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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

Working Group on Effects

Fifth joint session

Geneva, 9–13 September 2019

Item 8 of the provisional agenda

**Matters arising from recent meetings of the Executive Body
and its subsidiary bodies and activities of the Bureaux of
the Steering Body and the Working Group on Effects**

Activities of the Bureaux of the Steering Body and the Working Group on Effects*

Note by the secretariat

Summary

The present note provides a report of the discussions at and outcomes of the meeting of the Bureaux and the Extended Bureaux of the Steering Body to the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe and the Working Group on Effects held from 19 to 21 March 2019 at Laxenburg, Austria.

* The present document is being issued without formal editing.

I. Introduction

1. The present note details the activities 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) and of the Bureau of the Working Group on Effects, reporting the results of the joint meeting of the respective Bureaux and the Extended Bureaux held from 19–21 March 2019 at Laxenburg, Austria. The meeting was held back to back with the meeting of the Bureau of the Executive Body (18–19 March).

A. Attendance

2. The following EMEP Steering Body Bureau members attended the meeting: Ms. Laurence Rouil (France), Chair of the Steering Body, Ms. Sonja Vidič (Croatia) and Mr. Rudolf Weber (Switzerland). All the members of the Working Group on Effects Bureau attended the meeting: Ms. Isaura Rabago (Spain), Chair of the Working Group on Effects, Ms. Sabine Augustin (Switzerland), Mr. Jesper Bak (Denmark), Mr. Thomas Dirnböck (Austria), Ms. Gudrun Schuetze (Germany) and Ms. Alessandra de Marco (Italy). Ms. Anna Engleryd (Sweden), Chair of the Executive Body to the Convention and Ms. Susanne Lindahl (Sweden), the European Commission, also attended.

3. The meeting was attended by representatives from the five EMEP Centres: the Meteorological Synthesizing Centre-East (MSC-E); the Meteorological Synthesizing Centre-West (MSC-W); the Chemical Coordinating Centre (CCC); the Centre for Integrated Assessment Modelling (CIAM) and the Centre on Emission Inventories and Projections (CEIP). Also attended representatives of all the Working Group on Effects Centres: the Programme Co-ordinating Centre of the International Co-operative Programme (ICP) on Assessment and Monitoring of Air Pollution Effects on Forests (ICP Forests), the Programme Centre of the ICP on Assessment and Monitoring of the Effects of Air Pollution on Rivers and Lakes (ICP Waters), the Programme Centre of the ICP on Effects of Air Pollution on Materials, including Historic and Cultural Monuments (ICP Materials), the Programme Centre of the ICP on Effects of Air Pollution on Natural Vegetation and Crops (ICP Vegetation), the Programme Centre of the ICP on Integrated Monitoring of Air Pollution Effects on Ecosystems (ICP Integrated Monitoring), the ICP on Modelling and Mapping of Critical Levels and Loads and Air Pollution Effects, Risks and Trends (ICP Modelling and Mapping), and the Joint Task Force on the Health Aspects of Air Pollution (Task Force on Health). Mr. Martin Adams (European Environment Agency), co-Chair of the Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projections, Mr. Rob Maas (the Netherlands) Chair of the Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling, Mr. Augustin Colette (France), co-Chair of the Task Force on Measurements and Modelling, Mr. Filip Moldan, Chair of the Joint Expert Group on Dynamic Modelling (JEG Dynamic Modelling), also participated in the meeting as well as the secretariat of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE).

4. Mr. Terry Keating (the United States of America), co-Chair of the Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution, contributed to the meeting via web connection.

B. Organization of work

5. The meeting was chaired by Ms. Isaura Rabago and Ms. Laurence Rouil. The participants of the meeting expressed gratitude to Mr. Amann and the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) for hospitality and for organization of the meeting at Laxenburg.

