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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-fifth session

Geneva, 5–7 September 2011

Agenda item 4 of the provisional agenda

**Matters arising from recent meetings of the Executive Body
and its subsidiaries 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 presents 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 Bureau and the Extended Bureau held on 14 to 16 March 2011 in Geneva. The Bureau's proposals related to the financing of EMEP are presented in the document ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2011/10.

A. Attendance

2. The following Bureau members attended the Extended Bureau meeting: Ms. Sonja Vidič (Croatia), Chair of the Steering Body; Mr. Peringe Grennfelt (Sweden); Mr. Savvas Kleanthous (Cyprus), Mr. Jan Macoun (Czech Republic); Mr. Paul Ruysenaars (the Netherlands), Mr. Y. Viisanen (Finland) and Mr. Xavier Querol (Spain).

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

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Force on Measurements and Modelling, also participated in the meeting. Mr. Krzysztof Olendrzynski and Ms. Albena Karadjova represented the secretariat.

4. The Co-Chair 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 2010 and for 2011.

I. Matters arising from the twenty-eighth session of the Executive Body

A. Review of topics discussed, conclusions and decisions

6. The secretariat drew attention to the major outcomes of the twenty-eighth session of the Executive Body, highlighting in particular the adoption of the Long-Term Strategy for the Convention, the inclusion black carbon (BC) as a component of particulate matter (PM) in the revision of the Gothenburg Protocol; the revised mandate of the Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution to include BC issues, and the agreement to consider BC and all ozone precursors including methane in the long-term.

B. Necessary adjustments of the work in 2011 as a result of the decisions of the Executive Body at its twenty-eighth session

7. The Bureau discussed possible adjustments to the workplan for 2011 that may be necessary in view of the decisions taken at the twenty-eighth session of the Executive Body. The adjustments in particular may include the scope of work for monitoring, modelling (in particular relevant for the Task Force on the Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution, MSC-W, CCC and the Task Force on Measurements and Modelling) and emission related activities (relevant for the work of the Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projections, CEIP and CIAM) with respect to BC. The need to step up outreach activities beyond the UNECE region including engagement with programmes in other parts of the world (e.g. on tropospheric ozone) was also highlighted.

C. Implications of the Long-term Strategy for the Convention for the EMEP strategy and future work

8. The Bureau discussed the linkages between the Long-term strategy for the Convention and the EMEP Strategy. It noted that in general the EMEP strategy is in line with the Long-term Strategy. However some minor adjustments might be necessary, including a reference to the Long-term Strategy, as well as to persistent organic pollutants (unintentional releases), BC and tropospheric ozone issues (including methane and carbon monoxide). It was agreed that Mr. Peringe Grennfelt and Mr. Paul Ruysenaars would look closely into the streamlining of the EMEP Strategy with the Long-term Strategy, while Mr. O. Hov and Mr. K. Torseth would investigate the issue of short-lived climate forcers (SLCFs). A revised draft text of the EMEP Strategy would be submitted for the EMEP

Steering Body After the necessary modifications and consolidations the EMEP Strategy would be forwarded to the Executive Body for adoption in December 2011.

D. Prospects (pros and cons) for change of EMEP grid (model resolution). Implications for emission work, integrated assessment modelling work and cooperation with the Working Group on Effects

9. The Bureau noted the growing need for introduction of a finer EMEP grid resolution stemming from both national and international needs. For example, for the requirements of the Clean Air for Europe (CAFE) Directive, the hourly and 50km resolution was too coarse. The change of model grid resolution was a very complex task requiring a lot of extra work and effort with respect to data preparation (gridded emissions, land use data, meteorology etc.), computer requirements as well as model formulation and verification. When changing the resolution, it would be desirable to consider also other changes like grid projection and domain. The entire grid change operation could take several years (2-5) to complete. This had to be reflected in future workplans which should be as much as possible goal oriented and meet the expectations and needs of Parties.

10. The Bureau discussed various pros and cons associated with a change of the EMEP grid system. MSC-W and MSC-E were requested to prepare proposals for possible EMEP grid changes for the thirty-fifth session of the EMEP Steering Body. The proposals had to be accompanied by a thorough analysis of both advantages and disadvantages of proposed solutions.

E. Cooperation with Working Group on Effects

11. The secretariat presented the outcome of a recent meeting of the Working Group on Effects, held in February 2011 with respect to strengthening the collaboration with the EMEP Programme. It was agreed that meetings of task forces and workshops could provide a platform for more frequent interactions between monitoring and modelling experts from the two scientific bodies of the Convention.

