

---

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

**NOTE OF THE BUREAU MEETING**  
**Monday, 14 September 2015, room S1 , Palais des Nations,**  
**11:00 – 14:00 hrs**

**Attendance:** The following Bureau members attended: Mr. R. Ballaman (Switzerland), Mr. S. Vasiliev (Russian Federation), Mr. W. Harnett (Chair of WGSR), , Mr. M. Schroeder (Chair of the Implementation Committee) and Ms. L. Rouil (Chair of the EMEP SB). Ms. V. Galatone (Canada) and Mr. P. Grennfelt (Chair of WGE) participated by teleconference. Mr. A. Zuber attended as an observer on behalf of the EU. Mr. N. Bonvoisin, Ms. A. Karadjova, Mr. A. Mamadzhanov, Ms. A. Novikova and Ms. C. Sanz Noriega from the ECE secretariat attended. The meeting was chaired by Ms. A. Engleryd, Chair of the Executive Body.

**1. *Draft provisional agenda for the 34<sup>th</sup> session of the Executive Body***

The Bureau discussed the draft provisional agenda for the 34<sup>th</sup> session of the Executive Body, circulated by the secretariat (ECE/EB.AIR/132). The Bureau decided to give room for discussions about the Convention's presence at the 8<sup>th</sup> Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference in Batumi, Georgia (8-10 June 2016), to invite Parties to participate, and to adequately reflect this in the agenda for the 34<sup>th</sup> EB session. In this context, the possible launch of the executive summary of the assessment report during a side-event at the Ministerial Conference was discussed. It was emphasized that a draft and its unofficial translation into Russian should be available for consideration by 53<sup>rd</sup> session of the WGSR and the 34<sup>th</sup> session of the EB. The secretariat reminded the Bureau that the final version of the executive summary would have to be submitted for official translation in February 2016 for the 35<sup>th</sup> session of the EB (Geneva, 2-4 May 2016). It was clarified that the schedule for the full report was still not clear.

Mr. Zuber proposed to adopt the guidance document on mobile sources at the 34<sup>th</sup> session of the EB to close the process of preparation of supporting documents for the 2012 amendments to the Gothenburg Protocol. The Bureau decided not to accept this proposal and to stick to the original schedule for formal adoption of the document at the 35<sup>th</sup> session of the EB, as decided by the EB at its 33<sup>rd</sup> session. . Mr. Vasiliev noted that the document has to be available in Russian before formal adoption to give experts in all countries adequate time to review and study the document for discussions at the 53<sup>rd</sup> session of the WGSR.

It was suggested to give some time on the agenda for the 34<sup>th</sup> session of the EB for an exchange of views on information and outreach.

With regard to the item no. 6 on financing of the implementation of the Convention, it was suggested to align the annotation with the wording of the

document on financing (ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2015/20–ECE/EB.AIR/WG.1/2015/4)) submitted for consideration by the Joint meeting of the EMEP Steering Body and the Working Group on Effects.

**Action:** The secretariat to finalize the draft provisional agenda for the 34<sup>th</sup> session of the EB reflecting the comments made by the Bureau.

## **2. *Draft 2016-2017 workplan for the implementation of the Convention***

The Bureau provided comments on the latest version of the draft 2016-2017 workplan, submitted for consideration by the First Joint Session of the EMEP Steering Body and the Working Group on Effects. The Chair of EMEP SB conveyed that Parties would discuss the science part of the work plan further to possibly find a clearer distinction between new studies and projects and routine activities, also in view of resource constraints, to clearly define funding sources, to discuss and identify involvement of national experts, and to clarify cooperation with other bodies and organizations. Regarding the policy part, it was understood that the majority of activities would be continuing. The Bureau agreed that outreach should be further integrated and streamlined to involve all task forces and centers and not only the secretariat. It was also highlighted that the mid-term review of the long-term strategy should be added in the 2016- 2017 work plan.

With regards to cooperation, the Chair of the EB highlighted plans for cooperation between Arctic Council and LRTAP which would primarily involve TFHTAP, TFEIP and TFIAM , including on a workshop to be held in Potsdam, Germany. Respective items will be added to the work plan. Similarly, the EMEP SB Chair mentioned collaboration on the COPERNICUS project.

