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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

**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-third session
Geneva, 7–9 September 2009
Item 4 of the provisional agenda

**MATTERS ARISING FROM RECENT MEETINGS OF THE EXECUTIVE BODY
AND ITS SUBSIDIARY BODIES AND ACTIVITIES OF THE BUREAU OF THE
STEERING BODY**

ACTIVITIES OF THE BUREAU OF THE STEERING BODY

Note by the secretariat

1. This note summarizes the work of the Bureau of the Steering Body to the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe (EMEP), including the results of the meeting of the Extended Bureau held on 3 and 4 March 2009 in Geneva, as mandated by the EMEP Workplan for 2009 (ECE/EB.AIR/2008/8, para 3). The Bureau's proposals related to the financing of EMEP are presented in the document on financial and budgetary matters (ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2009/14).

A. Attendance

2. The following Bureau members attended the Extended Bureau meeting: Ms. S. Vidič (Croatia), Chair of the Steering Body; Ms. Z. Ferenczi, (Hungary); Mr. P. Grennfelt (Sweden); Mr. J. Macoun (Czech Republic); Mr. X. Querol (Spain); and Ms. M. Wichmann-Fiebig (Germany).

3. The meeting of the extended Bureau was attended by representatives from the five EMEP centres: the Centre for Integrated Assessment Modelling, the Meteorological Synthesizing Centre-East (MSC-E), the Meteorological Synthesizing Centre-West (MSC-W), the Chemical Coordinating Centre (CCC) and the Centre on Emission Inventories and Projections (CEIP). Mr. C. Dore (United Kingdom), Chair of the Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projections, and Ms. L. Rouil (France), Chair of the Task Force on Measurements and Modelling, also participated in the meeting, as did the secretariat.

4. Mr. T. Keating (United States) and Mr. A. Zuber (European Commission), Co-Chairmen of the Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution, took part in the discussion under agenda item 3 via audioconference.

B. Organization of work

5. In discussing the specific issues, the Bureau took into account oral reports from the EMEP task force chairs and centres on the progress in implementing the workplan for 2008 and on the workplans for 2009 and 2010.

I. PROGRESS IN ACTIVITIES AND PLANNING OF FUTURE WORK

A. Emissions

6. The representative of CEIP presented the status of emission data reporting in 2009 as well as tasks of CEIP in relation to stage 1 and 2 reviews of the data, including additional assistance to Parties for reporting in line with the revised *Emission Reporting Guidelines* and its reporting templates. She also presented the outcomes of the voluntary stage 3 review of the emission inventories of France, Norway, Portugal and Sweden that had been carried out in 2008, as well as the plans for the review of the further 8 to 10 Parties scheduled for 22 to 27 June 2009 in Copenhagen.

7. The Bureau considered the process for assigning Parties for the review, which in accordance with the methods and procedures for the technical review of air pollutant inventories (ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2007/16) approved by the Executive Body in 2007, should be the responsibility of the Executive Body “in line with the annual EMEP workplan”. However, as the Executive Body had not been invited to assign Parties for the 2009 review at its twenty-sixth session, in December 2008 the Bureau of the Steering Body had concluded that its Chair would consult the Executive Body Chair and Bureau for the Parties to be reviewed in 2009 on the basis of the recommendations to be issued by CEIP.

8. The Bureau of the Steering Body discussed the work to be carried out in 2009 and beyond on heavy metals and persistent organic pollutants (POPs) data in terms of gridding and gap filling. It agreed that the quality of the data was currently considered insufficient for modelling purposes and that it was particularly important to improve the data in view of the revisions of the 1998 Protocol on POPs and the 1998 Protocol on Heavy Metals. The Bureau specified that the further work on heavy metals should focus as a priority on cadmium, lead and mercury. The representative of CEIP explained that CEIP collected heavy metals and POPs data and carried out stage 1 and 2 reviews of the data reported, but that it lacked the resources for the required expert estimates and gap filling, in particular with respect to the insufficient data from Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA). The Chair of the Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projections proposed exploring opportunities for obtaining national-level expert advice on heavy metals. The Bureau concluded that the EMEP centres and task forces should hold regular meetings to discuss and coordinate the technical work to be carried out.

9. The Chair of the Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projections, reported on the outcomes of that Task Force’s twenty-first meeting (Milan, Italy, 10–11 November 2008) as well as on the preparations for its twenty-second meeting. The latter meeting would be held on 11 and 12 May 2009 in Vienna and would highlight the expected finalization of the update of the *EMEP/EEA¹ Emission Inventory Guidebook* as well as the preparation of a draft Guidebook Maintenance Plan, to be presented to the Steering Body at its thirty-third session in 2009. He also informed the Bureau that Ms. K. Saarinen (Finland) had replaced Ms. Kindbom (Sweden) as a Co-Chair. He also notified the Bureau that the Task Force had expressed a preference for reducing the number of annual meetings to one meeting in autumn and to holding it as a joint meeting with the European Environment Information and Observation Network (EIONET).

