

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  
9.30 a.m. 19 May 2004, Brussels**

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

1. The first meeting of the Bureau in 2004 was chaired by the Chairman of the Executive Body, Mr H Dovland (Norway), and was attended by Vice-chairmen Mr L Lindau (Sweden), Ms P Farnsworth (Canada), Mr R Ballaman (Switzerland), Mr I Mojik (Slovak Republic) and Mr H Gregor (Germany), Mr J Schneider (Austria). Mr K Bull attended for the UNECE secretariat and Mr M. Vainio attended as EC observer. Apologies were received from Mr P Széll (United Kingdom).

2. The Chairman noted the short agenda and the focus for discussions. The Bureau adopted the proposed agenda with additional items proposed by its members.

**I. NOTE OF THE BUREAU MEETING OF THE 18 DECEMBER 2003  
(EBBUREAU/2003/3) INCLUDING MATTERS ARISING NOT ELSEWHERE ON AGENDA**

3. The note had been previously circulated and had been placed on the Convention's web site. It was agreed that matters arising could be covered under the other agenda items.

4. Under this agenda item the Bureau considered the state of ratifications of the Gothenburg Protocol. The secretariat noted that there were now 10 ratifications and several others had been promised by the end of the year. The Dutch had sent letters to EU Member States enquiring if they would ratify in time for the Executive Body session at the end of November. However, it was uncertain if the necessary 16 for entry into force would be completed by that time. The secretariat agreed to send letters to Signatories that had not yet ratified to urge them once more to complete the process by December. The Bureau also agreed that the issue of ratification should be an item on the agenda of the next Executive Body session; draft letters enquiring about ratification with respect to the 3 most recent protocols were proposed as a document for the session.

**II. EU COLLABORATION AND COORDINATION WITH ACTIVITIES OF THE  
EUROPEAN COMMISSION'S CAFÉ PROGRAMME/ THE MEETING OF THE HIGH LEVEL  
COORDINATING GROUP**

5. The proposed timetable for the EC Thematic Strategy was discussed in relation to the expected review of the Gothenburg Protocol. The Bureau noted the work being done under the Convention

that would provide input to the Thematic Strategy and the review of the Protocol. In the short term it was fairly clear what results would be needed and how they would be used. In the longer term it was less clear. The European Commission was hoping that the baseline scenario would become a legal base for the next 5 years.

6. The Bureau discussed the issue of data availability and agreed that Convention data should be made available for the work under CAFE (the European Commission's Clean Air for Europe programme). Where detailed information might be required it was proposed that this should be sought from the country providing the data. It was noted that data on critical loads now being collected would be provisional at least until presented to the Working Group on Effects in September. While there was concern about the misuse of any data provided, there was a general feeling that this should not be a reason for withholding data as the need for transparency was often noted in Convention discussions and negotiations. Data provided to outside users might have caveats and warnings attached though it was recognized that these could be ignored; it was a risk that all data providers took.

7. It was noted that both CAFE and the Convention had identified the review of emissions data as an important step towards improved emission data reporting. Proposals for procedures and mechanisms would be presented to the EMEP Steering Body and the Working Group on Strategies and Review in September. It appeared that the review process could be built into the annual cycle of the Convention by having two meetings of the Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projections each year, one in spring and the other after the Steering Body had met.

### III. PARTICULATE MATTER

8. The Bureau noted the receipt of the letter from the German Government regarding increased emphasis on Particulate matter in the work under the Convention, which also included proposals for a new subsidiary body and specific agenda items for forthcoming meetings, and discussed the detailed proposals in the letter as outlined below.

9. The Bureau recognized that the German Government wished to speed up the process of including particulate matter, and it also welcomed the possibility for a seminar drawing attention to the needs to address particulate emissions. If this were combined with an event to mark the anniversary of the Convention then this would be an appropriate combination to celebrate and draw attention to outstanding problems.

10. It was noted that particulates were already being dealt with using a CAFE Working Group, which had produced some useful documentation. Particulates would also be on the agenda of the Working Group on Strategies and Review under the agenda item on the review of the Gothenburg Protocol. In general the Bureau felt that the issue could be dealt with under the existing structure of the Convention though if the Working Group on Strategies and review indicated a clear need then a new Expert Group could be used to meet this.

11. In the following discussion the Bureau considered options for exploring the strategic needs for considering particulates in a separate subsidiary body. It was suggested that there could be a useful strategic debate on the issue at the Gothenburg workshop that would be held in the autumn. This could provide additional information for any decision that might be made by the Executive Body later in the year.

12. The secretariat was requested to write to Germany ministry thanking it for its initiative and proposals, to reflect that the Bureau considered that it was not timely to make decisions on the matter of new subsidiary bodies at this point in time and that strategic discussions at the Gothenburg workshop could provide an important mechanism for evaluating future needs. Whatever the outcome on needs the Bureau had interpreted the letter as a proposal for a new expert group on particulate matter to operate under the Working Group on Strategies and Review.

#### IV. TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

13. The Bureau discussed the preparations for the anniversary item by item.

14. Children's game. Mr Ballaman noted a contract had been signed with the game's developer. It was planned that the final version would be available in September. Countries were invited to contribute to the costs of development.

