

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  
25 SEPTEMBER 2001, GENEVA**

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

1. The second meeting of the Bureau in 2001 was chaired by the Chairman of the Executive Body, Mr H Dovland (Norway), and was attended by Vice Chairmen Mr L Lindau (Sweden), Mr W Harnett (United States), Mr R Ballaman (Switzerland), Mr D Hrcek (Slovenia), Mr P Szell (United Kingdom), Mr T Johannessen (Norway), and Mr M Williams (United Kingdom). Mr H Gregor (Germany) the recently elected chairman of the Working Group on Effects also attended. Mr K Bull attended for the UNECE secretariat.

I. NOTE OF THE BUREAU MEETING OF 16 FEBRUARY 2001

2. The Bureau had had the opportunity to comment on and amend the note of the previous meeting (EBBureau/2001/1). The secretariat had subsequently made the note available on the Executive Body's web site. Actions from the previous meeting were dealt with under agenda items below.

II. FINANCING OF CORE ACTIVITIES AND TRUST FUNDS

3. The secretariat provided the Bureau with information on the trust fund for the effect-oriented activities, pointing out that the total sums contributed had declined slightly each year for the last few years. The decision and recommendation from the eighteenth session of the Executive Body had not led to an increase so far in 2001 despite contributions from some Parties in keeping with the recommendation. The Bureau agreed that it was important to pursue a more effective mechanism for funding.

4. In response to the request from the Bureau at its previous meeting, the secretariat proposed to divide equally, between the centres identified in the decision and recommendation, the unearmarked contributions to the trust fund. As the annual budgets of all the centres were very similar and funds were received on a continuous basis, this provided the simplest, fairest mechanism.

5. The secretariat provided information on the trust fund to support participation of countries with economies in transition. The Bureau agreed to take the information into account in its discussions on future assistance for participation, which are reported in section VI below. It noted

the need to request funds from Parties at the next session of the Executive Body to ensure support of these essential activities.

6. Mr Szell reported that the document for a possible protocol that had been agreed by the Heads of Delegation meeting in April was being revised by a drafting group and would be presented to the Working Group on Strategies and Review later in the week. He outlined some of the changes made to the document and drew attention to the decision on annual figures that could be adopted at the same time as the protocol. Mr Szell felt that good progress had been achieved towards a workable instrument.

### III. OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

7. International Union of Air Pollution Prevention and Environmental Protection Associations (IUAPPA). The secretariat drew attention to a presentation made by Mr Mills (IUAPPA) to the Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling, and recent e-mails from Lars Nordberg. These indicated progress in the project on global scale integrated assessment modelling, though it seemed more feasible to address this through a number of regional models. IUAPPA had planned to publicize their activities at Rio + 10 in Johannesburg. The secretariat noted Mr Nordberg and Mr Mills were having discussions with the Director of UNEP with regard to possible global action on air pollution. While there were some concerns about the involvement of UNEP when they were not strongly associated with much of the work under the Convention, some Bureau members pointed out that UNEP would be in a good position to draw attention to air pollution globally and could help promote some of the Convention's regional activities.

8. Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET). Mr Bull informed the Bureau he had sent the letter of invitation for the sessions of the Working Group on Effects and the Steering Body of EMEP to Mr Suzuki, chairman of the Intergovernmental Committee for EANET, as requested, but he had not received a reply. He had however, received an invitation to the next EANET Intergovernmental Committee and the Scientific Advisory Committee of EANET in November 2001. The Bureau agreed that it was important for the secretariat to attend this meeting, and recommended that EANET be put on the list of invitees to the Executive Body and its subsidiary bodies. Mr Williams indicated that the EMEP Steering Body had requested its Bureau to establish contact with EANET with regard to its participation in a future workshop on hemispheric modelling. Mr Gregor drew attention to the links already established by ICP Forests with EANET scientists.

9. Second International Nitrogen Conference, October 14-18 2001, Potomac, Maryland, US Mr Harnett informed the Bureau that the plans for the International Nitrogen Conference in Potomac (United States) were going ahead, and that arrangements were being made to fund the attendance of Mr Bull. It was noted that the ICP Waters Task Force meeting to be held the week before the conference had been postponed to spring 2002.

10. Other activities. Mr Bull drew attention to the activities of Mr Nordberg including his representing the Convention and ECE at the adoption ceremony for the Stockholm Convention on POPs. The Bureau had been copied e-mails from Mr Nordberg informing them of his work under the auspices of the Bureau.

#### IV. STRATEGIES AND POLICIES REVIEW

11. Mr Bull provided information on the preparation of the corrigenda to the documents submitted to the eighteenth session of the Executive Body, the completion of document EB.AIR/2001/1/Add.2 that was not submitted to the eighteenth session, and the preparation of the executive summary of the report by a United States consultant. In addition, he drew attention to the questionnaire for the 2002 review. This was similar to the 2000 questionnaire but had additional non-mandatory questions relating to obligations under the 1999 Gothenburg Protocol. There was also a revised set of general questions that had been prepared by a Dutch consultant.