6. The format of the annual joint meeting of the respective Bureaux and the Extended Bureaux was similar to the meeting held in 2017 with parts of the meeting dedicated solely to effects-oriented issues (under the Working Group on Effects) and to EMEP issues. The middle part of the meeting was dedicated to the joint activities of the two scientific communities. The strategic issues discussed were: the implementation of the *Long-term strategy for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution for 2020–2030 and beyond* (Executive Body decision 2018/5; Long-term Strategy), contribution to the review of

the amended Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone (Gothenburg Protocol) expected to be launched in December 2019 and the preparation of the 2020–2021 workplan. Formally, the review of the amended Gothenburg Protocol may be launched by the Executive Body only after the protocol goes into force (expected by the end of 2019). To begin with, each centre and task force reported on the implementation of the 2018–2019 workplan focusing on potential difficulties and questions that would require advice or approval by the Bureaux. Then, participants formed several subgroups that worked independently to discuss the following items:

- (a) What are the scientific challenges to deal with for supporting the Convention Long-term Strategy?;
- (b) What are the urgent questions in the review of the Gothenburg Protocol?;
- (c) Which issues should be considered in the upcoming workplan 2020-2021?;
- (d) Which Working Group on Effects/EMEP activities which should be promoted?

7. The designated rapporteurs summarized the discussions at subgroups at the plenary session the following day. In response to questions listed in para. 6 (a)-(d), the subgroups proposed various issues and elements listed below:

- (a) Current science related priorities generally remain; among new items are: methane and its precursors, shipping emissions, interactions between nitrogen pollution, biodiversity and climate change;
- (b) Black carbon, emission reporting (condensables), effects on ecosystems including loss of biodiversity, new metrics for human health impacts, linking the spatial scales;
- (c) Further support to Parties – responding to their needs, extended collaboration with partner organizations within and outside ECE region and with non-ECE countries on issues of common interests;
- (d) Work on nitrogen, black carbon, persistent organic pollutants and heavy metals – room for closer co-operation between EMEP and effects communities.

II. Matters arising from the thirty-eighth session of the Executive Body, the fourth joint session of the Steering Body and the Working Group on Effects

8. The Chair of the Executive Body, drew attention to the major outcomes of the thirty-eighth session of the Executive Body for the Convention and, in particular, adoption of the updated Long-term Strategy, update on the status of ratifications of the three latest amended protocols including progress made by countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Europe (supported by capacity building programme), progress on implementation of the Batumi Action for Cleaner Air initiative and highlights of the 2018–2019 workplan. An event on clean air globally was organized as part of the Executive Body session. The event participants included representatives of countries and organizations outside ECE region (Latin America, Africa and Asia) and a number of international organizations. The participants of the event discussed various aspects of air pollution mitigation. Following the successful outcome of the event, the Executive Body decided to establish a forum for international cooperation on air pollution (to be launched in December 2019) and requested all Parties and subsidiary bodies to contribute to the work of the forum. The Executive Body took note of the draft revised mandates for the scientific centres and task forces under EMEP and the Working Group on Effects, as contained in documents ECE/EB.AIR/2018/5-7 and adopted them provisionally with amendments made during the session. It further requested the secretariat to finalize them and submit draft decisions for their formal adoption at its next session. The Executive Body invited the EMEP Steering Body and the Working Group on Effects to submit any additional scientific and technical information that they consider should inform the policy discussions to be held at the fifty-seventh session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review (as preparation for a review

of the amended Gothenburg Protocol). The Executive Body also welcomed the proposal for establishing an expert panel on clean air in cities under the Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling and encouraged Parties to nominate experts and co-chairs for it. The Executive Body requested the EMEP Steering Body and the Working Group on Effects and their Bureaux to discuss the proposal at their meetings in 2019 and make a recommendation to the Executive Body for its consideration at its thirty-ninth session.

9. The Chair of the EMEP Steering Body and the Chair of the Working Group on Effects summarized the outcomes of the fourth joint session of the EMEP Steering Body and the Working Group on Effects. The main issues discussed included: the thematic sessions on:

- (a) Lessons learned from the thematic sessions held in 2017;
- (b) Impacts of ammonia emissions and mitigation strategies;
- (c) Heavy metal pollution with focus on mercury.

