

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. 13 September 2004, Geneva**

Prepared by the secretariat in consultation with the Chairman

1. The second 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 R Ballaman (Switzerland), Mr P Széll (United Kingdom) and Mr J Schneider (Austria). Mr K Bull attended for the UNECE secretariat. Apologies were received from Mr L Lindau (Sweden), Mr H Gregor (Germany), Ms P Farnsworth (Canada), Mr I. Mojik (Slovak Republic) and Mr M. Vainio (European Commission).

2. The Chairman regretted the absence of so many Bureau members, due in part to the timing of the meeting, but stressed that this was the only time available that did not clash with other commitments.

I. NOTE OF THE BUREAU MEETING OF THE 19 MAY 2004 (EBBUREAU/2004/1)
INCLUDING MATTERS ARISING NOT ELSEWHERE ON AGENDA

3. The note had been previously circulated and had been placed on the Convention's web site. The secretariat agreed to send another note to Signatories to the Gothenburg Protocol inviting them to provide information on the timing of their ratification.

4. The secretariat reported that actions agreed at the last meeting of the High-level Coordinating Group, related to preparation of documents for the consideration of the Bureau, had not been completed. A document on hemispheric modelling, by the Chair and the secretariat, had been circulated but documents on 1) better understanding of the budgetary and institutional issues (to be prepared by Keith Bull and Matti Vainio) and 2) the role of the Convention in promoting its objectives in Russia and other NIS (Keith Bull, Richard Ballaman and Matti Vainio) were still to be prepared.

II. PARTICULATE MATTER

5. The Bureau discussed the proposal from Germany for a new expert group on particulate matter and the possibilities for future action on this pollutant. The proposal had been given support by the European Commission. The possible mandate for the group was

discussed. It was noted that draft proposals were to be submitted to the Working Group on Strategies and Review and that the Working Group would forward its agreed suggestions to the Executive Body for consideration. The Bureau considered there would be plenty of opportunities to discuss the proposal with the German delegation.

III. TWENTY-SECOND SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE BODY

6. The secretariat had submitted the provisional agenda for translation and printing in readiness for the twenty-second session.

7. The Bureau noted that Spain had been invited to address the Executive Body regarding its non-compliance with the Protocol on Nitrogen Oxides. No reply had been received by the secretariat. The Bureau discussed further action that might be taken if Spain failed to respond.

IV. TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

8. The Bureau noted the progress that had been made with the preparations for the special event, in particular the special reports/book/brochures, the children's games, the ministerial statements and the children's art competition. Most activities were on schedule though deadlines were fast approaching.

9. The Bureau discussed the practicalities for organizing the event and the options for the speakers presentations. It provided advice to the secretariat to aid it in the preparations.

V. IMPLICATIONS OF EU ENLARGEMENT

10. It was noted that the document on how to address the issue of hemispheric pollution (by Harald Dovland and Keith Bull) had been prepared, but documents on better understanding of the budgetary and institutional issues (by Keith Bull and Matti Vainio) and on the role of the Convention in promoting its objectives in Russia and other NIS (by Keith Bull, Richard Ballaman and Matti Vainio) had not been finalized. In view of the absence of so many Bureau members discussions were postponed to a later date.

VI. GOTHENBURG WORKSHOP

11. The Bureau noted that Mr Lindau had organized a preparatory meeting for the workshop. Members of the Bureau would attend and help the organizers to finalize their arrangements.

VII. OUTREACH AND EXTERNAL LINKS

12. Mr Bull informed the Bureau on the planned next meetings of the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network for East Asia (EANET) that were planned for November. The Bureau

considered that it was important to continue the active links with this network through the secretariat and scientific centres of the Convention.

13. The Chair informed the Bureau of the special forum of networks and agreements on air pollution that had been held in London. The forum had been organized by the International Union of Air Pollution Prevention Associations (IUAPPA). Most of the major international agreements and networks had been represented at the meeting which had also been attended by the Swedish aid agency (SIDA) and the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) which had an interest in the development of regional initiatives. The various representatives at the forum had made presentations and information had been exchanged. The Bureau agreed that the meeting had been useful and recommended that participation be continued if further forums were organized. It further noted that active collaboration with other agreements and networks should be sought at the “working level” using the Convention’s Task Forces and programme centres. Future work on hemispheric modelling could provide a useful topic for future collaboration.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

14. The Bureau discussed the on-going review of the Protocol on POPs and the future need for the exemptions indicated in the annexes to the Protocol. It noted that the Working Group on Strategies and Review should provide the necessary advice to the Executive Body so that any necessary changes to the exemption texts could be considered in a future package of amendments to the Protocol.

15. 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.

16. The Bureau also discussed the need for electing new members of the Implementation Committee in the coming years, noting the members would be completing their terms of office and what specialisms were needed to ensure a good balance of expertise and outlook within the Committee.

IX. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

17. The Bureau agreed to hold its next meeting on the evening of 29 November 2004 when it would discuss the last minute preparations for the special anniversary event.