12. Mr Dovland explained that the Implementation Committee had seen the revised questionnaire. It had agreed that the questions relating to the protocols, which were unchanged apart from some new questions related to the Gothenburg Protocol, were satisfactory for its purposes. However, it had expressed reservations about the benefits of the new format for the general questions prepared by the Dutch consultant. The Bureau discussed the new format and agreed that these questions should be presented to the Executive Body but that the old format should be used if the new was found unacceptable. The Bureau also discussed the possibility of separating the general questions from those on the protocols, and possibly distributing them to Parties at a different time. The reporting intervals for the two parts of the questionnaire could also be different. The Bureau agreed that the Executive Body should debate the options, which might include the setting up of an ad hoc expert group to further develop the general questions. Members also agreed that further action was needed to improve the reporting and dissemination of information on strategies and policies.

#### V. COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

13. The secretariat drew attention to the document prepared for the thirty-third session of the Working Group on Strategies (EB.AIR/WG.5/2001/3). The Bureau discussed the need for further action. Mr Harnett stressed the importance of getting the right experts both for identifying key elements for communicating to key audiences and also for developing mechanisms, e.g. web sites, for doing this; the two sets of experts were very different. The Bureau agreed that further consideration needed to be given to a strategy but resources would limit what could be done. It was agreed that the Executive Body should discuss the matter and Parties and subsidiary bodies be invited to take responsibility for the goals identified in the communication strategy document. Some Bureau members stressed that NGOs and other bodies, such as EEA, that participated in the work of the Convention, had expertise that might be a possible resource for the future.

14. It was noted that the Convention's web site was in need of revision. Mr Bull informed the Bureau that there were plans for revision of parts of the web site in the near future and more significant plans for the entire web site in the longer term.

#### VI. ASSISTANCE TO COUNTRIES WITH ECONOMIES IN TRANSITION

15. The secretariat had circulated a draft document that the Bureau might consider for presentation to the Executive Body; it included reference to past decisions on the basis for assistance as well as options for the future. The Bureau was informed of the current status of Parties with respect to membership of the OECD and to accession to the European Union. The Bureau's attention was drawn to the state of the Convention's trust funds and its capabilities for providing assistance in the future. The Bureau considered that the Decision 1997/4 previously made by the Executive Body provided the necessary flexibility for funding participation in sessions

of the Executive Body and its main subsidiary bodies. However, it needed updating in view of the new Parties to the Convention and some changes of circumstances. The Bureau felt that any major changes to significantly increase the level of funding, for example with respect to funding travel on a regular basis for some Parties, could put unacceptable pressures on the trust fund. However, it believed that increased participation in the sessions of the main subsidiary bodies was desirable. It therefore instructed the secretariat to consider, where funds allowed, requests for assistance to attend these sessions from countries with economies in transition provided their delegates demonstrated active participation.

## VII. YUGOSLAVIA

16. The secretariat informed the Bureau that Yugoslavia had re-acceded to the Convention and to the EMEP Protocol with effect from 1993. The delegate from Yugoslavia to the EMEP Steering Body had stated that it would pay its 2001 contribution to the EMEP Trust Fund before the end of the year. It would address past payments due as it would for its other obligations to UN bodies.

17. Mr Ballaman informed the Bureau that he had been invited, together with Henning Wuester from the secretariat, to represent the Convention at a workshop in Belgrade in November. It was being organised by a Regional Advisor of the UNECE and all five environmental conventions would have the opportunity to address an audience of Yugoslav experts. There would be the chance to describe work under the Convention and encourage further participation and accession to protocols.

## VIII. LONG-TERM TIMETABLE AND COLLABORATION AND COORDINATION WITH ACTIVITIES OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION'S CAFÉ PROGRAMME

18. The Bureau had previously received copies of the note of the first High Level Coordinating Group (HLCG) meeting between the Bureau of the Executive Body and the staff of the European Commission responsible for the Clean Air For Europe (CAFÉ) programme. The Bureau considered such meetings as important especially when, as now, planning and coordination of future activities was required. It agreed that the proposed HLCG meeting in Brussels on 10 October should take place.

19. The secretariat introduced a draft document related to medium-term planning for activities under the Convention that might be considered by the Executive Body at its nineteenth session in conjunction with medium-term work-plans of the Working Group on Effects and the EMEP Steering Body. The Bureau discussed the level of detail contained in the document and agreed it was suitable for submission to the Executive Body but that the title should reflect its content. A revised title was agreed (Overview of the work-plan of the Convention) and proposals for amendments were submitted to the secretariat.