10. Several presentations were delivered followed by in-depth discussions and recommendations. Other highlights of the joint session included: issues related to emissions (e.g. condensables and semi-volatile organic compounds), priorities and future of EMEP monitoring – preparations for the update of the EMEP monitoring strategy, support to Parties, progress in setting up a successor for CCE in Germany (at German Environment Agency – Umweltbundesamt), efforts of the Working Group on Effects community to implement the recommendations from the 2013 ICP review, and information sharing with partner organizations (e.g. Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme, Stockholm and Minamata Conventions, World Health Organization, World Meteorological Organization, United Nations Environmental Program and the Copernicus Atmospheric Monitoring Service (CAMS)).

11. The secretariat updated on cooperation opportunities for the Convention with various international mechanisms on transboundary air pollution, in particular with the United Nations Environment Programme, World Health Organization, and subregional efforts in Asia (e.g. Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET) and the Economic and Social Committee for Asian and the Pacific - ESCAP). The secretariat also informed about the preparations for the celebration of the fortieth anniversary of the Convention to be organized during the thirty-ninth session of the Executive Body in Geneva on 11 and 12 December 2019. The celebration will include a high-level segment and the launch of the forum for cooperation with non-ECE countries and partners organizations.

III. Progress on the 2018–2019 workplan, planned activities for 2020–2021, strategic issues and outreach activities

A. 2018–2019 workplan for the implementation of the Convention

12. The Bureaux took note of the oral reports from: the EMEP Centres and Task Forces, Working Group on Effects Task Forces and Centres, JEG Dynamic Modelling and the Task Force on Health, on the progress made in implementing the key activities in the 2018–2019 workplan (ECE/EB.AIR/140/Add.1).

13. The Bureaux discussed and highly acknowledged the implementation of the science part of the 2018–2019 workplan as reported by centres, task forces and expert groups. The Bureaux also discussed the priorities for science in the forthcoming 2020–2021 workplan. Several broad areas of activities and research continue to be the key ones:

- (a) Support to Parties e.g. with respect to national research (national emission inventories, emission projections, air pollution and its effects monitoring, other effects related work, local and sub-regional modelling), easy access to data and technical knowledge, development of tools etc.;
- (b) Depending on particular national needs, continuation and where needed extension of the technical support to countries in Eastern and Southeastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia;

(c) Cooperation with internal and external partners within and beyond the ECE region.

14. The Bureaux discussed and noted two specific issues:

(a) with respect to the proposal by Sweden to transform the Joint Expert Group on Dynamic Modelling into a new scientific centre under the Working Group on Effects, the Bureaux discussed various aspects of this proposal: a proposed extended scope of work, hosting the web portal¹ of the Working Group on Effects, cooperation with CCE, ICP Modelling and Mapping and with other ICPs and EMEP. The Bureaux also noted potential financial consequences with respect to the voluntary contributions by Parties to the ECE trust fund to support the effects-oriented work. The Bureaux requested all relevant ICPs and centres to discuss the proposal at the forthcoming Task Force meetings between March-June 2019 and to report progress and provide recommendations at the fifth joint session (9-13 September 2019);

(b) with respect to activities carried out by the Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollutants, the Bureaux noted and welcomed the changes in the management of the Task Force. Following the stepping down by the European Union, the United States of America and Canada are now taking the lead supported by Germany and Poland. On the substance, the Bureaux confirmed the need to finalize a report summarizing policy relevant recommendations from the Task Force's coordinated global and regional modelling experiments (2010–2017) referred to as the "HTAP2 experiments". The report - based on new scientific knowledge gained over the last few years - should be directed to Parties of Convention.

15. The Bureaux decided to forward the two issues for the consideration by the Steering Body to EMEP and the Working Group on Effects at its fifth joint session and to the Bureau of the Executive Body.

16. The scientific workplan items - for both the current and the forthcoming 2020-2021 workplans - and priorities within EMEP and the Working Group on Effects will be discussed during the Task Force meetings between March and June 2019 and will be presented and discussed during the fifth joint session.

