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Economic Commission for EuropeExecutive 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****Working Group on Effects****Second joint session***

Geneva, 13–16 September 2016

Agenda item 4 of the provisional agenda

**Matters arising from recent meetings of the Executive Body
and its subsidiary bodies and activities of the Bureaux of
the Steering Body and the Working Group on Effects****Activities of the Bureaux of EMEP Steering Body and the
Working Group on Effects******Note by the secretariat***Summary*

The present note provides a report of the discussions at and outcomes of the meeting of the Bureaux and the Extended Bureaux of the Steering Body to the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe and the Working Group on Effects held from 14 to 17 March 2016 in Geneva, Switzerland.

* The Executive Body to the Convention agreed that, as of 2015, the Working Group on Effects and the Steering Body to the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe should meet jointly, to achieve enhanced integration and cooperation between the Convention's two scientific subsidiary bodies (ECE/EB.AIR/122, para. 47 (b)).

** The present document is being issued without formal editing.



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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) and of the Bureau of the Working Group on Effects (WGE), reporting the results of the joint meeting of the respective Bureaux and the Extended Bureaux held from 14 to 17 March 2016 in Geneva, Switzerland.

A. Attendance

2. The following EMEP Steering Body Bureau members attended the meeting: Ms. Laurence Rouil (France), Chair of the Steering Body; Ms. Sonja Vidič (Croatia), Mr. Paul Ruysenaars (Netherlands), Mr. Xavier Querol (Spain), Mr. Nebojsa Redzic (Serbia) and Mr. Rudolf Weber (Switzerland). All the members of the WGE Bureau attended the meeting: Mr. Grennfelt (Sweden), Chair of WGE, Ms. Sabine Augustin (Switzerland), Mr. Jesper Bak (Denmark), Ms. Gudrun Schuetze (Germany), Ms. Sonja Vidič (Croatia), Mr. Thomas Dirnböck (Austria), Ms. Isaura Rabago (Spain) and Mr. Nebojsa Redzic (Serbia). Ms. Anna Engleryd (Sweden), Chair of the Executive Body to the Convention, also attended.

3. The meeting 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). Also attended representatives of all the WGE Centres: the Programme Co-ordinating Centre of the International Co-operative Programme (ICP) on Assessment and Monitoring of Air Pollution Effects on Forests (ICP Forests), the Programme Centre of the ICP on Assessment and Monitoring of the Effects of Air Pollution on Rivers and Lakes (ICP Waters), the Programme Centre of the ICP on Effects of Air Pollution on Materials, including Historic and Cultural Monuments (ICP Materials), the Programme Centre of the ICP on Effects of Air Pollution on Natural Vegetation and Crops (ICP Vegetation), the Programme Centre of the ICP on Integrated Monitoring of Air Pollution Effects on Ecosystems (ICP Integrated Monitoring), the Coordination Centre for Effects (CCE), the ICP on Modelling and Mapping of Critical Levels and Loads and Air Pollution Effects, Risks and Trends (ICP Modelling and Mapping), and the Joint Task Force on the Health Aspects of Air Pollution (TFH). Mr. Martin Adams (European Environment Agency), co-Chair of the Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projections (TFEIP), Mr. Rob Maas (the Netherlands) and Mr. Stefan Åström (Sweden), co-Chairs of the Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling (TFIAM), Mr. Augustin Colette (France), co-Chair of the Task Force on Measurements and Modelling (TFMM), Mr. Frank Dentener (Joint Research Centre), co-Chair of the Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution (TFHTAP), Mr. Filip Moldan, Chair of the Joint Expert Group on Dynamic Modelling (JEG), also participated in the meeting as well as the secretariat of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE).

4. Mr. Terry Keating (United States of America), co-Chair of the TFHTAP, contributed to the meeting via telephone and web connections.

B. Organization of work

5. The Bureaux took note of the oral reports from: the EMEP Centres and Task Forces, WGE Centres, JEG and TFH, on the progress made in implementing the 2014–2015 workplan for the implementation of the Convention (ECE/EB.AIR/122/Add.2) and on the key activities in the 2016–2017 workplan (ECE/EB.AIR/133/Add.1).