¹ European Environment Agency.

B. Monitoring

10. A representative of CCC informed the Bureau about the monitoring activities of CCC, highlighting the new database that facilitated the access to the observation data. The database would provide increased support to EECCA countries for the establishment and operation of new monitoring sites.

11. In the discussion that followed, the Co-chair of the Task Force on Measurements and Modelling suggested the preparation of reference guidance to facilitate the development of level 2 monitoring sites at the national level. The CCC representative noted the difficulty of capturing all the relevant information existing at the national level, including in the academic community, due to a lack of coordination. He also regretted that countries tended to allocate funds to activities of the European Union as well as to those related to climate change, rather than to EMEP activities.

12. Regarding the planned work for 2010, the Bureau discussed further work on a near-real time (NRT) initiative as well as cooperation with the satellite community. Some members of the extended Bureau stressed that EMEP should play a major role both as a NRT data user and as a provider, and that to this end it should better define its contribution and role in the related services vis-à-vis the other bodies and processes active in the region, such as EEA. They also noted that it would be timely for EMEP to specify to the European and national space agencies the kind of data it wished to receive. Other members of the Bureau stated that although work on NRT data was important, it should not be the main focus of a scientific research network such as EMEP, and that that satellite data should never replace the monitoring.

13. The French Co-Chair of the Task Force on Measurement and Modelling, presented the main outcomes of the meeting of that Task Force held in April 2008 in Bordeaux to discuss lessons learned from the previous field measurement campaigns with a view to improving the new campaigns. General conclusions from the meeting showed that the field campaigns were useful and should be carried out, and that close cooperation and dialogue between the modelling and measurement communities should be pursued. She also reported on the workshop held in Oslo devoted to revision of the EMEP Strategy.

14. Regarding the work for 2009, the Task Force on Measurement and Modelling would enhance its cooperation with the Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution, including through the organization of a first joint workshop on linkages between air pollution and climate change issues as well as between the regional and global levels. This workshop would be held in Paris back-to-back with the meeting of the Task Force on Measurement and

Modelling in June. Future work would also involve the following activities: (a) identifying ways to use satellite data for the assessment of the air pollution patterns; (b) depositions in relation to ecosystems and urban areas; and (c) continuing dialogue with Parties and the health community, to improve mutual understanding and better meet their needs. Other planned work included the establishment of a sub-working group on satellite data and a workshop for feedback from the field campaigns, as well as possible ways to improve model results.

15. Regarding the maximum resolution for monitoring depositions in Europe, the Co-Chair of the Task Force on Measurements and Modelling clarified that although downscaling was one of the aspects to be further investigated, the main objective should be to improve the assessment of depositions in certain areas by all means available.

16. Enhancing information on health impacts of air pollution was considered to be crucial for the revision of the Gothenburg Protocol² and should therefore be a driver for the scientific work of EMEP. The Bureau agreed that more efforts were needed in this area, so as to better reproduce exposure with the models available.

C. Atmospheric modelling of acidifying and eutrophying pollutants, photo-oxidants and fine particles

17. A representative of MSC-W presented the progress made in the activities of the Centre in the atmospheric modelling of acidifying pollutants, photo-oxidants and fine particles. She highlighted: (a) work for the recalculation of the source receptor matrices for 2006; (b) further improvement of modelling for the extended domain covering the EECCA subregion, involving replacing of the missing data with expert estimates in cooperation with CEIP; and (c) further work on smaller and flexible scales as well as on the codes to use different meteorological drivers.

18. The representative of CEIP stressed that Parties needed guidance and recommendations with respect to the appropriate scale of gridding the data. For MSC-W, the available options included either recommending that countries report in the smallest scale possible or that the centres do the mapping. The Chair of the Bureau noted that since it was useful to show the results in the finest possible scale, countries should be encouraged to do so. However, given the important amount of work this would represent, it was difficult to formally request Parties to develop very fine resolution maps. A representative of the Centre for Integrated Assessment

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

Modelling, C IAM pointed out that the EMEP centres needed to have the capacity to do the gridding because there would always be countries that would not be able to do this nationally. The Bureau concluded that the EMEP centres should continue to set the model for the gridding, and that national emissions were to be considered as useful additional information.

D. Atmospheric modelling and monitoring of persistent organic pollutants and heavy metals

19. A representative of MSC-E presented progress in atmospheric modelling of POPs and heavy metals as well as the work done by MSC-E on the further development of the model. He also described the cooperation with the other EMEP centres on this issue and presented plans for future work.

