



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2010/9
29 June 2010

Original: ENGLISH

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-fourth session
Geneva, 13–15 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 2 and 3 March 2010 in Geneva, as mandated by the EMEP Workplan for 2010 (ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2009/13, 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.1/2010/10).

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. Y. Viisanen (Finland) and Ms. M. Wichmann-Fiebig (Germany).

GE.10-22996

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

4. The Co-Chairs of the Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution took part in the discussion under agenda item 3 via audio conference.

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 workplans for 2009 and for 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 2010, as well as tasks of CEIP in relation to stage 1 and 2 reviews of the data, including online support to the national experts regarding reporting of the data in the revised formats. She drew attention to the work that had been carried out to update the historical gridded data with a view to avoiding discrepancies between national totals reported by Parties and those used in models, as well as to the preparations for the new gridding round of 2012. She also provided information about the 2010 in-depth reviews of the emission inventories of 10 Parties, decided on by the Executive Body in 2009, including a centralized review meeting from 21 to 25 June 2010 at the premises of the European Environment Agency (EEA) in Copenhagen. She stressed the need for further experts to support the reviews.

7. The Bureau welcomed the progress made. It recommended that the EMEP Steering Body reiterate its invitation to the countries to nominate experts for the stage 3 reviews of emission inventories. It discussed the responsibilities of and possibilities for CEIP to grid data on persistent organic pollutants (POPs) and heavy metals in the extended EMEP region. It welcomed the efforts of CEIP to grid the data that had been submitted by Parties in 2010 and to fill the gaps in the missing data by using earlier data, if available, acknowledging that resource constraints had made it difficult for CEIP to fill the gaps where the data were missing. The Bureau encouraged CEIP and MSC-East, as well as all the other EMEP centres and task forces, to regularly consult each other to discuss and coordinating the technical work to be carried out. The Task Force on Emission Inventories and the Task Force on Measurements and Modelling were invited to discuss the means for addressing discrepancies in the gridding of data under EMEP and other frameworks, such as Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES), a joint initiative of the European Commission and European Space Agency.

B. Monitoring

8. A representative of CCC informed the Bureau about the monitoring activities of CCC, highlighting its collaboration with the Global Atmospheric Watch (GAW) programme of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the nomination of the Norwegian Institute for Air Research (NILU) as the GAW world data centre for aerosols. CCC had also closely cooperated with the Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution on a global database, as well as with the European Environment Agency (EEA) on a near-real-time data feasibility study. In addition, CCC would organize a workshop in fall 2010 to train experts in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia on the quality assessment/quality control (QA/QC) as well as on reporting of data. There was a weak level of monitoring in the Eastern European, Caucasian and Central Asian countries, which relied only on rural level 1 monitoring stations and operated by staff without all the necessary skills and training.

9. The Bureau welcomed the progress report by CCC. It focused on the new EMEP monitoring strategy and agreed on the importance of ensuring its implementation by the countries. It decided that the Chair of the Steering Body would write to the EMEP Heads of Delegations, inviting them to provide information about their national plans to implement the strategy to the Steering Body at its thirty-fourth session, in September 2010. Based on the information provided, the Steering Body would be in a better position to determine what measures were needed to promote and assist countries' implementation efforts.

10. The French Co-Chair of the Task Force on Measurement and Modelling presented the main outcomes of the meeting and the workshop held by the Task Force in 2009, drawing attention to the pilot study on heavy metals and to the plans to follow up the second field measurement campaigns and to organize a new one (preliminarily scheduled for late 2011), as well as to two exercises for intercomparison of the models.

11. The Bureau welcomed the information provided. It appreciated the financial assistance provided by WMO to allow the participation of experts from the countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia in the meeting of the Task Force and encouraged involving them further in the work of the Task Force with a view to improving their monitoring networks. The Bureau recommended that CCC look into possibilities to extend the planned capacity-building workshop to also cover modelling activities, as well as to identify funds to assist the participation of appropriate experts in the workshop.

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

12. A representative of MSC-West presented the progress made in the activities of the Centre in the atmospheric modelling of acidifying pollutants, photo-oxidants and fine particles, drawing attention, inter alia, to its work on the further improvement of the EMEP model in the extended EMEP domain; to the implementation of a new particle dry deposition scheme; and to the work on climate and air quality interaction, including the first estimates of the effects on human health,

ecosystem damage and source receptors. The Bureau acknowledged the progress made and looked forward to receiving further results of the new activities initiated.

D. Hemispheric transport of air pollution

13. The Co-Chairs of the Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution reported on the progress made in the Task Force's activities, drawing attention to the work done to finalize the 2010 Assessment Report. The report focused on long-range transport of air pollution of ozone, fine particles, POPs and atmospheric mercury. It consisted of three scientific reports, a synthesis report with a series of policy relevant science questions and a short executive summary with conclusions and recommendations. The executive summary would be finalized by June 2010 for submission to the EMEP Steering Body at its thirty-fourth session in September 2010.

14. The Bureau appreciated the work done and recommended that the topic of the thematic session to be held during the thirty-fourth session of the EMEP Steering Body focus on hemispheric transport of air pollution and black carbon. The Task Force Co-Chairs agreed to provide input as well as to coordinate the various contributions to the session.

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

15. The Bureau appreciated the progress presented by a representative of MSC-East in atmospheric modelling of POPs and heavy metals, as well as the work done on the further development of the model. Attention was drawn to the preparation of meteorological data for global, regional and local scales of modelling and to the cooperation by MSC-East with a number of Convention bodies, including the Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution through its contribution to the 2010 assessment report, as well as with other international organizations and the European Commission.

