

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

**NOTE OF THE BUREAU MEETING**

Monday, 2 May 2016, 18:00 – 19:30 hrs, room S4, Palais des Nations

Attendance: The following Bureau members attended: Mr. W. Harnett (Chair of WGSR), Ms. L. Rouil (Chair of the EMEP SB), Mr. P. Grennfelt (Chair of WGE), Mr. S. Vasiliev (Russian Federation), Mr. R. Ballaman (Switzerland), Mr. M. Schroeder (Chair of the Implementation Committee), and Ms. E. Berton (Canada). Mr. A. Zuber attended as an observer on behalf of the EU. Ms. A. Karadjova, Mr. K. Olendrzynski, Mr. A. Mamadzhanov, Ms. A. Novikova and Ms. C. Sanz Noriega from the ECE secretariat attended. The meeting was chaired by Ms. A. Engleryd, Chair of the Executive Body.

**1. *Financing***

The Bureau discussed the outcomes of the informal meeting of the main contributing Parties to the science and effects-related work of the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution, which took place in Brussels on 26 April 2016. The Chair of WGE who chaired the meeting, informed the Bureau that all countries hosting centres except for Norway and the Russian Federation attended the meeting. The latter two submitted written comments in advance of the meeting. In general (with the exception of the Netherlands), hosting countries are willing to continue to support centres in the years to come. However some Parties indicated that national funding is reviewed from time to time and for a couple of countries it is scheduled for 2017. Financing of the effects-related work is partly channelled through the UNECE voluntary trust fund (about 20 to 25% of the budget). Overall, voluntary contributions to the effects-related work have been decreasing over the last 8 years. However, some countries pay directly to the centres

Currently the main challenge is the financing of the Coordination Centre for Effects (CCE), which is hosted and largely supported by the Netherlands. In the future severe budget cuts in national funding are announced. It is not yet clear whether the CCE can implement its entire 2016 work or not and whether the centre will continue its work in 2017 and beyond even without the funding from the Dutch ministry. There is concern in the community about the cuts and a potential cease of funding for the CCE. WGE has asked the Netherlands to provide details about the funding to CCE, which in 2014 was estimated at about 590,000 Euros. The minimum budget to maintain and update the database is estimated to be 200,000 Euros. Long-term alternative solutions to maintain the CCE should be considered.

While it would be desirable to have a clearer picture about how much each item in the work plan costs, it seems to be difficult in practice as the centres' work on national priorities and for the Convention can sometimes not easily be distinguished.

Similarly, more transparency in the income of the centres would be desirable. It would also be important to inform Parties what exactly they are paying for.

In this regard, it was also made clear that there is a need for guidance by the EB to set priorities for the science programme under the Convention.

## ***2. Rules of procedure***

With regards to credentials, it was clarified that according to rule 13 of the rules of procedure for sessions of the Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution as adopted by decision 2010/9 and amended by decision 2013/1, two types of sessions of the EB can be distinguished. Where new protocols or amendments to the Convention or to one of its protocols other than amendments to the annex to the EMEP Protocol are to be, the credentials shall be issued either by the Head of State or Government or by the Minister of Foreign Affairs or, in the case of a regional economic integration organization, by the competent authority of that organization. Where no amendments are adopted, the issuance of credentials depends on the domestic procedure of the respective country (cf. ECE/EB.AIR/109, para 11). This should be someone so authorized by the respective country.

Concerning the terms of service for chairs of the main bodies under the Convention, there was a feeling that while rotation is good to engage Parties, two terms of two years is too short. However, other Bureau members felt that a prolongation of service to two terms of three years each might be counterproductive. It was clarified that the rules of procedure make provision for a third term (Rule 17: Officers shall be eligible for re-election, but may not serve more than two consecutive terms unless the Executive Body decides otherwise.) A prolongation of service for the members of the Implementation Committee was not deemed useful and instead rotation seen as essential, as there is a need to create ownership with the outcome of the Committee. However, it was recalled that according to the rule, nominations for IC members can only come from Parties to the latest three protocols

## ***3. Date, time and place of next meeting***

The Bureau will hold its next meeting in the afternoon on 12 December 2016, prior to the 54th session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review (13-14 December) and the 36th session of the Executive Body (15-16 December).