## **3. *Results of the 35<sup>th</sup> session of the Implementation Committee and updates on the the First Joint Session of the EMEP Steering Body and the Working Group on Effects.***

The Chair of the Implementation Committee reported back on the outcomes of the Committee's 35th session (Budapest, 27-29 May 2015). The Committee took some procedural decisions on new templates to harmonize the preparation of work and on the new cycle of Committee meetings, which would be in September and January (first and second meetings in the cycle, respectively), with the latter providing recommendations to the EB.

The Committee Chair raised the issue of the Committee membership in light of the completion of terms of eight of its nine members in December 2015. To ensure continuity in the new meetings cycle, the Bureau decided to prolong the terms of the members of the Committee until May 2016, when the 35th session of the EB would consider the recommendations of the Committee. The 34th session of the EB would thus only take note of the progress report of the Implementation Committee's 35th session.

On compliance, the Chair reported that there were about 20 ongoing cases of non-compliance with emission reduction obligations, seven had been closed, partly due to the outcome of the adjustment procedures, and two cases had been suspended because of the adjustment procedure. Regarding reporting obligations, he reported on 12 ongoing cases and 13 new referrals on non-reporting.

In relation to this, Mr. Zuber mentioned that the Convention's ad-hoc group of legal experts completed its work and submitted recommendations to the secretariat regarding the ratification of all amended protocols by Parties that were not Parties to the original protocols before those amended protocols enter into force. The note containing legal recommendations will be submitted as an informal document for the 34th session of the EB. The secretariat informed that as this is a complex legal document, a translation into Russian would need additional budget. Alternatively, it could also be presented orally at the 34th session of the EB so that the interpreters could then translate the main findings.

Mr. Vasiliev proposed to remind Convention Parties, especially the CETs to ratify the amended Gothenburg Protocol. The idea to remind Parties was welcomed and the Bureau decided to send a letter by the Chair of the EB to Parties (addressee: Permanent Missions of Parties) that have not yet ratified and possibly to attach the consolidated text of the Protocol in Russian as well as the informal document by the ad hoc legal group. Such a letter would be drafted ahead of the informal EB Bureau meeting in Stockholm in November 2015. In addition, the 53rd session of the WGSR should also remind Parties of ratification.

**Action:** The Chair and the secretariat to draft a letter for consideration by the EB Bureau at its informal meeting in Stockholm, in November 2015.

The Chairs of the EMEP Steering Body and the Working Group on Effects briefed the Bureau about the issues on the agenda of the First Joint Session of those two bodies. In addition to the review of activities, including reports by Centers and Task Forces, discussions on the assessment report, and the work plan, including on outreach efforts were on the agenda. The WGE Chair highlighted that the WGE trends report would be discussed, a new call for data would be issued and a common webpage for WGE, which, in the longer run, would be combined with the one for EMEP, was planned.

With regards to cooperation and the visibility of the Convention, it was stressed that the Convention needs to be better credited for its achievements and that for this purpose, the informal Convention logo should be used more consistently.

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

The secretariat informed that despite the reminders, still no input was received from Bureau members for the note on cost estimates of all extrabudgetary items and proposals for possible addition of communication items to the Convention workplan (item 5.3 of the workplan). The secretariat proposed to discuss this further

at the EB Bureau meeting in Stockholm. It was suggested to think about criteria in line with the long-term strategy to prioritize items.

The secretariat introduced a report on outreach, outlining areas in which an interest in collaboration has been expressed (item 5.4.2 of the workplan). To be able to take the discussions on the work plan and presentations by other international organizations at the First Joint Session of the EMEP SB and the WGE into account, it was decided to postpone this item to the meeting in Stockholm.

Mr. Zuber informed about a new programme of the World Bank Group on Pollution Management and Environmental Health (PMEH), which includes air pollution. While the first phase would have a budget of 60 million dollars and would focus on countries' management capacity, the second phase would have a budget of 15 billion on a loan basis and would be used for infrastructure projects and abatement measures. Parties to the Convention would have to think about how to engage in this programme.

The secretariat informed the Bureau that UNECE was now an official partner of the CCAC, which would open possibilities for the Convention to cooperate on the CCAC 5-year strategic plan, and in particular, to promote regional cooperation. The secretariat also informed the Bureau that a second interagency meeting between UNECE, UNEP and WHO was planned for October 2015, to discuss possible cooperation and interaction on the implementation of WHA resolution on air pollution and the UNEA resolution on air quality, and a side-event at COP 21. An update would be given at the informal EB Bureau meeting in November 2015.

