

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
10 December 2008, Geneva**

Prepared by the secretariat in consultation with the Bureau

The third meeting of the Bureau in 2008 was chaired by the Chairman of the Executive Body, Mr. M. Williams (United Kingdom), and was attended by Vice-Chairpersons Mr. R. Ballaman (Switzerland), Mr. D. Fantozzi (United States), Mr. T. Johannessen (Norway), Ms. M. Lešnjak (Slovenia) and Mr. M. Rico (France). Ms S Vidic attended as the elected Chair of the EMEP Steering Body and Mr. A. Zuber attended as observer for the European Commission. Ms. K. Scavo (United States) was invited to attend the meeting as observer since Mr. Fantozzi was unable to attend at the start of the meeting. Mr. A. Fretheim (Norway) sent his apologies. Mr. K. Bull and Mr. M. Johansson attended for the UNECE secretariat.

**I. NOTE OF THE BUREAU MEETING OF 1 SEPTEMBER 2008
(EB BUREAU/2008/2) INCLUDING MATTERS ARISING NOT ELSEWHERE
ON THE AGENDA**

1. The note of the previous meeting had been circulated and comments received incorporated. **The Bureau agreed that it should be placed on the Convention's website at <http://www.unece.org/env/lrtap/ExecutiveBody/bureau.html>.**
2. The Chair requested that the secretariat referred to years as well as to session numbers when citing working group and Executive Body sessions.

II. TWENTY-SIXTH (2008) SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE BODY

3. The secretariat noted that all documents for the session had been released more than one week earlier. While recognizing this fell well short of the 6-week rule (i.e. 6 weeks before the session) that was the expectation for released documents, the Bureau nevertheless welcomed the improved situation compared with recent years when some documents had been very late. The secretariat informed the Bureau of meeting room arrangements including the availability of a second meeting room for group discussions.

A. Accreditation of NGOs

4. **The Bureau agreed that Executive Body decision 2006/11 on the accreditation of NGOs should be adopted by the Executive Body, i.e. it should no longer be considered provisional.**

5. The secretariat noted the application for accreditation by the International Union of Air Pollution Prevention and Environmental Protection Associations (IUAPPA) that had been circulated to the Bureau. **The Bureau agreed that the work of IUAPPA, especially with regard to the Global Atmospheric Pollution Forum, was closely allied to that of the Convention and decided to recommend accreditation to the Executive Body.**

B. Plans for the 30th anniversary of the Convention

6. It was noted that Sweden was proceeding with plans to host a conference in Gothenburg in October 2009 to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Convention. It had circulated plans for the event, which would also be the 10th anniversary of the Gothenburg Protocol. Sweden would hold an organizing meeting with a few key players during a lunch break of the Executive Body session.

7. Mr. Williams reported on his visit to the Russian Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment with Mr. Ballaman, Mr Bull and the ECE Regional Advisor, Mr. Libert. The Russian Federation had offered to host a session of the Executive Body in St-Petersburg in spring 2010 as part of the Convention's 30th anniversary celebrations. It was also planned to have a specific EECCA country focus at that session. It was noted that the Russian Federation was keen to promote an EECCA project for capacity building.

8. The Bureau discussed ways to highlight the Convention's work as part of the 30th anniversary celebrations. A document or brochure could be used to good effect and there were some suggestions on topics, e.g. use might be made of the Convention's long-term strategy development. It was noted that a special issue of the Journal of Atmospheric Chemistry or ECE's Air Pollution Studies might provide the necessary opportunity. It would be important to try to increase the visibility of the Convention.

9. **The Bureau agreed that, even with the possibility of special meetings or sessions, the regular Executive Body session in December should be retained.**

C. Revision of the Protocol on POPs, the Protocol on Heavy Metals and the Gothenburg Protocol

10. Mr Ballaman outlined the work of the Working Group on Strategies and Review and that was to feed into the deliberations at the Executive Body session. He noted the newly proposed substances and the proposed amendments. He stressed the need for a clear mandate for the Working Group to do its work.

11. Mr. Rico noted the proposals from the EU to amend articles 14 and 16 to the Protocol on POPs. These might need further work before adoption.

12. Regarding the proposal on mercury containing substances, Mr. Ballman considered this might be adopted or could be referred to the Task Force on Heavy Metals.

13. For the Gothenburg Protocol, Mr. Zuber noted the EU climate and energy package revision and how this might affect the baseline for the Protocol calculations. The Bureau discussed the various deadlines for data submissions that would enable the Centre for Integrated Assessment Modelling to complete its work. Mr. Ballaman noted that a draft revised text for the Protocol had been produced that might facilitate negotiations.

14. Mr. Ballaman stressed the need for a group of legal experts to help with the work on revising protocols and hoped that the Executive Body would agree on setting up such a body.

D. Progress in core activities

15. Mr. Johannessen and Ms. Vidic outlined the work of the Working Group on Effects and the Steering Body of EMEP respectively that would be presented to the Executive Body. They noted plans for developing longer term strategies and Mr. Johannessen drew attention to the Working Group's draft reporting guidelines and the associated decision that would be put before the Executive Body.

E. Compliance

16. The Bureau discussed possible candidates that might be elected to the Implementation Committee to replace the person who was leaving.

17. The Bureau also considered stronger measures that might be used by the Executive Body where a party or parties remained in non-compliance for several years with no apparent steps being taken by them to move into compliance.

