

## THE BUREAU OF THE WORKING GROUP ON EFFECTS

Minutes 2005/1 of the meeting held in Geneva on Tuesday 22 February 2005 from 10.40 to 18.45

Prepared by the secretariat in consultation with the Bureau

### 1. Organisation of the meeting

#### a) Attendance and apologies

The meeting was attended by Mr. Heinz-Detlef Gregor (Germany), Mr. Beat Achermann (Switzerland), Mr. Tor Johannessen (Norway), Mr. Wojciech Mill (Poland) and Ms. Anne Christine Le Gall (France). Mr. Matti Johansson attended for the Convention secretariat. Apologies were received from Mr. Fred Conway (Canada).

#### b) Adoption of the agenda and timetable

Adopted as circulated.

#### c) Minutes of the previous meeting (31 August 2004)

Adopted as previously circulated.

### 2. Further development of the work under the Working Group on Effects (WGE)

#### a) Assessment and review of effect-oriented activities (see 4.d)

**DECISION:** Ask International Cooperative Programmes (ICPs) to provide an overview on their routine monitoring activities (goals and objectives; where, when and why), in relation to the Convention aims, the draft WGE long-term strategy and the activities under European Union.

#### b) Preparation of the long-term strategy

The Bureau discussed the draft prepared by the Chair.

**DECISION:** Present and discuss the draft with the Extended Bureau. Convention mandates are to be emphasized in the beginning. ICPs are asked to contribute their first views on implementation aspects.

#### c) Work-plans: (i) medium-term and (ii) streamlined/harmonized one-year

The Bureau agreed that a medium-term work-plan items table, annexed to the 2006 work-plan, would not be in harmony with the work-plans of other subsidiary bodies. It might not be appropriate as an annex to the long-term strategy either, since the years 2005-2006 could not be repeated (due to new UN reporting guidelines). The most feasible form could be an informal document for the 2005 WGE session.

**DECISION:** (i): The medium-term work-plan would not be an official WGE document, but be made available as an informal document.

**DECISION:** (ii): A 2006 [calendar year] work-plan, as input to the Executive Body (EB), was favoured. The work-plan items are to indicate outcomes that can be measured and verified, or to describe specific and concrete deliverables. This list is to be used also for financing purposes: all items (with the addition of the essential functions of the centre) may be partially funded by the LUA Trust Fund. Items found earlier under title "Further development" in Joint Report annexes should not be listed.

#### d) Structure and coordination of WGE session presentations

**DECISION:** The coordinating programme should introduce the presentation theme and wrap up main conclusions. Each ICP would be allotted an equal total time.

e) *Joint Expert Group on Dynamic Modelling (JEG DM)*

**DECISION:** The JEG DM is included in the medium-term work-plan table.

f) *Preparation of workshops*

Information on the following workshops was received (to be organized in close collaboration with Convention bodies):

- (i) Dynamic nitrogen processes, autumn 2005, United Kingdom (JEG DM);
- (ii) Reactive nitrogen in Europe, 2005, Netherlands, Regional Center of the International Nitrogen Initiative – Europe;
- (iii) Critical levels of ozone: further applying and developing the flux-based concept, 14-18 Nov 2005, Obergurgl, Austria (ICP Vegetation, ICP Forests);
- (iv) Economic impacts of air pollution on cultural heritage, 26-27 Jan 2006 (ICP Materials, Network of Experts on Benefits and Economic Instruments)
- (v) Confounding factors, 2006 (ICP Waters).

g) *Collaboration with EU/CAFE thematic strategy and NECD revision*

A "non-paper" and background paper, presented on 21 Feb 2005 to CAFE (Clean Air for Europe) Steering Group meeting, were discussed. No news had been received concerning the National Emission Ceilings Directive.

### **3. Financing of the effect-oriented activities**

a) *Review of funding over past years (aspects of future stable funding mechanism)*

The secretary presented some preliminary indicators on funding in 2002-2005. The Bureau took note of the recommended and amounts paid to the LUA Trust Fund, and the magnitudes of the outstanding contributions.

