
EXECUTIVE BODY FOR THE CONVENTION ON
LONG-RANGE TRANSBOUNDARY AIR POLLUTION
Bureau to the Executive Body

Note of the Bureau Meeting on 15 April 2011

Attendance: All Bureau members attended. Mr. Andre Zuber attended as an observer on behalf of the EU. Mr. S. Ludwiczak, Ms. A Karadjova and Mr. K. Olendzynski from the UNECE secretariat attended. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Martin Williams, Chairman of the Executive Body.

Item 1: Next steps in revising the Gothenburg Protocol and the Protocol on Heavy Metals

The Chairman of the Working Group on Strategies and Review gave an account of the outcome of WGSR-48 focusing on the revision of the Gothenburg Protocol. The key remaining issue was the selection of a cost-efficient emission scenario and the revision of annex II (national emission ceilings). There were a number of pending issues both in the Protocol text and in the technical annexes. The timeline for completing the revision was a major challenge and may need to be reconsidered. Adoption of a revised Protocol at the Executive Body session in December 2011 would require a formal submission of the amendments by a Party before 12 August 2011. If the deadline of December 2011 was not met, an extraordinary meeting of the Parties could be convened in April 2012 back-to-back with WGSR-50 to adopt the revised Protocol.

The Bureau agreed that discussions at WGSR-49 in September should focus on the general concept of the revision and on key sectors and measures. It would also be necessary to address issues related to both the Heavy Metals and the Gothenburg Protocol. Several Bureau members stressed the usefulness of the informal discussion held as part of the session which enabled free exchange of views among Parties including non-parties to the Gothenburg Protocol. The Bureau suggested making similar arrangements at WGSR-49 in September 2011. **Action: Chair of WGSR to plan for an informal session at the September**

Bureau members noted that several of the documents came out a rather short time before the session including a number of important informal documents. It was difficult to react to those documents especially for non-English speaking countries. The secretariat explained the procedures and timelines for translation of documents in the UN system. It stressed that only official documents could be translated and it would produce consolidated versions of the protocol text and annexes with the proposed amendments so far as official documents for WGSR-49. Courtesy translations of informal documents were most welcome.

The chair noted and welcomed the 3-way (EU, US and RU) effort towards EECCA region Parties to ensure their broad participation in the revision and subsequent ratification. The

work of the Coordinating Group on EECCA led by the Russian Federation was highlighted in this context.

Item 2: Action plan for the implementation of the Long-term Strategy for the Convention

In its decision 2010/18 the Executive Body requested the Bureau to develop an action plan for the implementation of the Long-term Strategy and submit it for approval to the 29th session of the Executive Body in December 2011 (by the deadline of 30 September 2011). The Bureau discussed possible elements of the action plan including:

- ways for increasing the efficiency of work under the Convention, in particular to simplify the organizational structure and the mandates of the different bodies and groups under the Convention
- possibilities for further strengthening the interaction between the EMEP and WGE activities and possibly merging the two groups
- multi-year timeline and format of future workplans (also discussed under item 3)

The Bureau agreed that the Implementation Action Plan (IAP) for the LTS should be 3-5 pages, have a coherent vision and include the key points from the Convention workplan. It was agreed that a draft would be prepared by US with a support from CAN. **Action: US, in conjunction with Canada, to produce first draft of an Implementation Action Plan.**

The Bureau pointed out the complexity of LRTAP structures compared to other UN agreements and processes and supported the need for increasing the overall efficiency. The secretariat suggested that an independent review of the Convention structures and outputs should be carried out to identify the optimal ways and means to respond effectively and efficiently to the challenges for the next decade in accordance with the LTS.

The Bureau members supported the need for a closer cooperation between EMEP SB and WGE but were divided on the issue of possible merging of the two bodies. The merging would have an impact on legal obligations as e.g. WGE activities are not covered by the EMEP Programme and the EMEP Protocol, and on financing by lead countries of task forces and ICPs. The consequences (gains) of the merging should be carefully explored beforehand.

The Bureau supported the idea to move towards biannual or multi-year workplans. Each subsidiary body should come up with a bullet list of mid-term tasks. **Action: Chairs of subsidiary bodies to produce list of mid-term tasks for potential inclusion in a biannual or multi-year workplan.**

Item 3: Workplan for 2012 and beyond

The Chairs of the EMEP Steering Body and the WGE informed the Bureau about relevant discussions held at the recent meetings of their respective Bureaux.

The Chair of the EMEP Bureau highlighted the following issues discussed by the EMEP Bureau: the need for a major revision of the workplan and making it into a concise document and the need for at least bi-annual workplans separating routine from new work.

The Chair of the WGE highlighted the following issues discussed by the WGE Bureau: closer cooperation with EMEP through increased exchange of data especially on monitoring and modelling; better visibility of WGE work, for example through TFIAM presenting results for the GP revision based on inputs from WGE community without quoting the data providers; ex-post analysis report (that will compare the state of environment for selected indicators); extension of workplans for 2-3 three years (mid-term) with distinction between routine work and new developments; adding effects of new pollutants like black carbon. It was pointed out that WGE already had a mid-term workplan.

