

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
13 December 2005, Geneva**

Prepared by the secretariat in consultation with the Bureau

1. The third meeting of the Bureau in 2005 was chaired by the Chairman of the Executive Body, Mr. H. Dovland (Norway), and was attended by Vice-Chairmen Mr. R. Ballaman (Switzerland), Ms P. Farnsworth (Canada), Mr. H. Gregor (Germany), Mr. A. Jagusiewicz (Poland), Mr. J. Schneider (Austria), Mr. P. Széll (United Kingdom) and Mr. M. Williams (United Kingdom). Mr. K. Bull attended for the UNECE secretariat. Mr. D. Johnstone (European Commission) attended as observer.

**I. NOTE OF THE BUREAU MEETING OF 26 SEPTEMBER 2005
(EBBUREAU/2005/2) INCLUDING MATTERS ARISING NOT ELSEWHERE
ON AGENDA**

2. The note had been circulated and placed on the Convention's website at www.unece.org/env/eb/bureau. There were no matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

II. TWENTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE BODY

3. The Bureau reviewed the preparations made for the twenty-third session of the Executive Body and discussed some of the session's agenda items in more detail.

4. Mr Ballaman noted that the Parties to the Gothenburg Protocol were required to initiate a first review of the Protocol at the session. The Bureau agreed that, while formal decisions on the Protocol were to be taken by Parties to the Protocol, it was important to involve all Parties to the Convention in the discussions. The broader debate could encourage non-Parties to the Protocol to ratify or accede to it.

5. The Bureau noted that the Executive Body workplan proposed that a Heads of Delegation session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review would take place in the spring; its main task would be planning for the review of the Gothenburg Protocol. The agenda for that session would include an item on financing issues to enable consideration of a funding mechanism for core activities not covered by the

EMEP Protocol. There would also be the possibility of discussing issues on POPs and heavy metals related to the review/revision of those Protocols.

III. ELECTIONS

6. The Bureau considered the nominations that had been received for the elections of the Executive Body Bureau and the Implementation Committee and agreed upon the recommendations to be made to the Executive Body.

IV. REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION FORUM FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

7. The Bureau was informed of the agenda for the Forum that would start on the last day of the Executive Body session. It would provide input to the fourteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) to be held in May 2006; the main document from UNECE would be a Chair's report. Mr. Morley, UK Environment Minister, would chair the part of the session on air pollution and climate change.

8. The Chair informed the Bureau that he had been invited to give a keynote presentation, though not in his capacity as Chair of the Executive Body. Nevertheless, he would be drawing attention to the work of the Convention and its successes. He would note the importance of ship emissions and indoor air pollution as well as hemispheric transport, climate change and air pollution/climate change links.

V. PREPARATIONS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT FOR EUROPE MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE

9. The Bureau noted that the preparations for the Ministerial Conference in Belgrade were under way and that there was a need to consider if there should be any input from the Convention. The secretariat pointed out that, unlike other recent Environment for Europe conferences, none of the five UNECE environmental Conventions were planning to submit legal instruments for adoption. There were therefore opportunities to draw attention to important issues related to the Convention's work.

10. The Chair noted the importance of the Convention's EECCA activities and that the financing of core activities had not yet been solved. Mr Jagusiewicz drew attention to the work of UNECE's Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment and its links to the Belgrade process. Other issues such as particulate matter, hemispheric transport and inter-regional cooperation were also noted.

11. The Bureau agreed that issues related to the Convention that could be raised at Belgrade should be discussed in detail at its next meeting and invited all its members to consider possibilities for topics.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

12. The secretariat indicated that letters had been sent to Ministers of Ukraine and the Russian Federation inviting nomination of experts for bilateral discussions with the Centre for Integrated Assessment Modelling. Such discussions would be very important for work on the review of the Gothenburg Protocol.

13. Mr Johnstone noted that Romania and Bulgaria had moved to the next stage of accession with the aim of joining the European Community in 2007. The Bureau considered that this amounted to a clear application to join the European Community and agreed to propose deletion of their names from the list of countries eligible for support from the Trust Fund.

14. The Chair and other members of the Bureau recorded their thanks to Ms Farnsworth and Mr Széll who would be standing down as members of the Bureau at the forthcoming session of the Executive Body. The Bureau recorded its sincere thanks to Mr Dovland for his work chairing the Bureau and the Executive Body.

VII. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

15. The Bureau agreed that it would be useful to hold a meeting at the time of the planned Heads of Delegation meeting in spring 2006 and requested the secretariat to circulate possible dates. The Bureau also noted that it was important to hold a High-level Coordinating Group meeting with air pollution staff from the European Commission, if possible in the first half of 2006. The secretariat and the European Commission representatives would explore possibilities.