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Economic Commission for EuropeExecutive 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****Sixth joint session**

Geneva, 14–18 September 2020

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 to the
Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of
the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe
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 online from 24 to 26 March 2020.



I. Introduction

1. The present note details the activities of the Bureau (comprised of the Chair and the Vice-Chairs) 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 under the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (Convention). The two Bureaux, together with the respective Extended Bureaux (comprised of the Chairs and Co-Chairs of centres and task forces), held their joint meeting online from 24 to 26 March 2020.

A. Attendance

2. The following EMEP Steering Body Bureau members attended the meeting: Ms. Laurence Rouïl (France), Chair of the Steering Body, Mr. Xavier Querol (Spain), Vice-Chair of the Steering Body, Ms. Sonja Vidič (Croatia), Vice-Chair of the Steering Body, and Mr. Rudolf Weber (Switzerland), Vice-Chair of the Steering Body. 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. Alessandra De Marco (Italy) and Ms. Gudrun Schuetze (Germany). Ms. Anna Engleryd (Sweden), Chair of the Executive Body to the Convention, Ms. Dominique Pritula (Canada), Vice-Chair of the Working Group on Strategies and Review, Ms. Susanne Lindahl and Mr. Martin Schneekloth (European Commission) also attended.

3. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following EMEP centres: the Chemical Coordinating Centre; the Centre on Emission Inventories and Projections; the Centre for Integrated Assessment Modelling; the Meteorological Synthesizing Centre-East; and the Meteorological Synthesizing Centre-West. Representatives of the following EMEP task forces participated: the Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projections; the Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution; the Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling; and the Task Force on Measurements and Modelling. Representatives of the following scientific centres and task forces under the Working Group on Effects participated: the International Cooperative Programme on Modelling and Mapping of Critical Levels and Loads and Air Pollution Effects, Risks and Trends (ICP Modelling and Mapping) and its Coordination Centre for Effects and the Centre for Dynamic Modelling; the Joint Task Force on the Health Aspects of Air Pollution (Task Force on Health); the Programme Centre of the International Cooperative Programme on Assessment and Monitoring of the Effects of Air Pollution on Rivers and Lakes (ICP Waters); the Programme Centre of the International Cooperative Programme on Effects of Air Pollution on Materials, including Historic and Cultural Monuments (ICP Materials); the Programme Centre of the International Cooperative Programme on Effects of Air Pollution on Natural Vegetation and Crops (ICP Vegetation); the Programme Centre of the International Cooperative Programme on Integrated Monitoring of Air Pollution Effects on Ecosystems (ICP Integrated Monitoring); and the Programme Coordinating Centre of the International Cooperative Programme on Assessment and Monitoring of Air Pollution Effects on Forests (ICP Forests). Representatives of the World Health Organization (WHO) and its Regional Office for Europe, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the Convention secretariat also attended. The meeting agenda and the list of participants are available online.¹

B. Organization of work

4. The meeting was chaired by Ms. Rabago and Ms. Rouïl. Participants of the meeting expressed gratitude to Ms. Rouil and the French National Institute for Industrial Environment and Risks (INERIS) for organizing the online meeting. The meeting was originally planned to be hosted by INERIS; however, due to travel restrictions imposed throughout Europe

¹ See www.unece.org/index.php?id=53162.

owing to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, it was decided to hold the meeting online instead.

5. The format of the annual joint meeting of the respective Bureaux and the Extended Bureaux was similar to that of the meeting held in Laxenburg, Austria, from 19 to 21 March 2019, with parts of the meeting dedicated specifically to EMEP issues and to effects-oriented issues under the Working Group on Effect. The middle part of the meeting was dedicated to the joint activities of the two scientific communities. The key issues discussed were the:

(a) Implementation of the science part of the 2020–2021 workplan for the implementation of the Convention (ECE/EB.AIR/144/Add.2);

(b) Update of the strategies for EMEP² and the Working Group on Effects;³

(c) Contribution to the review of the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone (Gothenburg Protocol), as amended in 2012, launched by the Executive Body at its thirty-ninth session (Geneva, 9–13 December 2019) (Executive Body decision 2019/4);

(d) Agenda of the sixth joint session of the Steering Body to EMEP and the Working Group on Effects, to be held in Geneva, from 14 to 18 September 2020 (ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2020/1–ECE/EB.AIR/WG.1/2020/1);

(e) Contribution to the forum for international cooperation on air pollution (Executive Body decision 2019/5).

