



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
12 September 2014

English only

Economic Commission for Europe

Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range
Transboundary Air Pollution

**Steering Body to the Cooperative Programme for
Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range
Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe**

Thirty-eighth session

Geneva, 15–17 September 2014

Agenda item 4 of the provisional agenda

**Matters arising from recent meetings of the Executive Body
and its subsidiary bodies and activities of the Bureau of
the Steering Body**

Activities of the Bureau of the Steering Body*

Note by the secretariat

Summary

The present note provides a report of the discussions at and outcomes of the meeting of the Bureau and the Extended Bureau held from 24 to 26 March 2014 in Geneva, Switzerland.

* The present document is being issued without formal editing.

GE.14-16135 (E)



* 1 4 1 6 1 3 5 *

Please recycle 



Introduction

1. The present note details the activities of the Bureau of the Steering Body to the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe (EMEP), reporting the results of the meeting of the Bureau and the Extended Bureau held from 24 to 26 March 2014 in Geneva, Switzerland.¹

A. Attendance

2. The following Bureau members attended the Extended Bureau meeting: Ms. Sonja Vidič (Croatia), Chair of the Steering Body; Mr. Peringe Grennfelt (Sweden) and Mr. Paul Ruysenaars (the Netherlands). Mr. Xavier Querol (Spain), Mr. Jan Macoun (Czech Republic), Mr. Yrjö Viisanen (Finland) and Mr. Savvas Kleanthous (Cyprus) were unable to participate. Mr. Martin Williams (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), Chair of the Executive Body to the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (Air Convention), also attended.

3. The meeting of the Extended Bureau was attended by representatives from the five EMEP centres: the Meteorological Synthesizing Centre-East (MSC-E); the Meteorological Synthesizing Centre-West (MSC-W); the Chemical Coordinating Centre (CCC); the Centre for Integrated Assessment Modelling (CIAM), and the Centre on Emission Inventories and Projections (CEIP). Mr. Christopher Dore (United Kingdom), co-Chair of the Task Force on Emission inventories and Projections, Mr. Rob Maas (the Netherlands) and Mr. Stefan Åström (Sweden), co-Chairs of the Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling and Mr. Jean-Paul Hettelingh (Netherlands), head of the Coordination Centre for Effects (CCE), also participated in the meeting. The secretariat of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Air Convention, EMEP's parent body, was also represented.

4. Ms. Laurence Rouil (France), co-Chair of the Task Force on Measurements and Modelling, Mr. Frank Dentener (Joint Research Centre of the European Commission) and Mr. Terry Keating (United States of America), co-Chairs of the Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution, took part in the discussions via telephone and web connections.

B. Organization of work

5. The Bureau took note of the oral reports from the EMEP Task Force Chairs and Centres as well as written reports from the Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling and CIAM, on the progress made in implementing the workplans for 2013 and 2014.

I. Matters arising from the thirty-second session of the Executive Body and the thirty-seventh session of the EMEP Steering Body

A. Review of topics discussed, conclusions and decisions

6. The secretariat drew attention to the major outcomes of the thirty-second session of the Executive Body for the Convention and, in particular, the adoption of revised

¹ The Bureau's proposals related to the financing of EMEP are presented in document ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2014/9.

Guidelines for Reporting Emission and Projection Data under the Convention. The Chair of the EMEP Steering Body summarized the highlights and outcomes of the Steering Body's thirty-seventh session, as well as those of the thirty-second session of the Executive Body that related to EMEP, including: an in-depth discussion on emission inventories covering both science and policy aspects, adjustments under the revised Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone (Gothenburg Protocol). The EMEP Chair also stressed the need for a better communication and service between the EMEP Centres and the Parties and briefly outlined the steps that had been taken to finalize the Convention's 2014–2015 workplan.

7. The Bureau said that more efforts were needed to ensure the visibility of EMEP; targeted reports and improved websites could be the means to achieve that goal. Furthermore, the need for more direct contacts between the Parties and the EMEP Centres was also underscored.