B. EMEP key issues

17. The representatives of EMEP Task Forces and Centres presented and discussed specific issues within the broad range of emission, monitoring and modelling activities. The purpose was to identify issues important in both short and long-term perspectives. The Bureaux welcomed the provided information and noted that particular interest should be made to:

(a) Treatment of condensables (emissions and modelling) – taking into account the latest guidance from the Executive Body;

(b) Need to improve quality and consistency of reported emissions, in particular, need for reporting more detailed information on PM and condensables and on methods used in emission estimates;

(c) Need to move away from Tier 1 Guidebook methods for key emission sources;

(d) Need for regular and predictable funding to support the maintenance and improvement of the EMEP/EEA air pollutant emission inventory guidebook;

(e) Treatment - including its definition - of black carbon in inventories, monitoring, modelling and effects related work;

(f) Need to simplify and further streamline the processes of review of adjustment requests under the Convention and under the European Union National Emission Ceilings Directive;

¹ See <https://www.unece-wge.org/>

(g) Conclusion of the update to the EMEP monitoring strategy and collaboration with other frameworks (CAMS, the Aerosols, Clouds, and Trace gases Research InfraStructure (ACTRIS)-2 project);

(h) Further need to link the spatial scales from urban to global.

18. The Bureaux, in particular:

(a) Requested the Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projections to discuss adding a table of “Tiers” to Party’s emission reporting and provide recommendations to the EMEP Steering Body. The Bureaux also discussed about the need for Parties to report information that supported their annual emission submissions. With respect to the EMEP/EEA Guidebook, the Bureaux noted that there was no consensus on the proposed updates for agricultural chapters. The Bureaux welcomed the plans of the European Environment Agency to translate of the updated Guidebook into Russian. A project funded by the European Commission would provide improved guidance on calculating emission projections; invited the Task Force to request - in the short-term - the Executive Body Bureau for guidance on ways to move away from Tier 1 Guidebook methods for key emission sources;

(b) Welcomed the results of the Task Force on Measurement and Modelling Twin Site study that confirmed the feasibility to assess the urban and regional nature of various particulate matter types, thereby emphasizing the value of EMEP monitoring activities, also for urban air quality issues. The Task Force, after having worked over the past couple of years on observed and modelled trends, can now take stock of strength and weaknesses of available tools. The results have also been translated in terms of impacts (on health and crops) and emphasize the importance of regional scale assessment that yield a very different view of policy effectiveness than existing global assessments;

(c) Welcomed the progress of work reported by MSC-W on inclusion of so-called condensables PM modelling showing that the effect of taking into account emissions of condensables on fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) concentrations varies between countries, but can be large and that in general, the comparison between measurements and model results improves when including condensables;

(d) Noted the modelled results of the effect of international shipping emissions on European ozone showing that their contribution is of the same magnitude as the contribution of European anthropogenic emissions to European ozone; noted that the new EMEP domain and resolution has been fully implemented, and consistent calculations from 1990 to 2016 had been performed;²

(e) Welcomed the initiative from the Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling for the implementation of a new expert group on clean air cities to improve understanding and improve linkages between the scales (urban/region); EMEP task forces and centers will support the activity of this expert group which will include emissions, measurement and modelling aspects and will report to the Working Group on Strategy and Reviews.

C. Working Group on Effects key issues

19. The representatives of Working Group on Effects Task Forces and Centres presented and discussed specific issues within the broad range of effects related activities. The purpose was to identify issues important in both short and long-term perspectives. The Bureaux welcomed the provided information and noted that particular interest should be made to:

(a) Nitrogen in the environment – cooperation between the effects community and EMEP;

(b) Ozone-nitrogen-biodiversity-climate interactions;

(c) Effects of particulate matter, heavy metals and persistent organic pollutants;

² See <https://aerocom-trends.met.no/EMEP/> linked from www.emep.int

(d) Effects monitoring; collaboration with the European Union and LifeWatch European Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC);

(i) Keep up or extend monitoring networks and activities;

(ii) Multipurpose networks;

(iii) Access to data;

(iv) Funding opportunities.

