

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

**REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE BUREAU  
TO THE EXECUTIVE BODY FOR THE CONVENTION  
11 December 2006, Geneva**

**Prepared by the secretariat in consultation with the Bureau**

The third meeting of the Bureau in 2006 was chaired by the Chairman of the Executive Body, Mr. M. Williams (United Kingdom), and was attended by Vice-Chairpersons Mr. R. Ballaman (Switzerland), Mr. H. Gregor (Germany), Mr. S. Michel (Switzerland), Ms. S. Nurmi (Finland), Mr. J. Schneider (Austria) and Mr W. Harnett (United States). Mr A. Jagusiewicz (Poland) sent his apologies. Mr M. Johansson (item 1 and 2) and Mr. K. Bull (items 2 - 8) attended for the UNECE secretariat. Mr. M. Vainio (European Commission) attended as observer.

**I. NOTE OF THE BUREAU MEETING OF 19 SEPTEMBER 2006  
(EBBUREAU/2006/2) INCLUDING MATTERS ARISING NOT ELSEWHERE  
ON AGENDA**

1. The note had been circulated and placed on the Convention's website at [www.unece.org/env/eb/bureau](http://www.unece.org/env/eb/bureau).

**II. PREPARATIONS FOR THE TWENTY-SECOND SESSION OF THE  
EXECUTIVE BODY**

2. The secretariat summarized the final preparations for the session including the availability of formal and informal documents.

**A. Implementation Committee**

3. Mr. Michel, Chair of the Implementation Committee, outlined his preparations for the session. The secretariat noted responses from Greece and Spain regarding the invitations to them to present information to the Executive Body regarding their non-compliance. It noted Spain's prompt response and the difficulties encountered in communicating with Greece. The Bureau discussed the election of a new member of the Committee and considered possible candidates. Mr. Michel drew attention to the procedures for electing the Chair of the Implementation Committee, which in practice did not seem to have been consistent with the Committee's terms of reference. The

Bureau agreed that the issue was best resolved through amendment of the terms of reference.

**B. Opening the Convention to countries outside the UNECE region**

4. The Chair noted the proposal of IUAPPA at the last Executive Body session, and informed the Bureau of Sweden's decision to fund Global Forum activities that would be a major contribution to the Convention's outreach work. The secretariat drew attention to the document to be considered by the Executive Body and noted interest from Panama, Libya and the African Council who had indicated they would send delegations to the session. The Bureau noted the practical difficulties of opening the Convention and its protocols; while the Convention might present fewer technical problems, and opening it might harmonize its text with those of the other UNECE Conventions, the process would not be quick and simple **since at least two thirds of the Parties (and probably even all of them) will be** required to ratify the necessary amendment. The Bureau also noted the concern expressed by some that increased resources might be required if the Convention was opened. It was agreed that it was important to present "openness" to non-UNECE States, even if the Convention was not opened for accession. All opportunities for this should be explored.

**C. Accreditation procedures for NGOs**

5. The Bureau took note of the document prepared for the Executive Bodies consideration. Mr. Harnett stressed that the candidate NGOs should demonstrate "subject matter expertise" to ensure they were suitable for accreditation.

**D. Progress in core activities**

6. Mr Schneider identified issues from EMEP that would be drawn to the attention of the Executive Body. He noted that the Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projections were keen to make the reporting guidelines stronger before their adoption in 2007. There were EU plans to harmonize mandatory reporting for EU Member States and it was suggested that mandatory approaches be used for the Convention. The Bureau agreed that the matter should be referred to the Working Group on Strategies and Review with a request for guidance.

7. Mr Schneider noted progress in development of the emission inventory review process. The Bureau strongly encouraged this work to continue to improve the quality of the data reported. Mr. Michel stressed that information from the review process should be provided in a form that the Implementation Committee could use.