II. Matters arising from the thirty-ninth session of the Executive Body

6. The Chair of the Steering Body to EMEP drew attention to the major outcomes of the thirty-ninth session of the Executive Body for the Convention: the adoption of the monitoring strategy for EMEP for the period 2020–2029 (decision 2019/1); the adoption of the revised mandates for all scientific centres, international cooperative programmes and task forces (decisions 2019/6–2019/21); the establishment of the Centre for Dynamic Modelling under ICP Modelling and Mapping; the establishment of the forum for international cooperation on air pollution (decision 2019/5); the launch of the review of the Gothenburg Protocol, as amended in 2012 (decision 2019/4);⁴ and a special session dedicated to the fortieth anniversary of the Convention attended by high-level representatives of Parties and international organizations dealing with air pollution.

III. Planned activities for 2020–2021, key issues, cooperation and outreach activities

A. Highlights of the 2020–2021 workplan - Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe activities

7. The representatives of EMEP task forces and centres presented and discussed the key activities included in the science part of the 2020–2021 workplan for the implementation of

² Available at http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/documents/2012/EB/Informal_document_no_20_Revised_Strategy_for_EMEP_for_2010-2019_clean_text.pdf.

³ Available at www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/documents/2012/EB/Informal_document_no_18_Revised_Long-term_Strategy_of_the_effects-oriented_activities_clean_text.pdf.

⁴ All decisions referred to in paragraph 7 are available at www.unece.org/env/lrtap/executivebody/eb_decision.html.

the Convention. The purpose was to identify issues important in both the short- and the long-term. The participants welcomed the information provided and noted the following highlights:

(a) Further improvement of national inventories; inclusion of condensables and semi-volatile compounds; further development of the *EMEP/EEA air pollutant emission inventory guidebook: Technical guidance to prepare national emission inventories* (EMEP/EEA Guidebook)⁵ and the need to secure long-term funding; a more focused inventory review process (reported by the Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projections);

(b) Improvement of emission data for modellers (gridding and gap-filling); cooperation with the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme on black carbon (BC); review of inventories and adjustment requests beyond 2020; improvements to and enhanced functionality of the Centre on Emission Inventories and Projections website;

(c) EMEP/Aerosol, Clouds and Trace Gases Research Infrastructure Network /Chemical OnLine cOmpoSition and Source Apportionment of fine aerosoL winter 2017/18 field campaign, with a focus on BC, levoglucosan and benzo[a]pyrene (B(a)P); EuroDelta-Carb intercomparison exercise focused on BC, organic aerosols and B(a)P (Task Force on Measurements and Modelling);

(d) BC assessment in cooperation with the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme; cooperation with the Copernicus Atmosphere Monitoring Service on implementation of Near Real-Time data; expected delays in laboratory work due to the pandemic (Chemical Coordinating Centre);

(e) Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH) pollution and population exposure; B(a)P multimodel study in collaboration with EuroDelta-Carb; country studies on heavy metals and B(a)P (France, Germany, Poland and Spain); study on mercury atmospheric chemistry (Meteorological Synthesizing Centre-East);

(f) A multi-stakeholder study and workshop on condensables; BC assessment (EuroDelta-Carb); ozone flux-based risk assessment adapted for vegetation in soil moisture limited areas in the Mediterranean region; multiscale modelling (Meteorological Synthesizing Centre-West);

(g) Three reports requested by the Working Group on Strategies and Review on ammonia, costs of inaction and particle matter (PM) emission reduction measures that also reduce BC; significant contributions by national experts to the workshop organized by the Expert Panel on Clean Air in Cities of the Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling (Bratislava, 27 November 2019);

(h) Analysis of recent updates to national emission inventories revealed surprising significant changes; importance of natural emission sources in some locations; complementarity and interrelations between air quality, climate change and agriculture/food policies in the context of population exposure to particulate matter concentrations (Centre for Integrated Assessment Modelling);

(i) Ozone and methane mitigation versus health and ecosystems benefits; update of Global Emissions Mosaics; continued developed of open-source FASST Scenario Screening Tool (openFASST Tool) (Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution).