15. UNECE game. Mr Bull noted that a list of questions was being compiled for the game. The draft list could be circulated for additional suggestions. Mr Vainio noted the possible availability of quiz questions from the Commission.

16. Art competition. Mr Bull indicated that a good response had been received from one of the Geneva international schools and that the project would start in September. Ms Farnsworth provided information on a Canadian national competition that could feed into the Geneva event. Environment Canada were also producing fact sheets on the Convention. Mr Vainio noted that the EC Green Week, which would take place soon, also had a schools art competition.

17. Working Group on Effects report. Mr Gregor informed the Bureau on progress noting that the executive summary would be finalized soon and the report itself in the near future. The main report was to be in English but the executive summary would be submitted as a document to the Working Group and therefore translated. The full report would be printed in time for the Executive Body session.

18. The EMEP report. Mr Schneider noted progress on part II of the report - the national contributions, and part I the European perspective. A first draft was to be distributed soon. The executive summary would be submitted to the Steering Body as a translated document. The full report would be printed in time for the Executive Body session.

19. Canadian brochure. Ms Farnsworth noted that after receipt of final text it would take 8 weeks to print the brochure. She invited submission of suitable graphics at 300dpi in JPEG format. It was agreed that the deadline for comments would be 4th June and Mr Bull would submit the final text before the end of June. Mr Gregor noted that graphics would be available from the programme centres of the Working Group on Effects and the EMEP Steering Body.

20. Convention logo. The Bureau considered the various options and decide upon one that was preferred. It was suggested that some changes be made and Ms Farnsworth agreed to discuss these with the Canadian experts and liaise with the secretariat.

21. Ministers' statements. Mr Bull noted that letters had been sent to ministers inviting them to make statements about the Convention; these had been copied to Heads of Delegation. There were indications that several ministers would be responding.

22. Convention Handbook. Mr Bull noted that this publication, that included all the protocols to the Convention, ministerial declarations, relevant EB decisions, status of ratifications and current structure of the Convention, was in the final stages of being put together and would be published in English in time for the Executive Body session.

23. Convention history book. The Bureau noted progress in the preparation of the book. Draft chapters had been completed and final versions should be available soon. The secretariat was investigating printing by the UN. A foreword was to be submitted to the Secretary General in the hope that he would sign it.

24. Other publications/brochures. Mr Gregor noted the preparation of a brochure on the Working Group on effects by Germany. Mr Bull noted the new version of the structure of the Convention that had been prepared by the secretariat that was available on request. Mr Vainio noted that the CAFÉ baseline scenario would be published in September/October. Mr Bull noted that the summary review of Strategies and Policies for 2002 would be published later in the year.

25. Convention web site. It was agreed that it would be timely to change the Convention web site to reflect the anniversary year and inform visitors of the special event in December.

26. Special event. The draft agenda for the special event was discussed and keynote speakers suggested. Mr Dovland would make initial enquiries about the availability of a keynote speaker. Mr Ballaman indicated that the State representative for the Environment, Mr Philippe Roch, would attend and be prepared to make a welcoming speech on behalf of the host country Switzerland. It was suggested that the Ministerial Statements be included in one agenda item near the beginning of the agenda. The question of the buffet was discussed and the possibility for a lunchtime reception as well as an evening one discussed. Norway would be able to support one reception. Further support would be needed if there were to be two receptions.

## V. COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

27. The Chairman noted the importance of representation at the joint Bureaux meeting of the five ECE environmental conventions and the Bureau of the Committee on Environmental Policy. Bureau members and the secretariat were invited to attend. The Chairman agreed he would attend the meeting that was to be held on 7 June 2004. Mr Ballaman and Mr Bull would also participate.

## VI. OUTREACH AND EXTERNAL LINKS

28. The Bureau discussed its representation at the forum of air pollution agreements that had been organized by IUAPPA in London in August. Invitations had been received by some members of the Bureau but not by others. The secretariat would check the invitation list and find out who was invited.

## VII. OTHER BUSINESS

29. Mr Ballaman drew attention to a seminar to be held on the morning of the last day of the thirty-sixth session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review. The focus would be upon EECCA

countries and there would be opportunities to discuss the questionnaire sent to EECCA countries to ascertain barriers to accession, as well as UNECE's UNDA project and WHO's air pollution initiative. The Bureau agreed that delegates from EECCA countries should be asked to make short presentations, and the secretariat was asked to convey this to them in the invitation letters.

30. Mr Ballaman noted that the Task Force on POPs was proposing a two-track approach for considering the review of new POPs proposals. It would be important to know if new POPs were to be proposed for the next session of the Executive Body. The secretariat believed that there were still unresolved issues between EU Member States and the European Commission with regard to the proposal procedure. Only one substance had been proposed so far, by Norway.

31. Mr L Lindau informed the Bureau that he would be stepping down as Vice-Chair at the next Executive Body session. The Bureau agreed that it would discuss the question of Bureau membership at its next meeting.

#### VIII. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

32. The Bureau agreed that it would be timely to hold its next meeting the week of the thirty-sixth session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review, most probably the evening of Monday 13 September starting at 6 p.m.