20. The Bureaux, in particular:

(a) Welcomed the recent activities by ICP Vegetation on modelling ozone fluxes in soil moisture limited areas, the results of the 2015/16 survey on heavy metals, nitrogen and persistent organic pollutant concentrations in mosses (including contributions from nine countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia) and outreach activities in Asia;

(b) Noted that the 2018 ICP Waters thematic report on regional extent of acidification showed that there were regions in Europe with possible surface water acidification but with insufficient data; noted that a recent report on mercury³ highlighted a strong decline in fish Hg in Fennoscandia in the past 50 years; welcomed ICP Waters contribution to the development of guidelines on effectiveness evaluation under the Minamata Convention; appreciated the continuing close collaboration between ICP Waters and ICP Integrated Monitoring through joint meetings and reports;

(c) Noted the progress of ICP Materials work related to the Call for Data on “Inventory and condition of stock of materials at risk at UNESCO cultural heritage sites”. Data collected from twenty-one unique object of cultural heritage within the Call for Data were elaborated and the risk and the risk factors for each material and each cultural object were assessed. A report on economic evaluation of the damage due to air pollution on the materials which constitute these objects will be produced by September 2019;

(d) Noted the progress on the update of WHO Global Air Quality Guidelines (AQGs) reported by the Task force on Health; welcomed further improvement of WHO AirQ+ software tool, which estimates the health effects of air pollution; welcomed the information on the first WHO training workshop (with support from ECE secretariat) on air quality and health in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina in November 2018; noted the information about the first WHO Global conference on air pollution and health held in Geneva in 2018 and expert meeting on risk communication and intervention to reduce exposure and to minimize the health effects of air pollution in Geneva in February 2019; noted on-going cooperation between WHO, TFIAM and CIAM and reiterated the importance of collaboration between WHO, EMEP and the Working Group on Effects to facilitate consistent methodological approaches to assessing the effects of air pollution; encouraged the Task Force to develop methodology to calculate morbidity attributable to air pollution.

D. Improving cooperation between EMEP and the Working Group on Effects

21. The Bureaux confirmed the need for further improving the cooperation between EMEP and the Working Group on Effects. The Convention is setup to govern policy on air pollution mitigation based on effects (ecosystem effects: acidification, eutrophication, biodiversity and health effects). The co-operation between EMEP and the Working Group on Effects should help to assess whether the implements policies are sufficient and to design further steps in areas where it is needed.

22. The Bureaux welcomed the information on and recommendations for improving cooperation between EMEP and the Working Group on Effects prepared by the sub-group of EMEP and effects experts and recommended the continuation of the discussions on the improvement of the cooperation during the fifth joint session.

³ Braaten et al. 2019 Environ. Sci. Technol. 53, 1834-1843.

E. Update of the monitoring strategy for EMEP

23. A representative of CCC, supported by the Co-Chairs of the Task Force on Measurements and Modelling and the Chair of the EMEP Steering Body, presented the progress on the update of the EMEP monitoring strategy. The draft text of the updated strategy would be discussed during the twentieth annual Task Force meeting (Madrid, 7-9 May) and then forwarded for the consideration and approval by the EMEP Steering Body at the fifth joint session. It is expected that the updated strategy will be adopted by the Executive Body at its thirty-ninth session in December 2019.

F. Update of strategies for EMEP and for the effects-related activities

24. The Chairs of the EMEP Steering Body and the Working Group on Effects informed that the work on update of the strategies for EMEP and for the Working Group will move to the 2020-2021 workplan. It was not possible to fulfill the task within the current biennial workplan. Also, a number of science-related short-term recommendations included in the Convention's Long-term Strategy are going to be included into the 2020-2021 workplan, while the long-term recommendations were incorporated into the mandates for scientific centres and task forces.

G. EMEP specific budgetary issues

25. The Bureaux discussed EMEP specific budgetary issues. Most efforts by centres and task forces are associated with tasks described in their mandates while biennial workplans cover specific short-term activities and projects. Most of the centres report considerable in-kind contributions (from host Parties) spent on activities that were not funded by the EMEP budget. On the other hand, the activities of the EMEP task forces are funded almost entirely by Parties (participating experts) and by the lead countries (task force co-chairs). The Bureaux decided to continue the discussions on funding and budgetary issues at their next meetings.