B. 2014–2015 workplan for the implementation of the Convention

8. The Bureau discussed the implementation of the 2014-2015 workplan for EMEP noting that unlike in previous years, the current workplan consists of both top-down and bottom-up approaches: i.e., with input from the Executive Body, other subsidiary bodies, and from the EMEP Centres, Task Forces and expert groups. It is expected that the new workplan would improve the visibility of the Convention and its achievements. In this context the Bureau discussed possible action to improve the communication between EMEP, users of EMEP information and data and general public. The Bureau noted decreasing knowledge about transboundary air pollution and the resulting lack of understanding, especially among finance people responsible for providing funding for monitoring and modelling activities. New ideas on communication are needed e.g. development of smartphone applications or issuing newsletters to be distributed by e-mail in order to capture the public and media attention.

9. The Bureau discussed the reporting by EMEP Centres and Task Forces on the implementation of the 2014-2015 workplan with the view to facilitate the reporting and to make it consistent across EMEP and other Convention bodies and groups. When adopting the workplan the Executive Body also adopted a template for the reporting as an annex to the 2014-2015 workplan. The template includes all the important elements of such reporting with a focus on main findings, policy relevant issues and recommendations. All the task forces and groups should report on efforts to strengthen implementation and ratification of the Convention and its protocol in countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. The template should play a role of a "check list" that includes all the required key elements.

C. Implications of the Long-term Strategy for the Convention and its Action Plan on EMEP future work

10. The Bureau continued its discussion on the implications of the Long-term Strategy for the Convention and the Action Plan for its implementation for EMEP monitoring and its future workplans. In general, the EMEP long-term strategy was in line with that of the Convention. However, some elements of the Convention's strategy, like outreach activities beyond the ECE region and cooperation with other environmental conventions and organizations (WHO, WMO, UNEP, Global Earth Observation System of Systems² (GEOSS), Arctic Council), were only partly reflected in the 2014–2015 workplan for

² See <http://www.earthobservations.org/geoss.php>.

EMEP. The Bureau also noted the lack of formal agreement between the Convention and UNEP's Stockholm Convention on POPs and Minamata Convention despite ongoing collaboration on a technical level by EMEP centres and task forces (e.g. MSC-E, CCC, TF HTAP). Recognition of work as well as visibility of EMEP centres who support this work is lacking partly due to missing formal agreement and partly due to the fact that these conventions are used to receive scientific support from EMEP without any financial contribution. Therefore, the Bureau requested the Bureau of the Executive Body and the secretariat to find a solution to this problem.

D. Implementation of the EMEP monitoring strategy 2010–2019

11. The Bureau discussed the implementation of the EMEP monitoring strategy 2010–2019 (ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2009/15) focusing on current measuring programmes and the needs of the Parties. A representative of CCC presented an overview of countries reporting to the Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution global database (EBAS).³ Countries might wish to comment on that information during the annual meetings of the Task Force on Measurements and Modelling. The Bureau noted the decreasing quality of measurements over the last few years that seems to be the consequence mainly of insufficient funding at a national level. The Bureau also noted the increasing gap between basic and scientific monitoring. There is a need for a small number of very good sites with comprehensive measurement programme (supersites). EMEP should continue to carry out joint studies and assessments with other international organizations dealing with atmospheric monitoring like WMO, the Arctic Council and UNEP. CCC and the secretariat informed about the recent initiative of WHO to set up a web based global platform for PM_{2.5} concentration data in urban areas. EMEP would be invited to assist in calibration of satellite data and to assist in ensuring the quality control and quality assurance for surface measurements, but CCC stressed that a good spatial distribution of level 2 sites and implementation of monitoring strategy was important and critical for the success of the programme.