**DECISION:** The secretariat to provide the Bureau, in March, with statistical information on Trust Fund contributions and usage from previous years.

b) *Financial report on Decision 2002/1 to WGE and EB*

The Bureau took note of para. 75 item e in EB.AIR/WG.1/2004/2: "[WGE] Decided to ask the secretariat to prepare additional tables comprising all earmarked and non-earmarked contributions in cash and in kind along with the programme centre budgets, separated by country and programme, for the consideration of the Bureau when preparing a possible report to the Executive Body regarding its decision 2002/1." and para. 96 items g-h) in ECE/EB.AIR/83: "[EB] Noted document EB.AIR/WG.1/2004/12, as amended, on the financing of the effect-oriented activities and invited the Working Group on Effects to submit a note on the effectiveness of voluntary contributions made according to Executive Body decision 2002/1 to core activities not funded by the EMEP Protocol, to aid the Executive Body to review in 2005 the need for adopting a protocol to achieve long-term stable funding for the core activities" and "In addition requested the secretariat to prepare a complementary document suggesting ways for clarifying the requirements of, and the contributions to, individual centres, as well as for encouraging funding of shorter-term activities."

**DECISION:** The Bureau to provide comments to WGE session either as an informal document or as part of the official financing document.

c) *Preparation of [official] financial document [for the WGE session] by Bureau*

**DECISION:** The Bureau to prepare the 2005 financing document in collaboration with the secretariat. The list of tasks funded by the Trust Fund in 2003/2004 will be included as last time. A list for "priority tasks in 2005/2006 to be partially funded by the Trust Fund" will not be included (see 2.c.ii). Final discussions on the contents shall take place in the next Bureau meeting.

### **4. Communication**

a) *Joint Report 2005 (contents and structure)*

The Bureau discussed proposals for the Joint Report.

**DECISION:** Alternatives for the 2005 Joint Report: (i) achievements with funding received after Executive Body Decision 2002/1, (ii) past year's achievements in thematic structure to support theme-oriented presentations at WGE session, and (iii) descriptions of monitoring networks, measurement campaigns, other information on collecting structure and sources for meta-analyses.

**DECISION:** Remove ICP-specific short-term goals in Joint Report annexes. Incorporate activities and items which are to be funded in the 2006 [calendar year] work-plan (i.e. the items under title "Further development" will be dropped from the work-plan).

*b) Items of communication strategy for WGE*

The secretary presented a two-page guidelines on the possibilities to harmonize the use of visual elements and terminology of bodies under WGE (see minutes of the Extended Bureau meeting).

*c) Feedback on 2004 substantive report*

Many positive comments had been received. Some countries intended to compare the findings to national data and check the "Challenges" chapter against national policies.

*d) Plans for further major reporting (see 2.a)*

No need was foreseen in near future for commencing a new review activity.

*e) Impact of new UN documentation guidelines*

**DECISION:** The guidelines are to be taken into account in WGE reporting.

## **5. Provisional agendas for the meeting of the Extended Bureau of WGE**

*a) Extended Bureau of WGE*

The Bureau agreed an agenda for the Extended Bureau meeting.

*b) Joint Bureaux meeting with EMEP*

The new table layout proposed by the secretariat was welcomed.

*c) WGE session*

Decisions on the agenda were deferred to the Extended Bureau meeting.

## **6. Other business**

*a) Provisional list of meetings for 2005 and 2006*

There were no amendments to the list amended by the Executive Body.

*b) Bureau and secretariat representation at effect-oriented meetings*

**DECISION:** The tentative participation was noted and the secretary was to circulate the list for checking (see Annex 1).

*c) Acid Rain Conference (12-17 Jun 2005, Prague)*

The secretariat had received ten submitted abstracts, or their titles, from the ICPs. The Chair had prepared two abstracts (for one poster and one paper), which were to be discussed within the WGE Bureaux for further contributions and author list. The secretariat will present one key lecture (Mr. Keith Bull) and one abstract was submitted (M. Johansson et al.).

*d) Next Bureaux meetings (Bureau, Extended Bureau)*

**DECISION:** The Bureau to meet in Berlin, 25-29 April 2005. The next back-to-back Bureau and Extended Bureau meetings will be in Geneva, 30 August 2005 in the morning and afternoon, respectively.