20. The work done by MSC-E on recalculating the meteorological data archives for the extended EMEP grid as well as on elaborating a meteorological driver for the EMEP global modelling framework was highlighted. MSC-E would present results of passive sampling and model calculations on POPs at the joint Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution-Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projections workshop on the future of the global air monitoring (Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation, 1–3 April 2009). As mandated by the Executive Body, MSC-E was also assisting the Task Force on POPs to evaluate the substance proposed for addition to the Protocol.

21. The MSC-E representative also outlined future work and proposals for the 2010 workplan with regard to: (a) the development of the global modelling framework; (b) application of inverse trajectory approach for the improvement of emissions data and pollution level estimates; (c) the complementing of regular EMEP measurements with auxiliary monitoring data; (d) an update of the heavy metals and POPs chemical schemes based on the new findings of the research community; and (e) an evaluation of the influence of climate change on future levels of heavy metals and POPs. MSC-East also envisaged cooperation with a number of Convention's subsidiary bodies and with international organizations, including through contributing to the 2010 assessments by the Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution, the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP) and the OSPAR Commission for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic. Future cooperation was also possible with respect to the preparatory work for the Global Convention on Mercury under the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

E. Hemispheric transport of air pollution

22. Mr. T. Keating, Co-Chairman of the Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution, reported on the progress made in that Task Force's activities, drawing attention to the "International Workshop on Regional and Intercontinental Transport of Air Pollution" held in October 2008 in Hanoi. He also briefed the Bureau on upcoming meetings in 2009, in particular the Task Force's fifth meeting as well as the joint Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution-Task force on Emission Inventories and Projections workshop on regional and global-scale and air quality-climate linkages being held in June 2009. He reported that there were also plans for a workshop with the EANET³ Scientific Advisory Committee in Asia in October 2008.

23. The status of the ongoing coordinated research in the fields of hemispheric transport of air pollution (HTAP) multi-model experiments, observational databases, emission inventories and projections as well as information networks were presented. The Bureau was informed about the outline for the HTAP 2010 Assessment report that was being prepared in cooperation with the EMEP centres. The Bureau welcomed the opportunity to provide feedback on the relevant policy questions to be identified in the 2010 Assessment report.

F. Integrated assessment modelling

24. The representative of CIAM presented the GAINS⁴ model and its development as well as progress in activities of the Centre for Integrated Assessment Modelling (CIAM), highlighting the contribution to the forthcoming revision of the Gothenburg Protocol. This included the preparation of the CIAM 2/2008 report, which presented the current situation with respect to the information for the baseline scenarios up to 2020 as well as regarding the interaction with national experts and other bodies under the Convention.

25. The Bureau was also informed about the planned activities of CIAM for 2009 as well as for 2010 and beyond, highlighting the policy analysis of the baseline scenarios for the revision of the Gothenburg Protocol as well as work with CEIP to compare the emission data reported to the Convention with data used by CIAM.

II. FORMAT OF THE THIRTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE STEERING BODY

³ Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia.

⁴ Greenhouse Gas and Air Pollution Interactions and Synergies.

26. The Bureau agreed on a proposal to change the format of the Steering Body's sessions, with a view to increasing the dynamism and interest of the meetings and also to presenting the outcomes of the scientific activities of EMEP in a more harmonized and integrated manner.

27. According to the proposed new format, the sessions would be divided into three parts. The Steering Body would first assess the implementation of the workplan as well as approve the reports produced by the EMEP centres. It would then focus in more detail on one thematic topic that the Bureau would propose. The presentations, which should focus on the selected theme, would require more advance preparation and coordination than the individual progress reports presented thus far. To ease the preparation and coordination of the presentations during the thematic session, the Bureau would each year nominate a facilitator/coordinator. Mr. R. Maas, Chair of the Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling, had agreed to coordinate the preparation of the thirty-third session, which would focus on integrated assessment modelling and revision of the Gothenburg Protocol. The Bureau noted that, depending on the theme selected, the visibility of the centres and task forces would change from year to year. The final part of the session would be devoted to the adoption of the workplan and the budget for the following year.

III. REVIEW AND REVISION OF THE EMEP STRATEGY

28. The Bureau welcomed the revised draft of the EMEP Strategy for 2010 – 2019 that Mr. Ø. Hov had produced on the basis of the comments provided during and after the Steering Body's thirty-second session. The comments received after the circulation of the revised draft, together with the feedback from the Bureau, would be reflected in a subsequent version to be produced for consideration for the Steering Body at its thirty-third session.

29. The Bureau agreed that the document should be shorter and less repetitive and that it should present all activities in a more balanced way. The Bureau recommended making reference to the monitoring strategy but not annexing it to the document. It was pointed out that the draft strategy should give greater emphasis and visibility to the work on emissions, and would refer to the *Emission Reporting Guidelines* as well as to the need for gridding and for better understanding the spatial distribution of the data.