Both Bureaux had agreed on the advantages of having biannual or three-year workplans rather than annual ones and on the need for a clear distinction in the workplan between routine work carried out each year as requested by the Parties and adopted by the EB, and new developments and research which may require more than one year to accomplish.

The Bureau pointed out that future biannual or multi-year workplans should reflect the priorities of the Convention as set out in its Long-term Strategy. Mr. Spranger suggested having rolling 3-year plans i.e. to update the 3-year plan every year if needed.

The Bureau requested the secretariat to prepare a draft workplan for 2012-2013 and submit it as an official document in time for the meetings of EMEP SB, WGSR and WGE in September 2011. **Action: Secretariat to prepare draft workplan for 2012-2013 by June 2011.**

Item 4: Activities in relation to IMO and UNEP

At the request of the Executive Body, the Chair of the Executive Body had informed Mr. Efthimios E. Mitropoulos the Secretary General of International Maritime Organisation (IMO) about the important conclusions of the Expert Group on Black Carbon with regard to shipping emissions in January 2011. At the invitation of the IMO, a document with concrete proposals to IMO was submitted to the 62nd session of the IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) on behalf of the Bureau of the Executive Body on 7 April 2011. The letter and the response were circulated to the Bureau. The Bureau discussed the cooperation with IMO and considered possible participation of LRTAP representatives at the 62nd session of MEPC (11 to 15 July 2011). **Action: Bureau to decide representation at IMO-MEPC.**

In February 2011 the Chair of the EB sent a letter to Mr. Achim Steiner, the Executive Director of UNEP regarding the UNEP/WMO Integrated Assessment on Black Carbon and Tropospheric Ozone and related work carried out by TF HTAP and Expert Group on Black Carbon, inviting future cooperation on this issue and received a positive response. The letter and the response were circulated to the Bureau. The issue of BC and tropospheric ozone was discussed during the UNEP's 26th Governing Council meeting in February 2011. The issue is to be pursued further in UNEP's Action Plan. The EB Chair informed the Bureau that further interactions with UNEP will continue. **Action: EB Chair will report back to Executive Body on cooperation with IMO and UNEP in December 2011.**

Item 5: Recommendations of the Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution on wider global cooperation

At its 28th session in December 2010, the Executive Body requested the Bureau to:

- develop a set of questions designed to evaluate the level of interest and capacity of relevant organizations outside the UNECE for further cooperation, in consultation with the Bureaux of the EMEP Steering Body, the WGE and WGSR, and the secretariat
- to explore the most effective ways of furthering that cooperation.

The co-chair of TF HTAP informed the Bureau that a set of questions is being developed by TF HTAP. The Bureau set the deadline of 1 July 2011 for a draft list of questions. The Bureau decided that the list should be distributed to other bodies of LRTAP and the secretariat with a request for their comments. The Bureau noted that TF HTAP had already identified relevant organizations outside UNECE. **Action: EB Bureau to formulate questions as above and to explore the most effective ways of furthering co-operation.**

Item 6: Resources of the secretariat

Following the request expressed during the 28th session of the Executive Body, the secretariat presented a note showing the secretariat resources servicing the Convention in the period 2007-2010. Mr. Ludwiczak introduced the note and elaborated on the situation with the extra-budgetary post to work with EECCA countries. The contribution from Canada was still pending and about 90,000 USD were still needed to establish the post. The Bureau was requested to explore ways to find additional funding for that post. Mr. Federico San Martini requested this note to be presented to Parties at the next EB meeting. **Action: Bureau to explore ways to fund additional secretariat post.**

Mr. Tor Johannessen informed that Norway made additional resources available for use by the secretariat.

Item 7: Organization of work and meetings in 2012

The Bureau discussed the optimal organization of work in 2012 and agreed with the preliminary dates for plenary meetings of the EB and the major subsidiary bodies in 2012 and their bureaux meetings, announced by the secretariat (see annex).

Item 8: Other business

Mr. Johannessen informed that there are still no candidates yet to replace him as chair of WGE. The Bureau decided that if no candidates appeared by mid-June, a letter to Parties needed to be sent.

Item 9: Date, time and place of next meeting

The next meeting of the Bureau will be on 16 September 2011 in Geneva.

Annex

Preliminary 2012 list of meetings for LRTAP Convention

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| 12-14 March | EMEP Bureau |
| 14-16 March | WGE Bureau |
| 18-20 April | Implementation Committee 29 th meeting |
| 23-27 April | WGSR 50 th session |
| 27 April | EB Bureau |
| 3-5 September | Implementation Committee 30 th meeting |
| 10-14 September | WGSR 51 st session |
| 14 September | EB Bureau |
| 17-19 September | EMEP Steering Body 36 th session |
| 20-21 September | Working Group on Effects 31 st session |
| 10-14 December | Executive Body 30 th session |
| 10 December | EB Bureau |