F. Strategies and policies reporting

18. Mr. Bull informed the Bureau on the presentation that would be made by the secretariat to the Executive Body. It would inform the Parties on their replies to the 2008 questionnaire and outline plans for preparing the 2010 questionnaire.

G. Guidelines for reporting emission data

19. Mr. Rico noted that the EU would propose a few changes to the Guidelines as prepared by the Working Group on Strategies and Review. Some Bureau members felt that the changes were unnecessary; however, the EU was keen to harmonize the Guidelines with other reporting procedures.

H. A long-term strategy for the Convention

20. Mr. Williams outlined plans for developing the long-term strategy using the document that was being submitted to the Executive Body. He saw no need to rush the process and envisaged completion in 2010. It was noted that Swedish workshops

had proved useful in developing the Convention's strategy in the past and that Sweden planned another conference for October 2009. **The Bureau agreed that the timeframe for completion in 2009 was too short and that 2010 would be a better timeframe.**

21. The secretariat suggested that feedback on the document from EB delegations be used to redraft the text; a new version could be provided to the main subsidiary bodies when they met in September. Mr Williams suggested that the Bureau and the Bureau of the Working Group on Strategies and Review be responsible for developing and drafting the texts. It was suggested that the Bureaux work electronically to develop the new draft.

I. Air pollution and climate change

22. Mr. Williams noted the conference results that would be presented to the Executive Body.

23. Mr. Johansson described his meeting with the IPCC secretary and the possibilities for a joint report on air pollution and climate change between the Convention and IPCC. If the Convention were interested in this it should make it known to the Governing Body of IPCC that would meet in April.

24. The Bureau noted that such a report might require resources that might not be available in the Convention. One Bureau member believed that such an initiative should come from IPCC rather than from its secretary. Other Bureau members welcomed such possibilities and felt it was an excellent opportunity to promote the Convention's work.

25. Mr. Williams believed that the links with IPCC were too good an opportunity to miss, but caution was needed about future commitments. **The Bureau invited the secretariat to follow up on its initiative with the IPCC secretariat and "scope" what might be involved in further collaboration such as joint publications. It invited the secretariat to inform the Executive Body on its efforts so far.**

J. Election of officers

26. Mr. Williams indicated that he would be prepared to stand for re-election. Mr. Fantozzi, Ms. Lešnjak and Mr. Rico indicated they would be stepping down from the Bureau at the Executive Body session. **The Bureau agreed possible replacements should take into account the required geographic balance on the Bureau, and recognized that Vice-Chairs from North America, the EU States and Eastern Europe would provide a broad representation.**

III. SECRETARIAT STAFFING

27. Mr. Bull provided information on his impending retirement and on interim arrangements for taking care of the work of the Convention until a replacement could be appointed.

IV. OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

28. Mr. Bull drew attention to a revised text for the definition of Convention ambassadors. **The Bureau agreed that the text prepared by the secretariat would be a useful approach to nominating ambassadors to represent the Convention when necessary. The text is appended to the report.**

29. Mr. Bull provided a report from Mr. L. Nordberg, the current ambassador for the Convention. **The Bureau welcomed the report from Mr. Nordberg and recorded its thanks to him.**

V. STATUS OF TRUST FUNDS

30. Mr. Bull outlined the state of the Convention Trust Funds, in particular that supporting countries with economies in transition and that supporting secretariat travel. Both Trust Funds had received limited contributions in 2008, which limited future spending. The Trust Fund for countries with economies in transition held most of its funds ear-marked for specific projects. The remainder of the contributions were just sufficient to meet the funding required to support attendance at meetings in Geneva, but little more.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

31. **The Bureau noted that Mr. Fantozzi, Ms. Lešnjak and Mr. Rico were stepping down as Vice-Chairs of the Executive Body. It expressed its thanks to them for their efforts supporting the work of the Bureau and the Convention.**

32. **The Bureau noted that Mr. Bull would retire early in the new year and expressed its thanks to him for his work as secretary of the Executive Body.**

VII. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

33. **The Bureau agreed to meet a.m. 20 April 2009 just prior to the April session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review.**

Annex

Ambassadors for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution

The role of ambassadors

The Executive Body may decide to appoint one or more “ambassadors” (official representatives) for the Convention to support activities under the Convention otherwise undertaken by its Bureau and/or secretariat. Such activities are particularly important in activities such as outreach and capacity-building where resources may be limited and timing difficulties are sometimes encountered (e.g. time clashes with regular activities).

Appointment of ambassadors

The Executive Body shall appoint each ambassador after consideration of a recommendation made by its Bureau. The Bureau’s deliberations will be facilitated by the secretariat, which will provide it with all necessary relevant information.

Criteria for selecting ambassadors

Those representing the Convention as ambassadors shall be selected by virtue of their experience and sound knowledge of the Convention. When acting for the Convention they shall do so in their personal capacity and shall ensure they do not represent the views of any government or organization. They shall not receive payment from Convention Trust Funds to be an ambassador for the Convention, though an ambassador might be appointed as a consultant for a UN-funded project.

Support of the secretariat

The secretariat shall ensure that ambassadors are well briefed and provided with the latest relevant information prior to representing the Convention.

Reports of ambassadors

Each ambassador shall provide the Bureau of the Executive Body with a report of his/her activities associated with the Convention at least once per year, preferably prior to the session of the Executive Body.