F. Integrated assessment modelling

16. The Chair of the Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling presented progress in the implementation of the workplan items for 2010. It informed the Bureau about the contributions of the Task Force to the scheduled work for the revision of the 1999 Gothenburg Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone (Gothenburg Protocol), including: the development of baseline proposals to be agreed by the Working Group on Strategies and Policies at its forty-sixth session in April 2010; analysis of options for target setting; analysis of impacts of draft technical annexes; provision of guidance for consideration by the Working Group in September 2010; sensitivity analysis of the targets for consideration by the Executive Body in December 2010; and scenario runs, with a view to contributing to the draft revised protocol discussed by the Working Group at its April and September sessions 2011 prior to the submission of the draft for adoption by the Parties to the Protocol at the Executive Body session in December 2011. Attention was drawn to the forthcoming elections in the Netherlands, which could potentially result in reduced Dutch resources for international environmental work, including support for the Task Force.

17. The representative of CIAM reported about the work done with respect to the revision of the Gothenburg Protocol. He informed the Bureau about the differences between the national emission inventories reported to CEIP and the Greenhouse Gas and Air Pollution Interactions and Synergies (GAINS) model estimates, as well about the work to extend the GAINS model to include a nitrate leaching module, as well as near-term radiative forcing into that multi-pollutant/multi-effect framework.

II. PREPARATION FOR THE THIRTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE STEERING BODY

18. The Bureau discussed the draft agenda and the format of the thirty-fourth session of the Steering Body to be held from 13 to 15 September 2010. It recommended continuing the format of the Steering Body's sessions adopted last year, which had included in-depth discussions on one selected thematic topic. The Bureau agreed that in 2010 the Steering Body would be invited to focus more in detail on activities linked to the hemispheric transport of air pollution and to black carbon. It appreciated the willingness of the Co-Chairs of the Task Force on Hemispheric Transport to coordinate the advance preparation of the contributions to the session, as well as to facilitate the discussions at the session in collaboration with the Co-Chairs of the newly established Expert Group on Black Carbon.

19. Following the in-depth discussions, it was agreed that the Steering Body would assess the implementation of the 2009 workplan by the EMEP task forces and centres, as well as approve the reports produced by the centres. It would also be invited to comment on a draft document presenting a strategic vision for the Convention for 2010–2020, prepared by the Chair of the Executive Body. The final part of the session would be devoted to the adoption of the workplan and the budget for the following year.

III. CONTRIBUTIONS

A. Status of mandatory and voluntary cash contributions

20. The secretariat reported on the status of cash contributions to the EMEP Trust Fund, 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 Montenegro and Romania, had paid at least part of their contributions for 2009. The Bureau welcomed the positive financial situation.

B. Status of mandatory contributions in kind: Ukraine

21. The Bureau welcomed the timely information provided by Ukraine, as requested by the Executive Body at its twenty-seventh session in 2009 (ECE/EB.AIR/99, para. 104 (b)), about the status of its in-kind contributions through which it is to cover its arrears amounting to US\$ 316,194. According to Ukraine, it had now implemented the first in-kind project (equivalent to US\$ 140,989) consisting of the development of a national model for environmental impact assessment of heavy metal emissions. The Bureau recommended that that information be presented to the Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projections and to the Task Force on

Measurements and Modelling at their respective meetings or at their joint workshop in May 2010 for discussion and feedback by experts, e.g., with respect to the comparability with and benefits of the Ukrainian model to the modelling and assessment work of EMEP. It invited the Task Forces to recommend to the Steering Body in September 2010 whether the contribution could be approved.

22. Less information was made available with regard to the second in-kind project for establishing an EMEP monitoring station in Ukraine (equivalent to US\$ 175,205). Ukraine had simply stated that the Ministry of Environmental Protection would continue its efforts for the establishment of a station near Trudovoye, following the adoption of the Ukrainian State Budget of 2010. The representative of CCC noted that it had sent an official letter to Ukraine to inquire about the progress in the project but that it was still waiting for a reply. The Bureau urged Ukraine to communicate with CCC, as well as to urgently provide it with the contact details of an English-speaking focal point to facilitate further cooperation.

C. Use of resources in 2009 and the detailed budget for 2011

23. The Bureau considered the yearly financial statements of MSC-East, MSC-West and CCC for 2009. It was satisfied that the resources for 2009 had been used as budgeted.

24. The Bureau, without the participation of the EMEP centres, discussed and agreed on the distribution of the budget for 2011. It proposed no amendments in comparison to the 2010 budget.

IV. A STRATEGIC VISION FOR THE CONVENTION 2010–2020

25. The secretariat presented the background and progress in the preparation of the note by the Chair of the Executive Body on a strategic vision for the Convention for 2010–2020. The Bureaux of the main subsidiary bodies of the Convention, including the Bureau of the EMEP Steering Body, had been invited to comment on the document. On the basis of the comments, a new draft would be prepared for discussion by the EMEP Steering Body and the other subsidiary bodies at their sessions in September 2010.

26. The secretariat invited the Chair of the EMEP Steering Body to collect all the comments provided during and after the Bureau meeting and to forward them to it for incorporation into a new draft.

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

27. The Bureau agreed to continue its close cooperation with the Working Group on Effects and other national and international programmes and invited the Chairs of the EMEP Steering Body and the Working Group on Effects to continue to attend each other's meetings. It was satisfied with the cooperation between the two scientific bodies of the Convention.