B. Highlights of the 2020–2021 workplan - Working Group on Effects activities

8. The representatives of the Working Group on Effects task forces and centres presented and discussed the key activities included in the science part of the 2020–2021 workplan for the implementation of the Convention. The purpose was to identify issues important in both

⁵ See www.eea.europa.eu/publications/emep-eea-guidebook-2019.

the short- and the long-term. The participants welcomed the information provided and noted the following highlights:

(a) Update of the WHO Global Air Quality Guidelines; improvement of tools to assess air pollution effects (AirQ+, CARBonH); support to Parties, including subregional capacity-building training sessions (Western Balkans and the Caucasus; reported by the Task Force on Health);

(b) Two reports on environmental data and on trends in corrosion, soiling and pollution 1987–2019; update of the Mapping Manual;⁶ a report on pollutant-specific costs of damage for selected United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) sites (ICP Materials);

(c) Trend report based on water chemical records at 500 sites in Europe and North America; nitrogen trends in deposition and surface waters in cooperation with EMEP; revisiting the nitrogen saturation hypothesis (ICP Waters);

(d) Three scientific papers on: impacts of internal catchment-related nitrogen parameters to total inorganic nutrient nitrogen leaching; heavy metals trends; effects of nitrogen enrichment on forest vegetation in cooperation with ICP Forests (ICP Integrated Monitoring);

(e) Review of ozone-flux module in the EMEP model; final report on moss survey 2015/2016; diverse outreach activities: ozone pollution training workshop for African scientists (Bangor, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, 24–26 September 2019); fifth Asian Air Pollution Workshop (Varanasi, India, 5–7 November 2019); report on ozone impacts on crops in developing countries (ICP Vegetation);

(f) Extensive publication records in 2019/2020, including 51 peer-reviewed articles; studies on ozone flux response relationships, nitrogen deposition and its effects on forest vegetation and status and trends of heavy metals in forest ecosystems (ICP Forests);

(g) Steady-state critical loads (update of national critical loads by National Focal Centres); review and revision of empirical critical loads – coordinated by the Coordination Centre for Effects; review of dynamic modelling (work by the Centre for Dynamic Modelling) – identification of areas of common interests and potential gaps (ICP Modelling and Mapping).

C. Highlights of the 2020–2021 workplan – cross-cutting issues

9. Participants took note of the oral reports from the EMEP and Working Group on Effects centres and task forces on the key activities and priorities for science in the 2020–2021 workplan. The following key cross-cutting issues were reconfirmed:

(a) Support to Parties, for example, with regard to national research (national emission inventories and projections, air pollution and its effects monitoring, other effects-related work, local and subregional modelling, country case studies), easy access to monitoring and modelled data and technical knowledge, development of tools, etc.;

(b) Cooperation with internal and external partners within and beyond the ECE region;

(c) Depending on particular national needs, continuation and, where needed, extension of the technical support to countries in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.

10. The science-related items contained in the current 2020–2021 workplan and priorities within EMEP and the Working Group on Effects would be discussed during the task force

⁶ See Chapter 4 in Manual for Modelling and Mapping Critical Loads & Levels. Available at: <https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/en/manual-for-modelling-mapping-critical-loads-levels?parent=68093>.

meetings between March and June 2020 and would be presented and discussed during the sixth joint session in September 2020.

D. Workshop on condensables in particulate matter

11. A representative of the Meteorological Synthesizing Centre-West presented the outcomes of the workshop on state of the art and best approaches in treatment of condensables in particulate matter emission inventories and modelling (online, 17–19 March 2020) organized as part of a research project funded by the Nordic Council of Ministers. The final report of the project was due in October 2020. An advanced draft of the report would be available at the sixth joint session. The workshop participants, among other things:

(a) Noted inconsistencies and large uncertainties in the ways in which Parties estimated and reported condensables in national inventories; noted large differences in fine particle matter (PM_{2.5}) residential combustion emission factors;

(b) Confirmed the importance of including condensables in particulate matter emission inventories and in modelling and concluded that residential wood combustion was a priority emission source category; it was also important to take stock of other sources that might prove to be important;

(c) Noted the need for more detailed reporting of relevant activity data in national inventories.