30. The Bureau stressed the difference between a strategic document and a workplan: a strategy should indicate the directions for EMEP activities, but unlike a workplan, it should not spell them out in detail. Furthermore, a strategy should not focus too much on organizational aspects and functions, which could change over time.

31. The Bureau noted that although the EMEP Strategy and the long-term strategy being prepared for the Convention had different approaches and objectives, consistency between the two documents should be ensured.
32. According to some Bureau members, the EMEP Strategy should clearly outline the current situation and the key objectives for the future as well as distinguish between the tasks to be carried out by EMEP and those that were the responsibility of the Working Group on Effects. EECCA could be mentioned, not as a problem area but more in terms of the need to strengthen EMEP activities in the subregion.
33. The Bureau decided that comments on the draft strategy should be provided to Mr. Hov at the latest by the end of May so that he could produce a new consolidated draft. This draft would be circulated to the Bureau for a second round of comments prior to being submitted to the thirty-third session of EMEP Steering Body.

IV. COOPERATION WITH THE WORKING GROUP ON EFFECTS AND OTHER NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMMES

34. The Bureau agreed that the Chairs of the EMEP Steering Body and the Working Group on Effects should continue to attend each other's meetings as well as to meet specifically to agree on proposals to improve cooperation further. The Bureau was against holding joint Bureau meetings, which it considered too cumbersome and not very productive.
35. The Co-Chair of the Task Force on Measurement and Modelling drew attention to the scientific cooperation that was being further developed between the Task Force and the International Cooperative Programmes of the Working Group on Effects through joint workshops and meetings as well as through the participation of experts in each other's meetings.
36. The Bureau agreed to continue its close cooperation with the Working Group on Effects and other national and international programmes.

V. CONTRIBUTIONS

A. Status of mandatory and voluntary cash contributions

37. The secretariat reported on the status of cash contributions, stressing that all Parties to the 1984 Geneva Protocol on Long-term Financing of the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe (EMEP Protocol)

except Malta, Montenegro, Romania and Serbia had paid at least part of their contributions for 2008. The Bureau welcomed the positive financial situation.

B. Status of mandatory contributions in kind: Ukraine

38. The secretariat informed the Bureau about the status of the in-kind contributions of Ukraine through which it was to cover its arrears amounting to US\$ 316,194. The arrears for 1996–2001, amounting to \$175,205, were to be covered by a project approved by the Steering Body in 2004 to establish an international EMEP monitoring station in Ukraine. In September 2008, the Steering Body was informed that dialogue between Ukraine and CCC had led to the identification of a location site (Trudovoye) that met all criteria, and that implementation of the project could proceed. The representative of CCC pointed out, however, that the insufficient information from Ukraine made it difficult for CCC to evaluate whether all problems with the location and further implementation of the project had been resolved.

39. A second project to cover Ukraine's arrears for the period 1992–1995 (equivalent to \$140,989) had originally aimed to develop a national model for environmental impact assessment of heavy metals. The Steering Body had concluded in 2008 that this project was no longer of the same relevance and had requested Ukraine to propose a new focus for it at the Executive Body's twenty-sixth session (December 2008). The secretariat noted that Ukraine had not been represented at that session, nor had it provided the requested information in writing. Consequently, the Executive Body had requested Ukraine to take urgent action to cover its long-standing arrears and to provide the secretariat with detailed information. This should include a time schedule for the in-kind contribution through which it proposed to cover its arrears for the period in question, so that it could be considered by the EMEP Bureau at its 2009 meeting. The secretariat informed the Bureau that Ukraine had not replied in time for the Bureau meeting.

40. In absence of a project proposal from Ukraine, the Bureau decided that Ukraine should cover its arrears by translating into Russian documents of relevance to EECCA countries in the field of EMEP activities, starting with the *EMEP/EEA Air Pollutant Emission Inventory Guidebook*. The value of the translation of the *Guidebook* was estimated at \$40,000, and the work was to be completed in 2010.

C. Use of resources in 2008 and the detailed budget for 2010

41. The Bureau, without the participation of the EMEP centres, discussed the distribution of the budget for 2010. The Bureau suggested some amendments in comparison to the 2009 budget, taking into account the priorities for work in 2010. It proposed creating a new budget line to cover the work of CCC on monitoring campaigns and as well as earmarking \$60,000 for this

purpose, transferring \$20,000 from the budget initially allocated to measurements of POPs and \$40,000 from measurements of particulate matter.

42. The Bureau also considered the yearly financial statements of MSC-E, MSC-W and CCC for 2008. The Bureau was satisfied that the resources for 2008 had been used as budgeted.