E. Cooperation with the Working Group on Effects

12. The Chair informed the Bureau about the outcome of the thirty-seventh session of the EMEP Steering Body (Geneva, 9–11 September 2013) and the thirty-second session of the Working Group on Effects (Geneva, 12–13 September 2013), stressing the links between EMEP and the activities under the Working Group. The Bureau agreed that the joint workshop during the thirty-seventh session of the EMEP Steering Body had been a successful step towards a more integrated collaboration between EMEP and the effects-oriented programmes. It was agreed that meetings of task forces and workshops could provide a platform for more frequent interactions between monitoring and modelling experts from the two scientific bodies of the Convention.

13. On the afternoon of 26 March the Bureau held a joint session with the Extended Bureau of the Working Group on Effects and the Bureau of the Executive Body. The Chair of the TFIAM presented an outline of the Convention Assessment report to be completed in 2016. The report should on one hand demonstrate the success of the Convention – achieved emission reductions and decreased adverse effects, and on the other hand should highlight remaining problems - like health aspects and damage to ecosystems. It should include a summary for policy makers and a technical part. Although a major part of the work on the report would be done by the Centres under the Convention, additional funding would be required for coordination, editing and filling the gaps. Translation of the report into Russian

³ See <http://ebas.nilu.no/>.

and French is not foreseen. Presentations were made by a representative of the International Cooperative Programme (ICP) on Effects of Air Pollution on Natural Vegetation and Crops on the iPhone application for reporting ozone injury symptoms, on air pollutant deposition and related damage in countries of South and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, Central and South Asia, on a planned ozone conference in China in May 2014 in collaboration with TF HTAP and on moving the coordination of moss survey from UK to the Russian Federation. A representative of ICP Modelling and Mapping of Critical Levels and Loads and Air Pollution Effects, Risks and Trends, and a representative of CCE reported on the update of chapter 3 of the Manual on Methodologies and Criteria for Modelling and Mapping Critical Loads and Levels and Air Pollution Effects, Risks and Trends⁴ (Mapping Manual). In addition, the following topics were discussed:

(a) Communication and outreach activities - the secretariat would produce an informal document listing the current activities; financing effects related activities – the secretariat would collect information on the costs of maintaining the centres under the Working Group on Effects;

(b) New schedule for meetings of the Convention bodies; as of September 2015 EMEP Steering Body and Working Group on Effects would hold joint meetings; the intention is to improve the information flow from science to policy and maximize synergies; joint meetings of the two bodies and their bureaux would facilitate the production of joint assessments, analyses and reports; the length of the respective meetings should be reduced;

(c) New schedule for meetings of the Convention bodies; as of September 2015 EMEP Steering Body and Working Group on Effects would hold joint meetings; the intention is to improve the information flow from science to policy and maximize synergies; joint meetings of the two bodies and their bureaux would facilitate the production of joint assessments, analyses and reports; the length of the respective meetings should be reduced;

(d) The EMEP related issues e.g. gridding of emissions in the new EMEP grid; consistency of particulate matter and heavy metals emission estimates; priorities for the TFEIP in view of limited resources; maintaining and improvements of EMEP websites;

(e) The Working Group on Effects related issues e.g. latest news from the World Health Organization on burden of disease from indoor (household) and ambient air pollution (7 million premature deaths annually including 600 thousands in Europe); assessment of damage to crops and semi-natural vegetation; recent organizational changes in the ICP on Assessment and Monitoring of Air Pollution Effects on Forests; planned thematic reports in 2014-2015.

14. The Bureau recommended that efforts to achieve closer cooperation between the two scientific groups should continue and that both short- and long-term objectives should be developed with respect to integration efforts with the Working Group on Effects.