12. A number of short- and long-term conclusions and recommendations were formulated; for example, on use of Copernicus Atmosphere Monitoring Service/the Netherlands Organization for Applied Scientific Research (TNO) Ref2⁷ emission data set for describing condensable emissions from residential wood combustion in dispersion modelling as an interim solution and the need for further technical work on emission factors leading to the update of those parts of the EMEP/EEA Guidebook that were relevant for condensables. Further discussions on condensables were planned during the relevant EMEP task force meetings in April–May 2020. The outcome of the discussions and the way forward would be further considered at the sixth joint session.

13. The Bureaux and the Extended Bureaux:

(a) Supported the proposal by the Meteorological Synthesizing Centre-West to use in the 2020 EMEP model calculations the TNO Ref2 emission data set to fill in the gap in particulate matter emission estimates in the residential sector for all countries;

(b) Noted the need to discuss further possible options, what could be done and when;

(c) Noted the need to share the responsibilities and workload associated with the improvement of condensables between all relevant stakeholders, including the EMEP Steering Body, centres, task forces and national experts;

(d) Noted the need to keep the scientific track separate from the policy track, including possible compliance aspects.

E. Cooperation with LifeWatch European Research Infrastructure Consortium

14. The Chair of the Working Group on Effects provided an update on developments under LifeWatch European Research Infrastructure Consortium, reporting on the call for projects regarding ecosystem functioning and biodiversity launched in June 2019. If approved, several ICPs would take part in the project presented by the Guadalquivir

⁷ *Particulate emissions from residential wood combustion in Europe revised estimates and an evaluation*, HAC van der Gon, Robert Bergström, Christos Fountoukis, Christer Johansson, SN Pandis, David Simpson, Anton JH Visschedij, Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics, pp 1680-7324, Vol. 15, no 11, p. 6503–6519.

Hydrographic Confederation. The outcome of the evaluation of the proposals was expected by late 2019/early 2020 but there had been a delay in the process.

15. The participants welcomed the information on the progress of collaboration between the Working Group and LifeWatch European Research Infrastructure Consortium and recommended that discussions on cooperation be continued during the sixth joint session.

F. Convention harmonized receptor map

16. The Chair of the Coordination Centre for Effects presented a proposal for updating the harmonized receptor map for use within the Convention. The proposal had been developed with support from ICP Vegetation and the Meteorological Synthesizing Centre-West. The currently available map dated back to 2007 and its spatial domain was limited to Europe. He described the needs and possible approach to such an update. Among other things, the map provided the basis for modelling of pollutant deposition, critical loads and levels and ozone effects. Both EMEP and the Working Group on Effects would benefit from such an update.

17. The participants noted the proposal and requested the interested centres and task forces to continue discussions on the update and report on progress at the sixth joint session.

G. Cooperation and information-sharing with partner organizations and other regions

18. Several of the Convention centres and task forces reported on ongoing and planned activities in cooperation with countries in other regions, partner organizations and other international projects and bodies within (for example, European Union research projects) and beyond the ECE region. Several opportunities for increased cooperation, communication and information-sharing were mentioned, in particular, in relation to work on:

(a) Development and reviews of national emission inventories; atmospheric and ecosystem monitoring and modelling (the European Union, the Copernicus Atmosphere Monitoring Service, Long-Term Ecosystem Research in Europe; various research projects and studies, for example, Aerosol, Clouds and Trace Gases Research Infrastructure Network, Chemical On-Line cOmpoSition and Source Apportionment of fine aerosoL, EuroDelta-Carb);

(b) BC emissions, monitoring and modelling (the Arctic Council/Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme; Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change; World Meteorological Organization-Global Atmosphere Watch);

(c) Persistent organic pollutants and mercury (Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme, European Union, the Minamata Convention on Mercury and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, United Nations Environment Programme);

(d) Protection of marine ecosystems (the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission and the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic);

(e) Hemispheric and global air pollution assessments (Global Emissions Initiative; non-ECE regions);

(f) Climate change and biodiversity (Climate and Clean Air Coalition, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, European Union Habitats Directive).⁸

19. Participants welcomed the various outreach activities and information-sharing efforts and encouraged all the centres, task forces, groups and the secretariat to continue such

⁸ Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, *Official Journal of the European Communities*, L 206 (1992), pp. 7–92

actions, pointing to the need for activities at various levels (individual experts, research groups, task forces, centres and bodies under the Convention). Participants reaffirmed that outreach activities should be beneficial for both sides. The scientific cooperation and outreach efforts beyond the ECE region could contribute to the activities of the recently launched forum for international cooperation on air pollution.

