

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 April 2003, LONDON**

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

1. The first meeting of the Bureau in 2003 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 P Széll (United Kingdom) and Mr H Gregor (Germany). Mr K Bull and Ms B Wachs attended for the UNECE secretariat. Mr I. Mojic (Slovakia) and Mr J Schneider (Austria) sent their apologies.

2. The Chairman welcomed the members of the Bureau. He drew attention to the death of Mr J Zurek, a former Vice-chair of the Executive Body and who was Vice-chair of the Working Group on Strategies and Review. The Bureau noted the outstanding contribution that Mr Zurek had made to the work of the Convention for many years and thanked the secretariat for sending a message of sympathy, on its behalf, to the Polish government and Mr Zurek's family.

I. NOTE OF THE BUREAU MEETING OF 17 SEPTEMBER 2002

3. The note of the previous meeting (EBBureau/2002/2) had been circulated and agreed, and was available through the Executive Body's web page. Actions from the previous meeting were dealt with under agenda items below.

II. STAFFING OF THE SECRETARIAT

4. Mr Bull informed the Bureau of the death of Ms Enikoe Szabo, who until her retirement last September had provided secretarial support to the Convention. A message of sympathy had been sent to Ms Szabo's family from the Executive Secretary.

5. Mr Bull expressed concern about the delays encountered in the recruitment of a replacement for Mr Chrast, the former secretary of the Working Group on Effects. He explained that he was still awaiting a list of suitably qualified applicants to be forwarded by UN human resources. Only then could the secretariat proceed with interviews of candidates.

6. Mr Bull also informed the Bureau that Mr Wuester had recently accepted a post at the secretariat for the Framework Convention on Climate Change in Bonn. He would vacate his post

in June. It was hoped that a temporary replacement might be possible if the recruitment process was likely to take time. The Bureau agreed to look for suitable candidates and encourage their applications.

### III. COLLABORATION AND COORDINATION WITH ACTIVITIES OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION'S CAFE PROGRAMME

7. The note of the High Level Coordinating Group meeting that had taken place in Brussels on 18 February was still awaited from the CAFE secretariat. Mr Harnett noted the problems in the development of the baseline scenarios under CAFE, which also have implications for the Conventions work. It was hoped that more information would be forthcoming at the Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling meeting in May. Mr Lindau informed the Bureau that the EC was developing its work on heavy metals and that a proposal for a strategy for mercury was planned for 2004. Sweden would host a workshop in spring 2004. The Bureau noted the need for further work on urban pollution, and recognized the importance of the work of WHO for the CAFE programme. The Convention's Task Force on Health Aspects would meet in May.

8. The Bureau agreed that the High Level Coordinating Group was important for coordinating activities, and various suggestions were made regarding the next meeting. The Bureau regretted that the CAFE secretariat were unable to attend the communications workshop, especially as CAFE had noted the need for developing a communications strategy itself. It was hoped for better collaboration on this issue in the future.

### IV. IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

9. Mr Széll noted that the next meeting of the Implementation Committee would be held in Rome at the end of April. He reminded the Bureau that there was only one new member of the Committee this year but decisions on election/re-election of several members would be necessary at the Executive Body in December. He believed that some of the earlier cases of non-compliance by Parties considered by the Committee might now be moving to closure and that new cases of referrals may be relatively few in the immediate future. However, there were still a number of cases pending that the Committee would need to deal with this year, as well as the completion of the in-depth review of the Oslo Protocol that was started last year.

10. Mr Széll informed the Bureau that the committee would be looking into the requirements for emission data validation. The Chairman of the Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projections had discussed the issue with the secretariat and would be discussing it with the Committee in Rome with the aim of developing proposals for checking and validating data. It was noted that there appeared to be a large difference between the Convention's validation activities and those for other bodies such as the Framework Convention on Climate Change.

### V. COORDINATION OF SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES

11. Mr Gregor, Chairman of the Working Group on Effects, provided information on the scientific activities of the Working Group and the EMEP Steering Body. In particular, he noted the outcome of the discussions at the joint Bureau meeting of the two bodies. He drew attention to the deliverables and the dates of delivery and the need for timely exchange of data and information

between the EMEP centres and those of the Working Group. He explained some of the difficulties experienced in arriving at agreement for a method for assessing exceedances of critical levels for ozone. An ad hoc meeting at the end of April, and the Task Force on Modelling and Mapping in May, should enable finalization of agreed methods, but a problem with unharmonized landcover information needed to be resolved.

12. The Bureau noted that much scientific and technical information, including the results of major reports would be forthcoming in 2004/2005. Use should be made of this to publicize the work of the Convention.