II. Progress of work

A. Emissions

15. The representative of CEIP presented the status of emission data reporting in 2013 and 2014, as well as tasks of CEIP in relation to stage 1, 2 and 3 reviews of the data,

⁴ Task Force on Modelling and Mapping (Berlin: Federal Environmental Agency (Umweltbundesamt),2004). Available from http://www.icpmapping.org/Mapping_Manual.

including online support to the national experts. Thirty nine (out of 51) Parties to the Convention submitted their emission inventories in 2014. Only Albania, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iceland, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Luxembourg, Monaco, Montenegro, Republic of Moldova and the Russian Federation did not provide any estimates of their national emissions by mid- March 2014. An important element of CEIP work in 2014 would be the update of CEIP database system (including emission gridding in the new EMEP grid) to align it with the revised Guidelines for Reporting Emissions and Projections Data under the Convention (ECE/EB.AIR/125). Another key task for CEIP in the 2014–2015 workplan would be the supervision of the expert analyses of Parties requests for adjustments under the Gothenburg Protocol.⁵ Attention was drawn to the collaboration between CEIP, the European Environment Agency (EEA) and the European Union (EU) Joint Research Centre on exchange of data (the Emissions Database for Global Atmospheric Research (EDGAR)) and inventory development and reviews. Participants were also informed about preparations for the 2014 in-depth reviews of the emission inventories. In that connection, Parties that were to be reviewed under the stage 3 review needed to submit their informative inventory reports (IIRs).

16. The co-Chair of the Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projections presented the main outcomes of the twenty-first Task Force meeting and the held back-to-back with it a stakeholder consultation workshop. The main issues discussed during the two events were: emission accuracy, completeness (non-anthropogenic sources), fine time resolution, chemical speciation and resuspension. The other goals of the Task Force meeting were the continued work on the revised reporting guidelines (ECE/EB.AIR/97) including its annexes, guidance on the adjustment procedure under the Gothenburg Protocol⁶ and stage-3 reviews. He also drew attention to the latest and planned updates of the EMEP/EEA air pollutant emission inventory guidebook.⁷ With respect to future work, the Task Force's work would concentrate on emissions from mobile machinery and small-scale stationary combustion. The Task Force called for additional funding to support emission inventory work in the countries of Southern and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.

17. The Bureau welcomed the progress made by CEIP and the Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projections and reiterated that Parties' in-kind support and additional funding in 2014–2015 would be necessary to support stage 3 reviews as well as the assessment of Parties' requests for applications of the adjustment procedure under the Gothenburg Protocol. It recommended that the EMEP Steering Body at its thirty-eighth session pay special attention the funding needs. The Bureau requested the secretariat to inform the respective Parties regarding missing emission data (including large point source emissions) and to request them to respond as to when the data could be delivered to CEIP.

B. Monitoring

18. Representatives of CCC informed the Bureau about the monitoring activities of CCC, highlighting numerous peer reviewed papers in 2013, participation and presentations delivered in various workshops and conferences, and collaboration with the Global Atmospheric Watch (GAW) programme, the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, WMO, WHO global burden assessment, the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme, and the EU Joint research Centre. CCC also informed about Parties' requests

⁵ See Executive Body decisions 2012/3, 2012/4 and 2012/12 available at http://www.unece.org/env/lrtap/executivebody/eb_decision.html.

⁶ See the draft guidance on adjustment under the amended Gothenburg Protocol to emission reduction commitments or to inventories (informal document No. 2, thirty-sixth session of the EMEP Steering Body), available from <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=30313>.

⁷ See <http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/emep-eea-guidebook-2013>.

for laboratory intercomparisons with a focus on elemental and organic carbon, inorganics, heavy metals and POPs. In addition, CCC informed about bilateral dialogue with Parties with respect to establishing new EMEP sites (Italy), supporting measurements (Spain), monitoring obligations, data reporting, quality assurance and quality control, etc. The next EMEP intensive measurement period is planned in 2016. It will be coordinated with respective EU projects. An updated EMEP Manual for sampling and analysis is available on line.⁸