H. Improving cooperation between the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe and the Working Group on Effects

20. The participants confirmed the need to further improve cooperation between EMEP and the Working Group on Effects. The Convention had been set up to govern policy on air pollution mitigation based on effects (ecosystem effects: acidification, eutrophication, biodiversity and health effects). The cooperation between EMEP and the Working Group on Effects should help to assess whether the implemented policies were sufficient and to design further steps in areas where they were required.

21. The participants welcomed the information provided and recommended that discussions on the improvement of cooperation should continue during the sixth joint session.

IV. Update of strategies for the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe and for effects-related activities

22. During the joint part of the meeting, representatives of centres and task forces under the Working Group on Effects presented the key achievements in implementing the Revised long-term strategy of the effects-oriented activities⁹ over the past ten years, and proposed elements relevant for the update of the strategy (new priorities, future scientific work and road map). Similarly, representatives of EMEP task forces and centres presented the key achievements in implementing the Revised strategy for EMEP for 2010–2019¹⁰ and proposed elements relevant for the update of the strategy. The presentations were followed by an extensive discussion that focused on key elements and common and cross-cutting issues among EMEP and Working Group on Effects communities. The key achievements of the scientific centres and task forces under the Convention had been included in their revised mandates (decisions 2019/6–2019/21).

23. At their fifth joint session (Geneva, 9–13 September 2019), the EMEP Steering Body and the Working Group on Effects decided to prepare updates to the EMEP and Working Group strategies – to be elaborated in 2020, for consideration and endorsement at their sixth joint session – to be forwarded to the Executive Body for its consideration and approval at its fortieth session (ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2019/2–ECE/EB.AIR/WG.1/2019/2, para. 72 (b)). Participants agreed that the updated strategies should be formulated in a combined document. The draft updated strategy should be in line with the provisions of the Long-term strategy for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution for 2020–2030 and beyond (Executive Body decision 2018/5). The Chairs of the EMEP Steering Body and the Working Group on Effects would take the lead in preparing the draft strategy based on inputs from scientific centres and task forces. The draft document would be available for discussion at the sixth joint session.

⁹ Available at www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/documents/2012/EB/Informal_document_no_18_Revised_Long-term_Strategy_of_the_effects-oriented_activities_clean_text.pdf.

¹⁰ Available at http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/documents/2012/EB/Informal_document_no_20_Revised_Strategy_for_EMEP_for_2010-2019_clean_text.pdf.

V. Review of the Gothenburg Protocol

24. At its thirty-ninth session, the Executive Body adopted decision 2019/4 whereby it initiated the review of the Gothenburg Protocol, as amended in 2012, and also requested the subsidiary bodies of the Convention to prioritize work that supported the review. The annex to decision 2019/4 contained a list of potential elements that could inform the scope and content of the review. Participants discussed the potential input of the Steering Body and the Working Group on Effects to the review of the amended Gothenburg Protocol and confirmed that the elements listed in section D of the above-mentioned annex were the most relevant ones. However, some new potential elements were proposed for further discussions, including:

- (a) The protection of marine ecosystems;
- (b) Chemicals of emerging concern – substances introduced by industry replacing banned substances, such as new persistent organic pollutants, pesticides or microplastics;
- (c) Biogenic emissions, natural sources and biomass burning in atmospheric and integrated modelling;
- (d) The effect of air pollutant emission changes outside the ECE region on concentrations and depositions within the ECE region.

25. At the sixth joint session, the EMEP Steering Body and the Working Group on Effects were expected to discuss and agree on the timeline for providing the scientific input to the process of the Gothenburg Protocol review.

26. A representative of the Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling proposed that the scientific review process of the Gothenburg Protocol be organized through a consistent process of recalculation of health and ecosystem impacts of current reduction obligations and emission limit values. The recalculation process would include the application of the Greenhouse Gas and Air Pollution Interactions and Synergies (GAINS) model, with contributions from EMEP and the Working Group on Effects.