20. Regarding collaboration with CAFÉ, Mr Williams noted that the CAFÉ Steering Group had set up a sub-group, that included himself, to consider the CAFÉ work-plan up to 2004. For this the sub-group had looked at the work-plans of the Convention's subsidiary bodies together with work already planned by the European Commission. The Technical Analysis Group of CAFÉ had also discussed the plan, which was to be presented to the upcoming meeting of the CAFÉ Steering Group. Various bottlenecks and difficulties had been identified; the Chairman of the Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling had drawn some of these to the attention of the EMEP Steering Body and the Working Group on Strategies and Review. Some Bureau members expressed the wish that CAFÉ would be able to relax its timetable a little, while Mr Gregor, expressing the

readiness of the Working Group on Effects to support the important work for the CAFÉ programme, noted that it would be almost impossible to bring forward some of the expected deliverables of the Working Group, such as dynamic models and level II ozone results. The chairman expressed his concern about the need to adequately address the scientific requirements for future reviews, and stressed the risks associated with rushing.

21. The chairman informed the meeting that he would be unable to attend the High Level Coordinating Group Meeting on 10 October 2001, but he hoped that good representation from the Bureau would be possible. Mr Lindau agreed to act on behalf of the chair at the HLCG, while Messrs Williams, Gregor, Ballaman, and Bull all indicated that they would attend. The same persons, with the exception of Mr Ballaman, would attend the Steering Group meeting on 8-9 October.

22. There had been concern expressed that coordination with the work of the Working Group on Effects was not sufficiently considered by CAFÉ when drawing up its work-plan. This message needed to be drawn to the attention of the HLCG and the CAFÉ Steering Group. There was also concern that there was a clash of dates between the nineteenth session of the Executive Body and a CAFE Steering Group meeting. This would be raised with the officials of the European Commission to see if changes were possible. It was considered very important to avoid a similar situation in the future.

#### IX. NINETEENTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE BODY

23. The secretariat provided copies of the provisional agenda that was being made available on the Executive Body's web site ([www.unece.org/env/eb](http://www.unece.org/env/eb)). The Bureau agreed with the proposed structure that the secretariat had previously discussed with the chairman. The Bureau was informed of progress with the preparation of documents. It noted with concern the problems being encountered by the translation services due to excessive pressure from meetings, and hope that this would not cause problems for the Executive Body session.

#### X. MEMBERSHIP OF THE IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

24. Mr Szell informed the Bureau that four experienced members of the Implementation Committee were due to stand down this year leaving mostly relatively inexperienced members to continue. He stressed the need to recruit competent persons for the replacements. One nomination had been received from the Netherlands. A nomination from the Czech Republic two years ago should be explored to see if the nominee is still willing to serve on the committee. The Bureau discussed other possible candidates taking account of the need to ensure the balance of the committee both geographically and in terms of expertise.

25. The chairman pointed out that one of those standing down was the Chairman of the Implementation Committee, Mr Patrick Szell. The Bureau expressed concern that the committee would lose Mr Szell's valuable experience at a time when there were many changes to the committee's membership and there was no clear candidate to take over as Chairman. It felt the excellent work of the committee over the last few years would be at risk. The Bureau urged Mr Szell to consider putting himself forward to the Executive Body for further exceptional period. Mr Szell agreed that this might be possible for a further period of one year provided the necessary support for his work was available. Mr Williams proposed to investigate the possibility of UK support.

## XI. FUTURE MEETINGS

26. Mr Bull agreed to provide the latest list of meetings for 2002 to the Bureau. THE UP-TO-DATE LIST IS AVAILABLE FROM THE CONVENTION'S WEB SITE [www.unece.org/env/lrtap](http://www.unece.org/env/lrtap) , USING THE MENU ON THE HOME PAGE.

## XII. OTHER BUSINESS

27. The Bureau discussed the continued need for adopting the report of the Working Group on Strategies and Review on the final day of each session. It agreed that this was still an important and necessary procedure in view of the issues discussed by the working group, and their importance to the work of the Executive Body.

28. The chairman drew attention to the meeting, organized by the secretariats to the Committee on Environmental Policy (CEP) and the Aarhus Convention, for discussing issues related to the Aarhus Convention which was about to enter into force. It was attended by representatives of the five ECE environmental conventions and the secretariat. The aims and obligations of the Aarhus Convention had been discussed and the need to address them by each of the conventions was considered. The chairman felt the the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution was in good shape regarding possible national obligations to the Aarhus Convention. Some issues, such as extending NGO representation at meetings could be further explored.

29. The chairman drew attention to the letter from Luxembourg regarding the basis for calculating its emissions from petrol. It was agreed that this issue should be addressed by the Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projections in March.

30. The secretariat provided copies of the existing rules for data noting these had been discussed by the Extended Bureau of the Working Group on Effects who considered they were satisfactory for providing the necessary openness whilst protecting the intellectual property rights of individual scientists. The Bureau agreed to study these and consider them in relation to any proposals that might be made through the CAFÉ programme.

## XIII. NEXT MEETING

31. The Bureau agreed that it would meet as necessary just prior to, or at the time of, the nineteenth session of the Executive Body (11-14 December 2001). The place and time would be circulated by the secretariat with an agenda.