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

NOTE OF THE BUREAU MEETING

Wednesday, room S4, Palais des Nations, 17 September 2014

18:00 – 20:00

Attendance: All Bureau members attended. Ms. V. Galatone participated via audioconference. Mr. A. Zuber attended as an observer on behalf of the EU. Mr. S. Ludwiczak, Ms. A. Karadjova, Mr. K. Olendrzynski, Mr. A. Mamadzhanov, Ms. A. Novikova and Ms. K. Wenzel from the ECE secretariat attended. The meeting was chaired by Mr. M. Williams, Chair of the Executive Body.

1. *Implementation of the 2014-2015 workplan for the implementation of the Convention*

The Bureau discussed the implementation of tasks assigned to it in the 2014-2015 workplan for the implementation of the Convention, in particular, items 1.8.4, 5.3, and 5.4.1.

(a) Recommendation on a new financial mechanism (for effects-related activities) to the Executive Body (item 1.8.4 of the workplan)

The Chair noted that the document providing the break-down of costs has not been developed, as was suggested at the last meeting of the Bureau, due to the lack of sufficient information provided by ICPs and the Task Force on Health. Some information though had been received: it showed that the percentage of costs covered from the Convention's trust fund to operate the centres varied between 5% and 35 %. At the same time, the entire picture was not available. The secretariat pointed to a downward trend of contributions observed over the last years. The Bureau agreed that using the existing funding mechanism was the best way forward and there was no need for a new one; however, efforts should be made to prevent further reduction of incoming contributions. The Executive Body (EB) may need to consider this issue in view of a growing threat of budgetary stringency in 2016 and beyond, as some Parties had indicated their plans to decrease the support to effects-related work of the Convention. **Action:** The secretariat to send a letter to the heads of delegations prior to the session of the Executive Body pointing out the challenges and encouraging Parties not to reduce their contributions. The Chair of the EB expressed his readiness to assist in drafting the text of the letter. Mr. Zuber suggested that the general issue of funding should be taken into account in view of additional resources needed for certain activities, e.g. the application of the inventory adjustment procedure.

(b) Note on cost estimates of all extrabudgetary items and proposals for possible addition of communication items to the Convention workplan (item 5.3 of the workplan)

The secretariat informed the Bureau that no proposals for new items or inputs with cost estimates had been received by the time of the meeting.

Action: The secretariat to circulate another invitation among Bureau members and other relevant contributors to provide input so that an informal note could be produced. The Coordinating Group for EECCA to finalize the list of priority documents to be translated into Russian by December.

(c) Report summarizing existing outreach activities with identification of subsidiary bodies engaged and possible additional opportunities (item 5.4.1 of the workplan)

The Bureau discussed the draft document prepared by the secretariat. The Chair suggested that the Climate and Clean Air Coalition and the Global Atmospheric Pollution Forum could be also mentioned in the report. Mr. Zuber proposed to reflect and to make more visible the fact of cooperation with other Conventions, e.g. the width of cooperation between MSC-E and the Stockholm and Minamata Conventions, as well as the Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution reaching the science community. The secretariat informed that the document would be updated to reflect the latest information from the UNEP Regional Resource Centre in Bangkok. **Action:** The Bureau members to send to the secretariat by Monday, 22 September, any additional information to be included in the report.

2. *Results of the 34th meeting of the Implementation Committee, the 38th session of the EMEP Steering Body and the first day of the 33rd session of the Working Group on Effects.*

The Chair of the Implementation Committee informed the Bureau about the results of the 33rd and 34th meetings of the Committee, given that both meetings were part of one continuous process. The Committee proposes five recommendations to the 33rd session of the EB, four of them concerning compliance by Cyprus, Liechtenstein, Estonia and Latvia with their emission reductions obligations and one joint recommendation concerning reporting obligations. The Committee considered 26 cases in total in 2014. The Chair of the Implementation Committee noted the differentiated approach applied by the Committee in cases where particular attention of the EB would be needed and cases with minor exceedances and/or where political will of Parties to reach compliance was strong. The Chair emphasized that the direct contact with Parties concerned, through their participation in the Committee's meetings, proved to be an effective instrument which is increasingly being used by the Committee in its deliberations. The Committee continued to identify and consider

relevant general and systemic issues, such as potential non-compliance with the older protocols versus compliance with the newer protocols concerning the same pollutants, the lack of base year emission data and *de minimis* cases. The Bureau noted with appreciation the constructive approach applied by the Committee, which was taking the initiative to reduce the number of cases presented to the EB.