VI. Preparations for the sixth joint session of the Steering Body and the Working Group on Effects

27. The Bureaux discussed the agenda and format for the sixth joint session of the Steering Body and the Working Group on Effects. The draft session agenda would be developed by the secretariat in collaboration with the Chairs of the Steering Body and the Working Group on Effects. The Working Group on Effects-related issues would be taken at the beginning of the session, followed by a joint part (EMEP/Working Group) including the thematic session or sessions and followed by EMEP-specific issues. The joint part of the session would include the following issues: the contribution of the Convention scientific bodies to the review of the Gothenburg Protocol; and preparation of the updated strategy for EMEP and the Working Group on Effects. The Bureaux also discussed other potential items for the thematic session (for example, updated critical loads, common receptor map for all ICPs). The content of joint thematic session would be further discussed via email.

28. 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 (including scientific reports and publications) and challenges in their collaboration with EMEP and Working Group on Effects centres and task forces.

29. The Bureaux noted the information provided by the secretariat that, in view of the measures taken by the Parties and the United Nations in response to the pandemic, the sixth joint session could be postponed or held online rather than in person.

VII. Financial and budgetary matters

A. Status of voluntary cash contributions and payments for centres for work done in 2019

30. The secretariat reported on the status of payments for work done in 2019 for centres under EMEP and the Working Group. Some payments were still being disbursed.

31. The secretariat recalled that the amount contributed by Parties in 2019 that would serve as a basis for the 2020 contracts was \$733,956, \$198,268 of which was earmarked for specific ICPs. The unearmarked amount of \$535,688 would be equally distributed among the nine centres. The secretariat further reported that, in February 2020, it had sent out letters requesting Parties to pay their recommended voluntary contributions for 2020.

B. Contracts for centres in 2020

32. The secretariat reported on a new procedure for managing grants to implementing partners introduced at ECE. Grant agreements for 2020 would be signed under the new procedure. The secretariat noted that the new procedure introduced a new step that required the centres to apply for the funding. The required applications would be prepared by the secretariat on behalf of the centres.

33. The Bureaux took note of the information provided by the secretariat and requested the secretariat to begin preparations for contracts in 2020 as early as feasible. More details on financial and budgetary issues could be found in the document on financial and budgetary matters for the sixth joint session (ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2020/19–ECE/EB.AIR/WG.1/2020/12).

C. Proposal for the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe budget in 2021

34. The Bureaux did not discuss the proposal for the EMEP budget in 2021. The Chair and the Vice-Chairs of the Steering Body discussed the draft EMEP 2021 budget in the weeks following the Extended Bureaux meeting. The total amount of the EMEP budget for the year 2021 is similar to the 2020 budget, the main question being budget sharing amongst the EMEP centers with respect to the priorities set in the 2020–2021 workplan. The EMEP Steering Body would discuss the draft proposal at the sixth joint session.

VIII. Closing of the joint meeting of the Bureaux and the Extended Bureaux

35. Representative of ICP Materials reported that Ms. Teresa La Torretta would replace Mr. Pasquale Spezzano as Co-Chair of the ICP Materials Task Force and as Head of the Sub-centre for cultural heritage. Mr. Spezzano would retire on 1 August 2020. A representative of ICP Vegetation reported that Ms. Felicity Hayes would replace Mr. Harry Harmens as the Chair of the Task Force. Mr. Harmens would retire on 1 April 2020. Ms. Katrina Sharps would replace Ms. Hayes as Head of the ICP Vegetation Programme Coordination Centre. The Bureaux and the Extended Bureaux expressed their gratitude to Mr. Spezzano and Mr. Harmens for their significant contributions – over many years – to the successful operation of ICP Materials and ICP Vegetation, respectively.

36. The next joint meeting of the Bureaux and the Extended Bureaux of the EMEP Steering Body and the Working Group on Effects could be held in the week of 22 to 26 March 2021 in Geneva. The dates for the meeting had been chosen to avoid overlaps with the winter holidays and the 2021 Geneva Motor Show (4–14 March 2021). Alternatively, the meeting

could be organized in Paris or Oslo – according to informal interests announced by Extended Bureaux members from France and Norway.