C. Atmospheric modelling of acidifying and eutrophying pollutants, photo-oxidants and fine particles

19. A representative of MSC-W presented the progress in the atmospheric modelling of acidifying pollutants, photo-oxidants and fine particles, drawing attention to its work on fine spatial resolution (new EMEP grid), improved EMEP model performance for PM_{2.5} with finer vertical resolution, hemispheric and global model runs (effects of methane reductions on ozone), and to other accomplishments with respect to the implementation of the 2013 and 2014 workplans. She also presented an overview of relevant cooperation with the Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution and activities on the global and regional scales, including a number of EU-funded projects like *Evaluating the climate and air quality impacts of short-lived pollutants* (ECLIPSE)⁹ and *Effects of Climate Change on Air Pollution and Response Strategies for European Ecosystems* (ECLAIRE).¹⁰ She also informed about a new web interface for EMEP with substantially larger amounts of data available (e.g. hourly data, 0.1 degree resolution data).

D. Hemispheric transport of air pollution

20. The co-Chair of the Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution reported on the progress made in the Task Force's activities, drawing attention to the development of global emission inventories (2008 and 2010) and 2030 (2050) benchmark scenarios. A joint workshop – a collaborative effort of TFHTAP, TFIAM and CIAM - on emission scenarios is planned at the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis in October 2014. He elaborated about the coupling the regional and global modelling and of the source-receptor calculations that enable the estimation of impacts of future emission reduction strategies on health, ecosystems and climate. He also informed the Bureau about the Task Force plans for the remaining part of 2014 and in 2015. The Task Force continued its key role for the Convention, EU and the United States of America for science outreach beyond the ECE region, in particular towards key countries in Asia: India, China and Japan.

E. Atmospheric modelling and monitoring of persistent organic pollutants and heavy metals

21. A representative of MSC-E informed the Bureau about the progress in atmospheric modelling of POPs and heavy metals, as well as the work done on the further development of the Global EMEP Modelling System (GLEMOS; implementation of the new EMEP grid, regional to global spatial scales) and on the assessment of heavy metal pollution levels with fine resolution calculation (country case studies). MSC-E continued to provide support to countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and the Central Asia (e.g. dedicated website in

⁸ See <http://www.nilu.no/projects/ccc/manual/>.

⁹ See <http://eclipse.nilu.no/>.

¹⁰ See <http://www.eclaire-fp7.eu/>.

Russian) with information required for ratification by those countries of the Protocols on Heavy Metals and on Persistent Organic Pollutants. Attention was drawn to the cooperation by MSC-E with a number of Convention bodies, including Working Group on Effects (e.g. the heavy metals in mosses) and the Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution. MSC-E continues its extensive collaboration with a number of international programmes and organizations, such as the Stockholm Convention on POPs, the Minamata Convention on mercury, Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme under the Arctic Council, Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (HELCOM) and the European Commission.

F. Integrated assessment modelling

22. The Chair of the Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling provided information on progress in the implementation of the workplan items for 2013 and 2014, in particular, the contributions of the Task Force to the revision of the Gothenburg Protocol including its contribution to scenario development and to the development of the *Guidance document on health and environmental improvements using new knowledge, methods and data* (ECE/EB.AIR/124).¹¹ He noted the potential bottlenecks in the future work of the Task force due to discontinuation of the Network of Experts on Benefits and Economic Instruments and decreased funds to support Task Force participants from countries in West Balkans, Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.

23. The representative of CIAM reported on the work done with respect to updates to the Greenhouse Gas and Air Pollution Interactions and Synergies (GAINS) model, including the recently introduced finer spatial resolution from 28 kilometres (km) x 28 km of the EMEP model to 7 km x 7 km resolution used for computing population exposure and health impacts from fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) and nitrogen dioxide. He stressed that recent estimates of loss in life expectancy (for 2005) for PM_{2.5} and nitrogen dioxide may be of similar importance across Europe assuming no overlap of the two pollutants when assessing the health impacts. Other updates included estimates of emissions of particle number, black carbon and mercury and a further model extension to a global coverage by introducing new country data. He also pointed out to some recent significant modifications and recalculations of national PM_{2.5} emission inventories reported to EMEP.

