
EXECUTIVE BODY FOR THE CONVENTION ON
LONG-RANGE TRANSBOUNDARY AIR POLLUTION
Bureau to the Executive Body

NOTE OF THE BUREAU MEETING
Wednesday, room S4, Palais des Nations, 26 March 2014
10:00 – 13:00

Attendance: Apologies were received from Mr. S. Vasiliev. Ms. V. Galatone and Mr. W. Harnett participated via audioconference. Mr. A. Zuber attended as an observer on behalf of the EU. Mr. A. Romanov attended via audioconference as an observer on behalf of the Coordinating Group for EECCA for agenda items 4 and 5. Mr. S. Ludwiczak, Ms. A. Karadjova, Mr. K. Olendrzynski, Ms. F. Ilg and Ms. A. Novikova from the ECE secretariat attended. The meeting was chaired by Mr. M. Williams, Chair of the Executive Body.

1. *Implementation of the 2014-2015 workplan for the implementation of the Convention*

The Bureau discussed the implementation of tasks assigned to it in the 2014-2015 workplan for the implementation of the Convention, in particular, items 1.8.4, 5.3, 5.4.1 and 5.4.2.

In relation to the recommendation on a new financial mechanism for effects-related activities (item 1.8.4), the Bureau agreed that there was a need for an overview of the current costs for ICPs and the Task Force on Health (TFH), both in cash and in-kind, to be prepared as a background document for further discussion and identification of priorities in terms of resources at the session of the Executive Body in December. Setting priorities also goes in line with item 1.1.1 of the workplan and further expands it. Several Bureau members underscored that the interest and commitments of the Parties running the centres should be taken into account. **Action:** Secretariat to prepare an overview document with the break-down of costs based on information provided by ICPs and TFH. Relevant item should be included in the agenda of the thirty-third session of the Executive Body.

In light of the recommendations on communication by the ad hoc group of experts, the secretariat presented the initial analysis and suggestions on addressing these recommendations, providing estimates of associated extrabudgetary costs (item 5.3 of the workplan), such as continued translation of the Convention's website into Russian, update of the anniversary brochure and producing non-technical content for the web-site. In line with one of the recommendations, it invited the Coordinating Group for EECCA to indicate the priority documents that had not been or were not in process of being translated into Russian. The Bureau discussed the need for using

alternative ways of communication (social networks, smartphone applications, etc.) to reach out to and involve decision-makers and the general public. The need for demonstrating the strengths of the Convention, reacting promptly at the right moment and using attractive titles were also mentioned during discussion. The secretariat suggested that interested Bureau members further discuss this in the margins of the next Bureau meeting. **Action:** Bureau members to send inputs and ideas to the secretariat, indicating, where possible, the cost estimations. Coordinating Group to indicate priority documents for translation. Secretariat to draft a note for consideration by the Bureau at its next meeting in September.

The Bureau discussed the scope and objectives of the report on existing outreach activities (workplan items 5.4.1 and 5.4.2). The Bureau agreed that it should be a mapping exercise including both political/strategic and technical/scientific types of outreach activities excluding those for the purpose of capacity-building. The Bureau suggested that the report include “soft” proposals to stimulate discussion by Parties in 2014. Subsequent actions stipulated in these items (e.g. contacting other regional networks) can be deferred to 2015. **Action:** Secretariat to prepare a draft report and present it to the next Bureau meeting for comments with a view to submitting it as an official pre-session document for the thirty-third session of the Executive Body.

2. Results of the meeting of Extended Bureau of the Steering Body to EMEP. Joint meeting with the EMEP Steering Body and Working Group on Effects Bureaux

The Chair of the EMEP Steering Body informed the Bureau about the discussions held at the recent meeting of the Extended Bureau of the Steering Body to EMEP – notably issues related to the progress in implementing the workplan, the adjustment procedure, plans of the HTAP Task Force and the outreach work. The Chair of WGE pointed to decrease of monitoring activities caused by the lack of financing. At the same time, other organizations (UNEP, Arctic Council, etc.) often used EMEP data in their work. The Chair of WGE proposed to bring this issue to the attention of the Executive Body for its advice on co-production.

The Bureau also discussed the Convention’s assessment report referring to the outline and to the cost estimations for its production provided by the Co-chair of TFIAM. The Chair of WGE noted that discussions on whether to include heavy metals and persistent organic pollutants in the scope of the report would be further held. Several Bureau members asked for circulation of the respective document.

