

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
26 September 2005, Geneva**

Prepared by the secretariat in consultation with the Bureau

1. The second 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), Mr H. Gregor (Germany), Mr P. Széll (United Kingdom), Mr. M. Williams (United Kingdom), Mr. A. Jagusiewicz (Poland). Mr K. Bull attended for the UNECE secretariat. Mr D. Johnstone (European Commission) attended as observer. Apologies were received from Mr J. Schneider (Austria) and Ms P. Farnsworth (Canada).

**I. NOTE OF THE BUREAU MEETING OF 12 MAY 2005 (EBBUREAU/2005/1)
INCLUDING MATTERS ARISING NOT ELSEWHERE ON AGENDA**

2. The note had been previously circulated and had been placed on the Convention's website. There were no matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

II. WORKING GROUP ON STRATEGIES AND REVIEW

3. Mr Ballaman outlined the agenda for the thirty-seventh session of the Working Group drawing attention to expected decisions and actions to be taken. He particularly drew attention to the need to establish procedures for dealing with information sent by organizations outside the Convention, mainly industry, related to dossiers on persistent organic pollutants (POPs) that had been proposed as substances for addition to annexes to the Protocol.

4. In the following discussion it was agreed that the process for reviewing candidate POPs should be transparent and based upon the best available information. Information sent to the Convention (usually to the secretariat) should be made available along with the dossiers. The review process should focus upon the dossiers but may wish to make use of other information available. It was agreed that the additional information should be placed on the Convention website and that the proposing Parties should be invited to comment on such information prior to the start of the review. It was agreed that these proposals for dealing with the additional information be discussed by the Working Group.

5. Mr. Ballaman drew attention to the draft action plan for Eastern European, Caucasian and Central Asian (EECCA) countries that had been prepared by the Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling. He hoped that the Working Group would forward the plan, amended if necessary, to the Executive Body. The Bureau agreed that there was a need to involve EECCA countries more in the work of the Convention. It was noted that there was a current need to engage some EECCA countries in bilateral discussions with the Centre for Integrated Assessment Modelling.

6. Mr Ballaman indicated that the increased workload of the Working Group might require a meeting of Heads of Delegation in spring 2006. The secretariat had provisionally booked 3-5 May 2006 for this.

III. PREPARATIONS FOR THE TWENTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE BODY

7. Mr. Bull noted that the agenda for the twenty-third session, which had been circulated for comment, had been finalized by the secretariat and submitted before the due deadline. Other documents had been or were being submitted before the deadline of 2 October.

8. Other issues related to the session, e.g. elections, funding, Regional Implementation Forum were dealt with separately under other agenda items.

IV. FUNDING PARTICIPATION OF COUNTRIES WITH ECONOMIES IN TRANSITION

9. The secretariat drew attention to previous decisions on funding participation of countries with economies in transition to meetings held in Geneva. The Bureau noted that previous decisions had provided sufficient flexibility to provide funds for meetings when they were available. Recent contributions from some Parties were allowing greater flexibility.

10. 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 the join the European Community and agreed to propose deletion of their names from the list of countries eligible for support.

11. The Bureau agreed that decision 2002/11 should be revised in accordance with the changed list but other changes to the decision were not considered necessary.

V. REVIEW OF THE FUNDING OF CORE ACTIVITIES (OTHER THAN EMEP)

12. The Bureau noted that decision 2002/1 required that the Executive Body consider the funding of core activities once more at its 23rd session. Information presented by the secretariat to the Working Group on Effects at its 24th session in August would also be made available to the Executive Body. The information suggested that the voluntary funding mechanism was not working effectively and decision 2002/1 had not improved the contributions made by most Parties.

13. The Bureau agreed there was a need for an improved mechanism but were not optimistic that all Parties could accept a mandatory agreement. It decided that all relevant information should be presented to the Executive Body to enable it decide upon a clear course for action.

VI. DATA ISSUES

14. The secretariat noted the discussions held by the Working Group on Effects and its Bureau on the availability of data generated under the Convention. The Working Group Bureau had drafted a revised set of data rules that were aimed to be more generic and widely applicable than the existing sets previously agreed by the Executive Body. The Working Group had charged its Bureau with presenting a proposal for a new set of rules at its twenty-fifth session in 2006.

15. The Bureau noted that the Bureaux of the Working Group on Effects and the EMEP Steering Body would have the opportunity to discuss the rules at their annual joint meeting in spring 2006. It expressed the hope that these bodies could propose rules that were acceptable to the Working Group on Effects and the EMEP Steering Body so that the Executive Body could adopt them at its twenty-fourth session.

VII. ELECTIONS

16. The Bureau noted the need for the Executive Body to elect new members for the Implementation Committee and new members for its Bureau. The Bureau discussed the future balance of expertise and sub-regional representation needed for the effective functioning of these two bodies. It noted the various options available, recognized the difficulties when so many new members of the Implementation Committee had to be elected, but concluded that it was optimistic that the Executive Body would be in a position to make effective appointments.

VIII. REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION FORUM FOR INPUT TO THE COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

17. Mr. Bull outlined UNECE's plans for a Regional Implementation Forum for UNECE member States that would be held on 15-16 December, starting at 3 p.m. on the 15. The provisional agenda indicated that sustainable energy would be a major focus for the Forum and would be the basis for discussions on the first day. Discussions on air pollution, climate change and links with sustainable energy would take place on the second day, which would provide Executive Body delegations with the opportunity to join their colleagues in the UNECE Forum.

18. The secretariat was preparing a single document to aid discussions. The text drew attention to the major achievements and challenges. Draft text had been circulated to the Bureau members for comment and their suggestions had been incorporated in that submitted by the Division.

19. The Bureau took note of the preparations and requested the secretariat to draw attention to the Forum in its letter of invitation to Executive Body Heads of Delegation.

IX. OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

20. The secretariat noted that an inter-regional forum meeting had taken place in Japan in August. Mr. Lars Nordberg, Mr. Bill Harnett and Mr. Peringe Grennfelt had represented the Convention and described its work. A report of the meeting, with conclusions and outlines of the presentations given, was available.

21. The Bureau noted that Mr Bull had been invited to a meeting of the Malé Declaration in Delhi in October. The meeting planned to hold a day of inter-regional discussions to develop its outreach activities.

22. Mr. Bull had also been invited to attend the seventh Intergovernmental meeting of EANET and a Japanese forum organized back to back with it. Both meetings would take place in December and Mr. Bull would be supported by UNECE funding.

23. Mr Johnstone drew attention to the meeting organized by China, the European Commission and the United States EPA that was to be held in Beijing in October. The Convention's secretariat had been invited to participate but it had not proved feasible for a member of the secretariat to attend.

X. OTHER BUSINESS

24. Under this agenda item the Bureau held further discussions on the need to address issues that prevented EECCA countries from acceding to Protocols. Approaches to individual countries, possibly through visits by delegations from the Bureau, might be a possible course of action.

XI. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

25. The Bureau agreed to hold its next meeting at 6.15 p.m on Tuesday 13 December 2005. It noted the need for a High-level Coordinating Group meeting.