The Chair of the EMEP Steering Body (EMEP SB) informed the Bureau about the results of the session, in particular focusing on the issue of application of the inventory adjustment procedure. In this regard the Steering Body concluded that the question of financing was fundamental in view of the extra work and time this exercise required. Challenges included the lack of experts, the application of different approaches and different emission factors by Parties. Mr. Zuber indicated the possibility for the EU to provide additional resources (cash or in-kind, e.g. involving EEA experts) - the details would be presented in December. The Chair of the EMEP SB informed that the Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projections was working on the recommendations to the EB on possible ways for the process to get improved based on the lessons learnt in 2014.

The Chair of the Working Group on Effects (WGE) informed the Bureau about the outcomes of the joint session of the Group with the EMEP Steering Body which mainly concerned the structure and focus of the assessment report which should be compiled in a way so as to achieve a balance between the history of the Convention and the way forward. The detailed outline with a distribution of responsibilities would be developed during the 2.5-day workshop in Oslo in January 2015 organized by MSC-W, and the Chair of the Working Group on Strategies and Review (WGSR) and vice-chairs would be invited to participate. The Chair of the WGE noted the sensitivity of discussions on reorganization in line with the ICP review, as it often concerned the financial aspects. He highlighted several presentations from WGE and EMEP SB (Task Force on Health on residential heating with wood and coal, ICP Vegetation on the the impacts on ecosystems in SEE/EECCA and South Asia regions, and MSC-E on heavy metals and POPs) that could be delivered at the EB session. **Action:** the presentations to be included in the agenda of the 33rd session of the EB.

3. Sharing of experiences on strategies and policies

The Chair of the WGSR presented the outcomes of the 52nd session of the Working Group, highlighting the session on information sharing held in line with EB decision 2013/2, a special session on transport and a session on progress made in EECCA countries. The sessions were very informative; however, there was no sufficient time left for questions and answers. He noted that in future more time would be devoted to interactive exchange, and the slots for presentations would be

fewer. He also noted that all Parties should be encouraged to participate in such experience sharing sessions.

4. Strengthening the implementation of the LRTAP Convention and its Protocols in EECCA countries

The secretariat provided an update on the implementation of the assistance programme, notably the training on gridded data held in Moldova in June 2014 and the plans for capacity-building and awareness raising activities until the end of the current year. It conveyed the message of the Chair of the Coordinating Group for EECCA regarding the proposal made at the previous meeting of the Bureau to develop a new workplan of the Group combining the activities with the overarching goals of the Long-term strategy. The Coordinating Group considered this proposal and decided that the revised Action Plan for EECCA (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2007/17) should remain as a reference document for the Parties, while merging the biennial plans or other documents with the Action Plan did not seem to be practical. Mr. Vasiliev suggested that the workplan of the Coordinating Group could include the items of the assistance programme managed by the secretariat. The Bureau left the latter proposal for a discussion on the margins of the meeting.

5. Organization of work and meetings in 2015

The secretariat introduced an updated list of meetings and official documentation of the main subsidiary bodies for 2015-2016. It suggested attaching the list of documents to the report of the Executive Body in order to facilitate their further submission to the conference management services and for the planning purposes. The Bureau members reviewed the list and made some comments and suggestions. The Bureau noted that holding the 34th session of the Executive Body in early May 2016 would be more convenient than in July 2016. The issue was raised whether a time slot should be given at the 53rd session of the WGSR in December 2015 to discuss EB-related issues. The Chair pointed out that in the inter-sessional period the EB Bureau was entrusted with making operational decisions to be later confirmed by the Executive Body. The Chair of the Implementation Committee noted that the proposed timing of the EB in 2016 may affect the ability of the Committee to base its recommendations on the most up to date information as the emissions data reported by Parties would not be available for the Committee's meeting that will be held prior to the EB meeting in 2016.

Action: The list to be further considered and approved by the Executive Body. The documents indicated by Chairs of EMEP SB and WGSR to be added. An EB Bureau meeting to be planned back-to-back with the 53rd session of WGSR,

6. *Other business*

Mr. Zuber reminded that an item concerning the future work under the Protocol on Heavy Metals in light of the outcomes of the UNEP negotiations related to the Minamata Convention should be included in the agenda of the 33rd session of the EB, as had been decided at its 31st session.

7. *Date, time and place of next meeting*

The Bureau decided to have its next meeting on Monday, 8 December 2014 at 10:00.