III. Preparations for the thirty-eighth session of the EMEP Steering Body

24. The Bureau discussed the draft agenda and the format for the thirty-eighth session of the Steering Body, to be held from 15 to 17 September 2014 back to back with the thirty-third session of the Working Group on Effects. It recommended continuing the format of the Steering Body's sessions adopted in 2012. The Bureau agreed that in 2014 the Steering Body would be invited to focus on three main issues: adjustments under the Gothenburg Protocol to emission reduction commitments or to inventories for the purposes of comparing total national emissions with them, information sharing by Parties on the implementation of EMEP, and the Convention Assessment Report 2016. CEIP and the Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projections would take the lead when discussing the first item. Also as in 2012-2014, the Steering Body and the Working Group on Effects would hold a joint session on issues of common interest for the two bodies. The common issues could include: the Convention Assessment Report for the amended Gothenburg

¹¹ See <http://www.unece.org/environmental-policy/treaties/air-pollution/guidance-documents-and-other-methodological-materials/gothenburg-protocol.html>.

Protocol; country reports; common websites; and other issues of common interest. The Bureau appreciated the willingness of the Extended Bureau of the Working Group on Effects to help coordinate the preparations for the joint session. The Bureau also agreed that the agenda item focussed on information sharing by Parties on the implementation of EMEP should be a regular item during the sessions of the Steering Body. Parties would be invited to present their national experiences, successes and challenges (including scientific reports and publications), as well as their collaboration with EMEP Centres.

IV. Financial issues, use of resources and the budget for 2015

A. Status of mandatory and voluntary cash contributions

25. The secretariat reported on the status of cash contributions to the EMEP Trust Fund, stressing that 34 Parties to the 1984 Geneva Protocol on Long-term Financing of the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe had paid at least part of their contributions for 2013. The total of contributions received in 2013 for the EMEP Trust Fund was US\$ 2,487,302, or 105 per cent of the US\$ 2,358,700 budgeted (Greece, the Netherlands and Slovakia paid their contributions for 2013 and earlier years). Several Parties had accumulated arrears prior to 2013. The Bureau welcomed the 2013 financial situation. There had been no in-kind contributions by the Parties reported in 2013.

B. Use of resources in 2013 and the budget for 2015

26. The Bureau considered the yearly financial statements of MSC-E, MSC-W and CCC for 2013. It was satisfied that the resources for 2013 had been used as budgeted, and noted the significant in-kind contributions by the host countries as presented in their financial statements: CCC: US\$ 111,000, MSC-E: US\$ 57,635 and MSC-W US\$ 1,576,212 including US\$ 197,590 from CIAM.

27. The Bureau, discussed in depth the distribution of the budget for 2014 and 2015. It noted that the structure and distribution of the EMEP budget among the Centres corresponded to the current needs and priorities as set in the Long-term Strategy,¹² and the 2014–2015 workplan for the implementation of the Convention (ECE/EB.AIR/122/Add.2). The Bureau stressed that the Convention should be able to react quickly to issues reported by media that were important to the general public, such as air pollution episodes (particulate matter, forest fires, high ozone spells and urban pollution). In the short term (2014–2015), there was a need for more work related to emission inventories, which required extra funding that had not yet been secured: e.g., further development of methodologies for estimation of elemental/black carbon emissions; carrying out stage 3 reviews; and assessment of Parties' requests for application of the adjustment procedure for the Gothenburg Protocol targets. The Bureau agreed to recommend to the Steering Body to keep the 2015 budget without modifications compared to 2014.

¹² ECE/EB.AIR/106/Add.1 Executive Body Decision 2010/18 on Long-term strategy for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution and Action Plan for Its Implementation (see ECE/EB.AIR/106/Add.1).