I. Matters arising from the thirty-fourth session of the Executive Body, the first joint session of EMEP Steering Body and the Working Group on Effects

6. The Chair of the Executive Body, supported by the secretariat, drew attention to the major outcomes of the thirty-fourth session of the Executive Body for the Convention and, in particular, on the expected content and timeline of the Convention assessment report and the new biannual 2016–2017 workplan for the implementation of the Convention (ECE/EB.AIR/133/Add.1 and the informal document “Basic and multi-year activities in the 2016–2017 period”).

7. The Chair of the EMEP Steering Body and the Chair of the Working Group on Effects summarized the highlights and outcomes of the first joint session of the EMEP Steering Body and WGE. The main issues discussed at the joint session included: the quality of emission inventories and their review including the review of adjustments under the 1999 Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone (Gothenburg Protocol), emerging issues related to emissions (e.g. condensables and semi-volatile organic compounds) EMEP monitoring, new evidence for air pollutants effects on health and environment, support to Parties, reduced funding for CCE and the efforts of WGE community to implement the recommendations from the 2013 ICP review.

8. The secretariat provided an update on cooperation opportunities for the Convention with various international mechanisms on transboundary air pollution including the Arctic Council, UNEP’s Stockholm and Minamata Conventions, Climate and Clean Air Coalition, and various subregional efforts in Asia (Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET) and the North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation (NEASPEC/ESCAP).

II. Progress of work

A. Emission inventories

9. The representative of CEIP presented the status of emission data reporting in 2015 and 2016, as well as various tasks of CEIP in relation to national emission inventories. The co-Chair of the Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projections presented the main outcomes of the 2015 Task Force meeting and the held back to back workshop and the planned activities in 2016.

10. The Bureaux welcomed the progress made by CEIP and the TFEIP and, in particular:

(a) Welcomed the information by CEIP that the 0.1° x 0.1° gridding system (longitude-latitude) for the new EMEP domain is in place; the distribution of emissions is harmonized with EDGAR database; next steps should be the improvement of spatial distribution and update of expert estimates, particularly for the eastern part of the EMEP domain; however, the redistribution of historical years in the new 0.1° x 0.1° grid system will be challenging;

(b) Noted that reporting of inventories to EMEP slightly improved, particularly from Parties in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia; the capacity building activities organized by the ECE secretariat seem to motivate countries to improve their data; continuation of such activities would be welcomed;

(c) Noted that TFEIP and TFMM will hold a workshop on condensables and semi-volatiles; the intention is to establish common understanding and both some short-

term actions and some longer-term aims to ensure that the reporting of PM emissions can better serve the modelling community;

(d) Expressed concern that MSC-W did not use the gridded emissions data provided by CEIP and urged MSC-W to work closely with CEIP in order to ensure that there is no duplication of effort.

B. Adjustments of emission inventories

11. The representative of CEIP and TFEIP on behalf of expert review team (ERT) presented information about the review of new applications by six Parties for adjustments of emission inventories under the Gothenburg Protocol submitted in 2016. A check by CEIP confirmed two new applications (Germany and Luxembourg) and significant recalculation by Germany in the transport sector. Furthermore, the reviewers will have to check also adjustments approved in the years 2014 and 2015. To make the procedure more efficient, CEIP developed an online database system¹ which allows online calculation of differences between emission data approved in 2014, in 2015, and latest reporting in 2016 (Annex VII), respectively. The reviews of the applications will be carried out by CEIP and the ERT between April and June 2016. The review coordination meeting will be held in Copenhagen in the last week of June in parallel with the stage 3 review (for 10 Parties). The summary report on the outcome of the review will be an official document for the second joint session of EMEP Steering Body and WGE in September 2016, while the country review reports will be informal documents for the session. The secretariat will assist CEIP and ERT to draft the summary report.

12. The Bureaux welcomed the provided information and:

(a) Expressed concern due to apparently insufficient number of reviewers supported by Parties and the fact that some stage 3 reviews could have to be postponed if the ERT is not complete;

(b) Noted that following a request by CEIP Parties are invited to declare that there are no significant changes in criteria and methods, respectively or explain reasons if there are minor differences in calculated emissions. If all Parties provide the requested information the review of adjustments approved in 2014 and 2015 should be significantly less resource demanding.