Action: The secretariat to present an updated version of the note on outreach, reflecting the latest available information for consideration by the Bureau at its informal meeting in Stockholm

##### ***5. Strengthening the implementation of the LRTAP Convention and its Protocols in EECCA countries***

The secretariat informed the Bureau about the progress in implementing the assistance programme in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, in particular about the workshop on emission inventories and roundtable on results of national legislation analysis organized in May 2015 in Uzbekistan and workshops on national emission inventories held in June 2015 in Armenia and Kazakhstan. It also mentioned the on-going work on the content of a brochure for decision-makers in EECCA countries, which could also be used for the Ministerial Conference in Batumi, Georgia, as well as the plan to support Ukraine in developing its Informative Inventory Report.

The secretariat also informed the Bureau about the recent start of the project funded by the Russian Federation; respective planning process would now begin in consultation with the EECCA Coordinating group.

The secretariat briefed the Bureau about the introduction of a new resource planning system “Umoja” on 1 November 2015 and its implications, in particular, the postponement of some capacity building activities to early 2016.

The secretariat informed about the letters sent to all Parties, except for those listed in decision 2006/13, to invite them to provide contributions to support participation of representatives from South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia in regular meetings of the Convention.

## **6. *The 8<sup>th</sup> Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference***

The Chair of the EB presented the Batumi Action for Cleaner Air document, which had been produced to support governments, which have the option of voluntarily signing up for different relevant actions.

The importance of aligning the background document and the assessment report was emphasized. The secretariat explained that the Environment for Europe process was clearly defined and left little flexibility. Regarding a possible side-event to be co-financed by the Nordic Council of Ministers to present the assessment report, questions were raised on how to proceed. The Chair of the EB stressed that if a side event is to be organised a confirmation and responsibilities for logistics was needed urgently. Mr. Vasiliev suggested providing draft text for possible inclusion to the Ministerial declaration to draw attention to the Convention.

Several members of the Bureau emphasized that securing high-level participation at Ministerial Conference was difficult and would highly depend on content and the involvement of the Parties.

**Action:** The secretariat to inform the Bureau when further information becomes available from the CEP or the host country. The EB Bureau to draft a policy message for inclusion in the ministerial declaration should this be welcomed by the CEP.

## **7. *Other business***

The Chair and the secretariat briefed the Bureau on the status of preparation of an informal note on applicable UN rules and procedures for the organization of meetings and the preparation of official documents, which will be informally translated into Russian by the Swedish EPA.

Several members of the Bureau asked the secretariat to ensure easier access to the Palais des Nations for registered participants to avoid long queues.

The secretariat presented a note on the cost estimates for holding an EB session outside the Palais des Nations in Geneva, as requested by the Bureau at its previous meeting. In light of the new meetings cycle with the EB is in one of the busiest months (May) in the Palais and the high costs attached to holding meetings

outside the Palais, the Bureau concluded to possibly reconsider the new meetings cycle.

The Bureau discussed the preparation of inputs from the Convention to the sixth edition of the UNEP Global Environment Outlook (GEO-6) assessment. The secretariat thanked Bureau members who had already provided inputs.

Mr. Zuber informed the Bureau about a possible side-event at COP 21 on air pollution, to be co-organized by the Convention and the European Commission. The tentative date for the event would be 3 December; the agenda and the organization of the panel, including the involvement of other stakeholders, such as the CCAC, would be refined over the next couple of weeks.

Mr. Zuber also briefed the Bureau about an evaluation of UNECE by the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS), which would also review LRTAP. The report would be published in March. Ms. Galatone asked to be involved as an external stakeholder in the evaluation.

Mr. Ballaman informed about an invitation to speak at a symposium on THE PEP on 17 November 2015.

The Chair of the EB informed the Bureau about the initiative to hold an informal Bureau meeting about strategy in Stockholm, in November 2015. She asked the Bureau to suggest agenda items.

#### **8. *Date, time and place of next meeting***

In accordance with the list of meetings and documents adopted at the 33<sup>rd</sup> EB session, the next meeting will be held on 14 December 2015, back to back with the WGSR and EB sessions. An informal EB Bureau meeting will be held in Stockholm, on 9 and 10 November 2015.