3. Proposals for adjustment submitted under EB decisions 2012/3 and 2012/12

The Chair of EMEP Steering Body drew attention of the Bureau to challenges related to processing the proposals for adjustment, such as the difference in formats of the submitted proposals, proposals sent in French or in PDF, lack of capacities and

resources to process them and having the review of inventories in parallel. The secretariat informed that proposals from Belgium, Croatia, France and Germany had been submitted in time together with the requested documentation, while those from Denmark and Spain had been missing certain supporting documents. The secretariat had not circulated the proposals among Parties for the time being, as the notifications were not submitted in accordance with the established procedure; however, it would later inform on the state for transparency reasons. The secretariat also informed about the change in the list of Parties undergoing the Stage 3 review in 2014: Croatia and Germany were replacing the Russian Federation and the Republic of Moldova due to the lack of reported data. The Bureau agreed that the proposals for adjustment by Denmark and Spain should be processed along with the other four, provided that there is sufficient capacity for that and that both Parties submit the necessary documentation. The Bureau also agreed that the Parties submitting their proposals for adjustment should be encouraged to provide experts for this year's Stage 3 inventory review to facilitate the process. The Bureau invited the Chair of the EMEP Steering Body to provide information on the obstacles faced throughout the year and lessons learnt, including further guidance as part of the informative report or otherwise.

4. UNECE activities aimed at promoting the implementation of the LRTAP Convention and its Protocols in EECCA countries

The secretariat provided an update on the implementation of the assistance programme, notably the meeting of the advisory group held earlier in March and the draft implementation plan developed in accordance with the needs confirmed by Ministers of Environment of countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia in their letters to ECE. The Chair of the Coordinating Group for EECCA informed about the workshop organized by the Task Force on Heavy Metals in cooperation with the Expert Group on Techno-Economic Issues to promote the ratification of the protocols in the ECE region. The secretariat noted that the priorities and needs mentioned by the workshop participants from EECCA have been taken up in the discussion of the advisory group; the report of the Task Force on Heavy Metals would be presented to the WGSR as an official document.

5. Revised Action Plan for EECCA

The Bureau discussed the status of the revised Action Plan for EECCA (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2007/17) and the need for its further revision in light of the Long-term strategy and the workplan for the implementation of the Convention. The Bureau suggested that a new document be produced by the Coordinating Group as its workplan. **Action:** The Coordinating Group to consider the option of developing its workplan as a combination of the overarching goals of the Long-term strategy with

the practical tasks and activities. The Coordinating Group to decide on the preferred solution and to report back to the Bureau at its meeting in September.

6. *Other business*

Mr. Harnett provided an update on the participation of the United States in the on-going meeting in Nairobi. He informed about the request made across the United Nations system to raise awareness of the health effects of air pollution and the urge to improve air quality. The final decision was yet to be taken by the delegations. The Bureau agreed that the Chair of the Executive Body would address the organizers at the appropriate time after additional information is provided by Mr. Harnett.

Mr. Zuber informed the Bureau that the term “black carbon “ in the French version of the official text of the amendments to the Gothenburg Protocol has been translated as “noir de carbone” which is not correct. The correct translation should be “carbone noir”. The secretariat informed that the wrong French term appears in approximately 80 documents since 2009. The Chair suggested that a disclaimer should be displayed on the website or elsewhere to indicate that “black carbon” should be understood as “carbone noir” in French. The Bureau was informed that to make a correction in an officially adopted treaty text, a Party should make a submission to the Treaty Section of the UN Office of Legal Affairs in accordance with the prescribed procedure. The UN Office of Legal Affairs would then circulate the submission to other Parties and if there are no objections, it would proceed with the correction.

The Chair of the Implementation Committee informed about the recent meeting of the informal network of the Chairs of compliance/ implementation bodies under the ECE multilateral environmental agreements and noted the relevance of some of the issues discussed, such as importance of reporting obligations and *de minimis* approach. The Bureau pointed to the usefulness of *de minimis* rule and suggested that the reaction of the Implementation Committee and the Executive Body to non-fulfilment of substantive obligations and those on reporting/modalities should not be the same. The Chair of the Implementation Committee informed that the issue would be discussed at the next Committee’s meetings. The Bureau welcomed this information and encouraged the Committee’s Chair to continue his participation in this network.

7. *Date, time and place of next meeting*

The Bureau decided to have its next meeting in the evenings of 17-18 September 2014.