H. Working Group on Effects specific budgetary issues

26. The Bureaux discussed the Working Group on Effects specific budgetary issues focusing on financing needs and sources. The Bureaux reiterated that most of the ICP/Task Force work depends on support by Parties (participation of national experts, monitoring data). Centres and Task Force chairs provide coordination of activities, organize meetings and monitor the workplan implementation. The ICPs and task forces provide: tools for impact assessments (e.g. critical loads), harmonized methodologies (critical load/levels calculations and monitoring procedures), data (recording, management and analysis), reporting and arena for scientific discussions. The Bureaux decided to continue the discussions on funding and budgetary issues at their next meetings.

I. Update of the mandates for centres and task forces

27. The Chair of the Steering Body to EMEP and the Chair of the Working Group on Effects supported by the secretariat provided update on the process and timeline (2019) for the finalization of updated mandates of centres and task forces under EMEP and the Working Group on Effects developed in 2018. At its thirty-eighth session, the Executive Body took note of the draft revised mandates for the scientific centres and task forces under EMEP and the Working Group on Effects, as contained in documents ECE/EB.AIR/2018/5-7 and adopted them provisionally with minor amendments made during the session. It further requested the secretariat to finalize them and submit draft decisions for their formal adoption at its thirty-ninth session in December 2019. The mandate for ICP Modelling and Mapping and CCE might require further modifications depending on the agreed scope of work for the centre. Also, if the JEG Dynamic Modelling is transformed into a new centre under the

Working Group on Effects - subject to the approval of the Executive Body - it will need a new mandate. The draft mandate for JEG Dynamic Modelling as a new centre needs to be discussed and approved at the fifth joint session.

J. Communication and sharing information with partner organizations and other regions

28. Several of the Convention centres and task forces (MSC-E, MSC-W, CCC, CIAM, the Task Force on Measurements and Modelling, the Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution, various ICPs and the Task Force on Health) informed the Bureaux about ongoing and planned activities with other international projects, bodies and mechanisms within (e.g. European Union research projects) and beyond ECE region. Several opportunities for increased cooperation, communication and information sharing were mentioned, in particular, in relation to work on:

- (a) Persistent organic pollutants and mercury (Stockholm and Minamata Conventions);
- (b) Black carbon emission inventories (the Arctic Council/Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Program);
- (c) Ecosystem monitoring, national emission inventory reviews and adjustment reviews (European Union National Emissions Ceilings Directive);
- (d) Hemispheric and global air pollution assessments (South and South-East Asia);
- (e) Climate change and biodiversity (Climate and Clean Air Coalition, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, European Union Habitats Directive).⁴

29. The secretariat highlighted a number of outreach events and cooperation opportunities in 2019. To enhance the visibility of the Convention, the secretariat – once again - encouraged the Working Group on Effects and EMEP to contact the secretariat whenever an interesting opportunity to promote the Convention arises.

30. The Bureaux welcomed the various outreach activities and information sharing efforts and encouraged all the centres, task forces, groups and the secretariat to continue such actions pointing out to the need for activities at various levels (individual experts, research groups, task forces and bodies of the Convention). The Bureaux also stressed that outreach activities should be beneficial for both sides.

K. Fortieth anniversary of the Convention

31. The secretariat informed about the planned activities – throughout 2019 - to celebrate the fortieth anniversary of the Convention. A number of promotional materials are developed including anniversary brochure, a video, leaflets, press releases and presentations at meetings and workshops. The main celebration will be organized on 11 and 12 December during the thirty-ninth session of the Executive Body. The celebration will include early career workshop, high-level segment, launch of the forum for cooperation with non-ECE regions, receptions, bilateral meetings etc.