8. Also, with regard to emissions, Mr Schneider reminded the Bureau that MSC-West had announced that it no longer wished to continue maintaining the emissions database; it wanted to focus more attention on modelling activities. He noted the EMEP Bureau was considering options for organizations that might take responsibility for this work.

9. Mr Gregor provided information on his report to the Executive Body and reminded the Bureau that he had stepped down as Chair of the Working Group. The Bureau took note of the progress made by the Working Group on Effects and noted

Mr Johannessen, as elected Chair of the working Group, would take over Mr Gregor's position on the Bureau. The Bureau thanked Mr. Gregor for his valuable contribution to the Bureau's work and welcomed his wish to continue to be involved in the work of the Convention.

**E. Reviews and possible revisions of protocols**

10. Mr. Ballaman outlined his presentations to the Executive Body on behalf of the Working Group on Strategies and Review, noting progress towards revision of the Protocol on POPs, the completion of the Protocol on Heavy Metals and progress with the review of the Gothenburg Protocol. Mr. Vainio outlined plans for review of the EU National Emission Ceilings Directive (NECD). The Bureau agreed that it needed to consider how the NECD review might be included in the review of the Gothenburg Protocol.

**F. Financing of Core Activities not funded by the EMEP Protocol**

11. Mr. Ballaman emphasized the continuing difficulties in finding a satisfactory solution to core activities funding. He noted the request of some delegations for a short explanatory text to be added to the letter of request that was sent to Parties. This would assist some to contribute to the Trust Fund. He noted that identification of specific tasks for funding and in-kind contributions could prove useful ways for financing activities. Some delegations had stressed that the funding of the centres should be more transparent, but Mr Johannessen noted that this could be difficult and may even be counter productive.

**G. EECCA action plan**

12. The Bureau discussed current plans. Mr Ballaman stressed the need for countries with economies in transition to identify their needs. This was an important part of the process that was currently lacking. Without such direction, it was difficult to target plans. More emphasis needed to be placed on getting feedback and gathering information on expectations.

**H. Election of officers**

13. The Bureau noted the change of the Chair of the Working Group on Effects. It also noted Mr. Jagusewicz had indicated that, due to a change in his work in Poland, a new Vice-Chair would need to be elected. The Bureau agreed to look for a suitable candidate. Other Bureau members indicated their willingness to stand for re-election.

**III. PREPARATIONS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT FOR EUROPE  
MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE**

14. Mr. Bull outlined the state of plans and drew attention to the paper on implementation of the UNECE conventions that was being prepared for consideration by the Joint convention/Committee on Environmental Policy Bureaux meeting as well as by the Working Group of Senior Officials. Text would be circulated for comment in the new year.

## **VIII. CSD 15**

15. Mr. Williams indicated that the UK was discussing its input to CSD 15. He also noted that UNECE had enquired whether he again might be available to address the UNECE session at CSD. Mr. Bull had not been informed of the secretariat's plans for CSD 15.

## **IX. OUTREACH**

16. Mr. Williams noted that Swedish funding had been secured to support the activities of the Global Forum on Atmospheric Pollution. This may provide support to the UNECE secretariat for this area of work and would be a major stimulus to outreach in general.

17. Mr Ballaman informed the Bureau of an invitation to speak on the Convention to the American Society of Chemical Engineers. Mr. Bull noted that an invitation to the secretariat to attend the 2006 Better Air Quality conference (BAQ2006) was being covered by Mr. Nordberg since dates clashed with the Executive Body session. A report of Mr. Nordberg's visit would be circulated.

## **X. SALTSJOBADEN III WORKSHOP**

18. Members of the Bureau exchanged information on the preparations for the workshop. Most Bureau members expected to take part in the workshop, which, it was agreed, was timely to provide input to deliberations on future work of the Convention.

## **XI. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

19. It was agreed that there were two options for the next meeting, at the time of the Saltsjobaden III workshop or at the time of the Working Group on Strategies and Review session in April.