13. Under this agenda head the Bureau discussed the proposed Memorandum of Understanding between EMEP and the ECMWF (European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts). Mr Széll proposed changes to the wording of the MOU to make it more consistent with the terminology normally used in such a document. He also advised that the MOU should be approved by the Executive Body at its twenty-first session and that the Executive Body nominate an appropriate person to sign on its behalf.

## VI. PROTOCOLS: GOTHENBURG, HEAVY METALS AND POPS

14. The secretariat noted that the 1998 Protocol on Heavy Metals and the 1998 Protocol on POPs now had 14 ratifications each, while the 1999 Gothenburg Protocol still had only 4. It was possible that either or both of the 1998 Protocols could be in force for the next session of the Executive Body.

15. Mr Ballaman provided information on the first meeting of the Expert Group on Heavy Metals that had taken place in Geneva in March. About 30 participants had met with Mr Jost of Germany as Chair. The Expert Group had noted the ongoing work on heavy metals, including the reporting of emissions and the need to improve such data, the development of critical loads, and the importance of gathering information on human health effects. It was suggested that options might be limited for adding metals to the Protocol, but the Expert Group was keen to do the necessary work for the review process. The Expert Group had requested the Bureau to allow it a second meeting in 2003 which had been proposed for November. The Bureau was pleased with the initial progress of the Expert Group and agreed to its request.

16. Mr Ballaman noted that a meeting had taken place in February between the Co-chairs of the Expert Group on POPs, and a number of other experts, to consider the procedures required for the review of the Protocol and the additional of chemicals to it when it entered into force. A number of documents had been drafted and the secretariat was using these as the basis for preparing a document for submission to the Working Group on Strategies and Review. This would aim to provide a list of decisions both for the Executive Body and for the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on POPs at the Executive Body session.

## VII. KIEV MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE (ENVIRONMENT FOR EUROPE)/FUNDING OF CORE ACTIVITIES

17. The secretariat informed the Bureau that they had received information on proposals for changing the paragraph in the Kiev Ministerial Declaration that referred to the Executive Body's Decision on financing of core activities. The proposed changes, from a member of the US State

Department, would have the effect of weakening the text and Mr Bull had informed the Chairman and Mr Harnett of the proposals in time for the session of the Working Group of Senior Officials. However, the text had not been discussed there and had been passed to a drafting group that would meet in late April. It was expected that further discussions would continue right up to the Kiev Conference in May. Bureau members agreed to contact their delegations to help ensure that strong wording, which reflected the text in the Gothenburg Ministerial Declaration, was retained.

## VIII. STRATEGIES AND POLICIES REVIEWS

18. The secretariat provided a summary of the work being done to finalize the 2002 Strategies and Policies summary report. Amendments submitted by Parties, following the invitation made by the twentieth session of the Executive Body, had been incorporated into the report. It was noted that it was not always clear that a Party had submitted a satisfactory answer to the questionnaire when they referred to EC Directives in an unspecific way. This would need to be addressed in the next questionnaire; a draft of this would be submitted to the Executive Body in December. As agreed by the Executive Body, the next questionnaire would be protocol focussed only. The draft would therefore be considered by the Implementation Committee at its meeting in September.

## IX. OUTREACH AND EXTERNAL LINKS

19. International Union of Air Pollution Prevention and Environmental Protection Associations (IUAPPA). Mr Mills (Director-General IUAPPA) had attended part of the earlier workshop on communications and had indicated that no progress had yet been made in involving UNEP in playing a lead role in inter-regional collaboration.

20. Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET). Mr Bull informed the Bureau of his attendance at the EANET Intergovernmental and Scientific Advisory Committee meetings in November 2002. It was clear that EANET welcomed the input from the Convention and in particular was looking for increased scientific collaboration between scientists. The EMEP Chemical Coordinating Centre had good links with EANET and ICP Forests had recently held a joint workshop with EANET scientists in Malaysia. The Bureau requested the secretariat to again write to the EANET (UNEP) secretariat and EANET programme centre in Japan inviting their participation at the upcoming sessions of the Working Group on Effects and the EMEP Steering Body.

21. ABC project. The secretariat reported that it had secured an invitation to the recent meeting of the Scientific Committee of the ABC (Asian or Atmospheric Brown Cloud) project that was held in Geneva. This was done through the EANET (UNEP) secretariat that is involved in the ABC project. Mr Wuester had given a presentation to the Committee. It was noted that the ABC project had attracted large amounts of funds from some countries and appeared to be of much interest to UNEP. It was not clear how the project might benefit inter-regional collaboration as it seemed to be looking more to groups of scientists and organizations rather than to regions.

