assessments and statistical reports on environment. The reform plan furthermore states that the official substantive documentation would comprise the pan-European assessment and theme-specific reports and that Conference outcomes might include assessment reports used in preparation of or presented to the Conferences that are important for the implementation of the Ministerial Conferences' outcomes.

The European Environment Agency (EEA) recently informed the CEP that for several reasons they will not be in a position to prepare a Fifth Pan-European Assessment Report similar to the four reports that EEA has produced in the "Environment for Europe" process.

In view of the requirements stipulated in the EfE reform plan and the developments in EEA, it becomes urgent to discuss practical steps towards the preparation of the "assessment component" for the Astana Conference.

The CEP Bureau therefore has decided to hold an Extended Bureau meeting including selected interested countries, representatives of the governing bodies of UNECE environmental conventions, of WGEMA and EPR expert groups, EEA and other relevant international organizations.

A note by the UNECE Secretariat presenting various options for the preparation of the assessment report(s) will be circulated among meeting participants prior to the meeting.

The provisional agenda for the meeting is attached. I hope that you will be able to accept this invitation and look forward to meeting you in Geneva.

Yours sincerely,

Marco Keiner
Director
Environment, Housing and Land Management Division
Economic Commission for Europe