L. Capacity building in countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia

32. The secretariat updated on the capacity building activities led by the secretariat in countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. The capacity building has been carried out since late 2014 thanks to generous contributions by the European Union, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Russian Federation, Sweden and Switzerland. The programme is needs driven i.e. the Parties in collaboration with the secretariat set the scope

⁴ Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.

of activities and the priorities. Over the last five years, the activities were focused on national emission inventories and analysis of air quality related national legislation. In 2019, the following activities are foreseen:

(a) Workshop to promote ratification of the protocols to the Convention in the EECCA region“, 14 -16 May, Berlin;

(b) National Action Plan for ratification and roundtable discussions in Armenia and Azerbaijan (September-October 2019) – to support the ratification of the key protocols to the Convention;

(c) Trainings on emission inventories, gridding emissions and Informative Inventory Reports in Armenia and Azerbaijan (September-November 2019) – to support maintaining and improving national emission reporting.

33. The workshop in Berlin is organized in cooperation with Germany and the Task Force on Techno-economic Issues. The workshop objectives include:

(a) Better understanding of the concept of Best Available Technologies (BAT) and its application in various industrial sectors;

(b) Exchange of knowledge and experience on BAT approaches adopted in different parts of the ECE region;

(c) Discuss obstacles and ways forward to enhance and facilitate ratification and implementation.

34. The Bureau welcomed the information provided by the secretariat and:

(a) Appreciated the capacity building activities led by the secretariat since they help to generate complete and better quality emission data and encouraged and supported these activities as increased involvement of countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia has been a priority for the Convention;

(b) Encouraged increasing involvement of countries Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia in effects-oriented and EMEP activities.

IV. Preparations for the fifth joint session of the Steering Body and the Working Group on Effects

35. The Bureaux discussed the agenda and the format for the fifth joint session of the Steering Body and the Working Group on Effects, to be held from 9–13 September 2019. Like the first four joint sessions of the two bodies held in 2015–2018, the session in 2019 will be a joint session with a single agenda and a single session report. The draft session agenda will be developed by the secretariat in collaboration with the Chairs of the Steering Body and the Working Group on Effects. EMEP related issues will be taken at the beginning of the session, followed by joint (EMEP/Working Group) thematic session and by the Working Group on Effects specific issues. The joint thematic sessions will include the following issues: lessons learnt from the fourth joint session, black carbon issues and the nitrogen issues. The black carbon related part will be prepared by Ms. Oksana Tarasova (WMO/Task Force on Measurements and Modelling), while the part dealing with nitrogen will be prepared by Mr. Martin Forsius (Finland), Mr. Filip Moldan (Sweden) and Ms. Sabine Augustin (Switzerland). The session on nitrogen will include contributions from the work by Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen. The Bureaux also discussed a potential session with a focus on needs of countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. Such a session could be organized at one of future joint sessions when there will be good attendance of representatives of the region (not possible in 2019 due to lack of funding for travel support).

36. The Bureaux re-emphasized that the agenda item focused on information sharing by Parties on the implementation of EMEP and of effects-oriented activities, should continue to be a regular item during the joint sessions. Parties would be invited to present their national experiences, successes and challenges (including scientific reports and publications), as well as their collaboration with EMEP and the Working Group on Effects Centres, task forces and expert groups.

V. Financial and budgetary matters – information by the secretariat

A. Status of mandatory and voluntary cash contributions

37. The secretariat reported on the status of cash contributions to the EMEP Trust Fund, stressing that 41 (out of 47) Parties to the 1984 Protocol on Long-term Financing of the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe had paid at least part of their contributions for 2018. The total of contributions received in 2018 for the EMEP Trust Fund was \$2,343,595 slightly below the \$2,358,700 budgeted. There had been no in-kind contributions by the Parties reported in 2018. The Bureaux welcomed the 2018 financial situation. More details on financial and budgetary issues can be found in the financial document for the fifth joint session (ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2019/19–ECE/EB.AIR/WG.1/2018/12).

38. Secretariat informed also about the status of contribution by Parties to the Convention's Trust Fund for effects-oriented activities in 2018 (\$783,913 by 30 November 2018, tentative figure) and about the schedule of payments to centres for their work in 2018. The earmarked contributions totaled \$206,373 while the non-earmarked contributions totaled \$577,540 (both are tentative figures). The 2019 Appendices to the multi-year Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) were being prepared and would be finalized later in 2019. The 2019 Appendices would include all the pending activities and deliverables as provided in the 2018–2019 workplan for the implementation of the Convention. The successor to CCE began its operation only in 2019, Therefore, the 1/8 part of the non-earmarked contribution (\$ 54,900) that would normally be set for CCE, was not used in 2018. Instead, it will be used to support the activities of CCE successor in 2019 (in addition to its regular 2019 co-funding). The details of the 2018 and 2019 cash contributions to partially fund the effects-oriented activities in the period 2018–2019 are presented in the table below. The Bureaux took note of the information presented by the secretariat.