12. The Chair informed the Bureau about the outcome of twenty-eighth session of the Working Group on Effects, stressing the lively discussion on links between EMEP and the Working Group on Effects. The Bureau agreed that the joint workshop during the thirty-fifth session of the EMEP Steering Body should be the first step towards a more integrated collaboration between the EMEP and the effects-oriented programmes. The Bureau extended an invitation to the effects community to broadly participate in the sessions of the EMEP Steering Body in the future.

13. The Bureau recommended that there should be both short and long-term objectives with respect to integration efforts with the Working Group on Effects. It discussed the elaboration of a joint report comparing the air pollution and its effects in mid 1990s when the Gothenburg Protocol was formulated with data for 2010 (target year) when the emission reductions should have been achieved, as a short-term objective. The purpose of this report would be to inform whether the Gothenburg Protocol had delivered the expected results in terms of emission reductions (compliance), air pollutant transboundary fluxes, deposition and concentration level decreases, improvements to health, materials and the environment. The EMEP Centres and CCC should take an active part in the preparation of such a report. The long-term objective should be the merging of the two programmes into one scientific programme under the convention.

II. Progress of work

A. Emissions

14. The representative of CEIP presented the status of emission data reporting in 2011, as well as tasks of CEIP in relation to stage 1, 2 and 3 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 preparations for the new round of reporting gridded emission in 2012. She also provided information about preparations for the 2011 in-depth reviews of the emission inventories, decided on by the Executive Body in 2010. She stressed the need for Parties that are to be reviewed under stage 3 review, to submit their Informative Inventory Reports (IIR).

15. 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 2011 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.

B. Monitoring

16. 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 Metrological 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 informed about a workshop which took place in fall 2010 to train experts in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia on the quality assessment/quality control (QA/QC), on reporting of data and on modelling activities.

17. 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 2010, drawing attention 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.

18. 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

19. 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 and to the work on climate and air quality interaction. The Bureau acknowledged the progress made and looked forward to receiving further results of the new activities initiated.

D. Hemispheric transport of air pollution

20. The Co-Chair 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. He also informed the Bureau about the Task Force plans for the remaining part of 2011 and the following years in view of the revised mandate for the Task Force (including black carbon issues, integrated assessment modelling and other policy related issues) decided by the Executive Body in December 2010.

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

21. The Bureau appreciated the progress presented by a representative of MSC-East in the 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 cooperation by MSC-East with a number of Convention bodies, including the Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution as well as with other international organizations including the European Commission.

F. Integrated assessment modelling

22. The Chair of the Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling presented progress in the implementation of the workplan items for 2011. He informed the Bureau about the contributions of the Task Force to the scheduled work for the revision of the Gothenburg Protocol.

23. The representative of CIAM reported on the work done with respect to the revision of the Gothenburg Protocol, as well as on updates to the GAINS model including the progress on inclusion near-term radiative forcing into that multi-pollutant/multi-effect framework.

III. Preparation for the thirty-fifth session of the EMEP Steering Body

24. The Bureau discussed the draft agenda and the format of the thirty-fifth session of the Steering Body to be held from 5 to 7 September 2011. 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 2011 the Steering Body would be invited to focus more in detail on activities common to effects-oriented activities carried out under the Working Group on Effects and EMEP. It appreciated the willingness of the Bureau of the Working Group on Effects to help coordinate the preparations to the joint workshop.

IV. Financial issues, use of resources and the budget for 2012

A. Status of mandatory and voluntary cash contributions

25. 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) had paid at least part of their contributions for 2010. The total of contributions received in 2010 for the EMEP Trust Fund was 2'279'273.40 US\$ (2'358'700 budgeted). However, several Parties had accumulated arrears prior to 2010. The Bureau welcomed the positive financial situation. There were no in-kind contributions by the Parties reported in 2010.

B. Use of resources in 2010 and the budget for 2012

26. The Bureau considered the yearly financial statements of MSC-East, MSC-West and CCC for 2010. It was satisfied that the resources for 2010 had been used as budgeted, and noted the significant voluntary contributions by the Centres as presented in their financial statements.

27. The Bureau, without the participation of the EMEP centres, discussed and agreed on the distribution of the budget for 2012. In comparison to the 2011 budget, it proposed and adopted the following modifications:

(a) MSC-W: 10,000 US\$ is moved from *Acid deposition to Processing of emission data*; 30,000 US\$ is moved from *Cooperation with national programmes to Integrated assessment modelling* (CIAM budget); 10,000 US\$ is moved from *Database to Expert estimates within Emission database and verification of data* (CEIP budget);

(b) MSC-E: 20,000 US\$ is moved from *POPs modelling to Cooperation with national programmes*;

(c) CCC: 20,000 US\$ from POPs Measurements and 40,000 US\$ from PM Measurements are moved to *Monitoring campaigns* (none in 2010).