22. Integrated Assessment of Climate Change. Mr Ballaman reported on the successful workshop on climate change and air pollution synergies that was held at IIASA. The ECE press release provided a useful summary of the conclusions. The Netherlands was funding a project for the Centre for Integrated Assessment Modelling to investigate the inclusion of greenhouse gases in the RAINS model. The secretariat noted that Mr Wuester had attended the Intergovernmental

Panel on Climate Change session in Paris recently and had taken the opportunity to draw attention to the Convention's work.

23. Hemispheric modelling. The Bureau was informed that the next workshop on hemispheric pollution transport modelling was likely to be proposed for 2004.

#### X. TRUST FUNDS

24. The secretariat reported that, with the exception of just one country, all Parties to the EMEP Protocol had paid their sums due for 2002. As yet, it was too early to ascertain if the new Decision on funding taken by the Executive Body would make any difference to the contributions to the Trust Fund for core activities not covered by the EMEP Protocol. It was noted that the Trust Fund for supporting countries with economies in transition was balancing contributions with expenditure, though the sums were low for both. **The Bureau agreed to consider, at its next meeting, the need for reviewing the procedures for supporting attendance at meetings of the subsidiary bodies.**

#### XI. KAZAKHSTAN

25. The secretariat noted that the UN Development Account project on capacity building for air quality management for central Asia had been put forward as ECE's highest priority project so there was some optimism that funding would be secured. UNDA had requested small adjustments to the project with slightly revised costs. The project was planned to start in January 2004. As a lead in to the work of the project, use was being made of a one year project established by the Committee on Environmental Policy's Working Group on Environmental Monitoring. This was focussing on Kazakhstan and the establishment of monitoring sites and emissions reporting. A workshop in Kazakhstan was being planned and this would be followed by an international workshop involving the other Central Asian countries. The EMEP Chemical Coordinating Centre would provide the expertise for monitoring and an expert from Ukraine was advising on emissions reporting. The secretariat would keep the Bureau informed of developments.

#### XII. COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

26. Mr Bull informed the Bureau that they would shortly be receiving an invitation from the Chairman of the Committee on Environmental Policy to attend a meeting of the Bureaux of the Conventions on 3 July 2003. The meeting would focus on the proposals for an environmental strategy that would provide guidance to the Committee over the next 5–10 years. The strategy would take account of outputs from the Kiev Ministerial Conference in May and would be submitted for adoption to the next session of the Committee in October. The letter also proposed discussions of the guidelines on compliance and how these may be used to facilitate implementation of the Conventions and their protocols. The Chair noted the importance of continuing to explain the Convention's perspective on such issues to the Committee, and he and Mr Ballaman both indicated the possibility of attending the meeting in July together with the secretariat.

### XIII. COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

27. The Bureau briefly discussed the conclusions and recommendations of the workshop on communications that most Bureau members had attended. All agreed that the workshop had been very successful and had provided useful indicators for future priority action. However, it would be of key importance to ensure that the necessary resources were available since secretariat resources were limited.

28. In particular, the Bureau considered the possibilities for making use of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Convention to draw attention to the achievements and work of the Convention. It was noted that both the adoption and opening for signature of the Convention took place on 13 November 1979 so the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary would be on that date in 2004. **The Bureau agreed it would discuss this issue in greater depth at its next meeting.**

### XIV. OTHER BUSINESS

29. The Chairman noted that the meetings of the Conference of the Parties of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change were agreed some years in advance and requested the secretariat to take account of the dates when planning future meetings. The dates for the twenty-first session of the Executive Body in December this year had been changed accordingly, and it was likely that further changes would be needed for 2004.

30. Emissions from shipping and airplanes. The Bureau noted that there was concern by some Parties that there were inconsistencies between the emissions reporting requirements agreed by EMEP and the Executive Body, and the Gothenburg Protocol and National Emissions Ceilings Directive. It was possible that the issue could be raised at the Working Group on Strategies and Review. It was agreed that this body, not the Implementation Committee, was the appropriate one to deal with the issue. Consideration would be needed in the future in readiness for the entry into force of the Protocol. Due consideration should be given to the old and new emission reporting guidelines as well as to the Executive Body's deliberations on this issue as related to the Oslo Protocol.

31. Expansion of the European Union. The Chairman noted that the changes taking place in the European Union were likely to have effects on the work of the Convention and its relationship to activities like CAFE. **It was agreed that discussions on European Union expansion take place at the next meeting of the Bureau.**

### XV. NEXT MEETING

32. The Bureau agreed that it could be convenient to hold its next meeting in conjunction with the next meeting of the working Group on Strategies and Review in September. It was provisionally proposed to hold the meeting on Tuesday 16 September at 9 a.m.