Table

Use of cash contributions to partially fund the effects-oriented activities in the period 2018–2019

(in United States dollars)

<i>Activity area</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2019^a</i>
Earmarked		
ICP F	56 900	56 900
ICP W	46 300	46 400
ICP M	55 200	—
ICP V	—	—
ICP IM	—	—
ICP M&M	—	—
Health	—	—
CIAM	36 900	37 000
Total earmarked	195 300	145 400
Non-earmarked ^b		
ICP F	52 900	73 200
ICP W	52 900	73 200

<i>Activity area</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2019^a</i>
ICP M	52 900	73 200
ICP V	52 900	73 200
ICP IM	52 900	73 200
ICP M&M	52 900	73 200
Health	52 900	73 200
CIAM	52 900	73 200
Total non-earmarked	423 200	585 600

Note: Contributions listed under programme centres and other subsidiary bodies of the Convention include earmarked funds towards their work. Recommended contributions are as agreed by the Executive Body.

Abbreviations: ICP F = International Cooperative Programme (ICP) on Assessment and Monitoring of Air Pollution Effects on Forests; ICP W = ICP on Assessment and Monitoring of Effects of Air Pollution on Rivers and Lakes; ICP M = ICP on Effects of Air Pollution on Materials, including Historic and Cultural Monuments; ICP V = ICP on Effects of Air Pollution on Natural Vegetation and Crops; ICP IM = ICP on Integrated Monitoring of Air Pollution Effects on Ecosystems; ICP M&M = ICP on Modelling and Mapping of Critical Levels and Loads and Air Pollution Effects, Risks and Trends; Health = the Joint Task Force on the Health Aspects of Air Pollution; CIAM = Centre for Integrated Assessment Modelling.

^a Tentative figures.

^b Non-earmarked contributions were shared equally among ICPs, the Task Force on Health and CIAM.

B. Use of resources for EMEP in 2018

39. The Bureaux considered the yearly financial statements of MSC-E, MSC-W and CCC for 2018. The Bureaux noted that the resources for 2018 had been used as budgeted, and noted the significant in-kind contributions by the host countries as presented in their financial statements: CCC \$16,411, MSC-E \$49,549 and MSC-W \$534,847 including \$91,901 and \$190,610 from CIAM and CEIP, respectively.

40. The Bureaux discussed the distribution of the EMEP budget for 2018–2019. It noted that the structure and distribution of the EMEP budget among the Centres corresponded to the current needs and priorities as set in the Long-term Strategy, and the 2018-2019 workplan for the implementation of the Convention (ECE/EB.AIR/140/Add.1). The Bureaux discussed the EMEP budget for 2020 and without the supportive recommendation of the Executive Body, decided to discontinue the practice of proposing setting aside – from EMEP budget – a relatively small budget to fund “emerging issues”.

C. Contracts for centres in 2019

41. Like in 2018, the centers will be invited to provide to ECE the forecasts of the 2019 budget split (e.g. into personnel costs, travel, subcontracting etc.). The draft proposed budget splits (elaborated by the secretariat) would be based on reported expenditures in the 2018 financial statements submitted by the centres to ECE.

VI. Closing of the Bureaux meeting

42. The next joint meeting of the Bureaux and the Extended Bureaux of the EMEP Steering Body and the Working Group on Effects was tentatively scheduled to be held in the week 16 to 21 March (or 23 – 27 March) 2020 in Geneva. The date for the meeting is chosen to avoid overlaps with winter holidays and the 2020 Geneva Motor Show which will be held

between 5 and 15 March 2020. Alternatively, the meeting could be organized in Paris or Oslo
– according to informal interests announced by Colleagues in France and Norway.