C. Atmospheric monitoring

14. Representatives of CCC and TFMM presented progress of work related to EMEP measurement activities. In particular, CCC and TFMM pointed out to continuous collaboration of EMEP with the Stockholm Convention on persistent organic pollutants, the Minamata Convention on mercury, the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP), the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (OSPAR), Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (HELCOM) and WMO lead activities. On the European Union level, cooperation opportunities for EMEP include the Copernicus Monitoring Atmospheric Composition and Climate (MACC/COPERNICUS). It is important for EMEP to promote and share its data but also to gain knowledge and get easy access to relevant data from partner organizations and projects.

13. The Bureaux welcomed the progress made by CCC and TFMM and:

¹ See webdab.umweltbundesamt.at/adjustments.

(a) Expressed concern that several Parties recently reported declining ambitions in implementing the EMEP monitoring strategy (level I) and related monitoring obligations; stressed the need to maintain high quality of the monitoring data for use within and outside the Convention;

(b) Welcomed the cooperation between TFMM and TFEIP on condensables / semi-volatile organic compound emissions and their handling in emission inventories and air pollution transport models;

(c) Encouraged EMEP to seek ways to maintain and extend relations with partner organizations, conventions and relevant research projects.

D. Atmospheric modelling, hemispheric transport of air pollution and integrated assessment modelling

14. Representatives of MSC-E informed the Bureau about the progress in atmospheric modelling of persistent organic pollutants (POPs) and heavy metals. Attention was drawn to the assessments of pollution levels with fine spatial resolution (country studies) and the assessment of the long-term trends (1990–2012) of heavy metals and POPs including the comparison of model results with EMEP measurement data and measurements in mosses.

15. Representatives of MSC-W presented the progress in atmospheric modelling of acidifying pollutants, photo-oxidants and fine particles, drawing attention to an improved understanding of the modelling of particulate matter and better understanding of air quality-climate interactions. Preliminary results for the climate impacts of the Gothenburg Protocol were discussed. A downscaling methodology of EMEP/MSW model results to high resolution and some preliminary results of a study focused on nitrogen oxide (NO₂) were also presented.

16. The co-Chairs 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 outcomes of a joint meeting with AMAP, with a wide participation from the EMEP and WGE sides, held in Potsdam, Germany from 17 to 19 February 2016. Among the topics for enhanced collaboration are evaluating mitigation strategies for mercury, persistent organic pollutants, and short lived climate pollutants including black carbon and methane.

17. Representatives of TFIAM and CIAM presented the recent progress in the integrated assessment modelling focussing on their respective inputs to the EMEP trends report and the 2016 assessment report.

18. The Bureaux welcomed the progress made by MSC-E, MSC-W, TFMM, TFHTAP, TFIAM and CIAM and:

(a) Acknowledged and supported MSC-E continued extensive collaboration with the Parties (country studies in collaboration with Belarus, the Czech Republic, Poland and the United Kingdom) and with a number of international programmes and organizations, such as AMAP, the Stockholm Convention on POPs and the Minamata Convention on mercury (contribution to the updated of the Global Mercury Assessment 2013);

(b) Supported all EMEP and WGE centres and Task Forces efforts to tighten the collaboration with external partners, in particular, with AMAP and the Stockholm Convention and recommended to EMEP Steering Body and WGE to consider various ways on how to extend the cooperation with other conventions and external partner organizations;

(c) Reiterated the need for further research in ozone and nitrogen (N) modelling with the EMEP model as several Parties reported significant differences between modelled and measured N deposition data;

(d) Stressed the active and key role played by TFHTAP for the Convention in scientific outreach beyond the ECE region, in particular towards the key countries in Asia, namely: China, India and Japan;

E. Critical Loads and funding the activities of the Coordination Centre for Effects

19. The representatives of CCE and ICP Modelling Mapping informed the Bureaux about the ongoing activities and the prospects for 2016–2017 following the 2015 decision by the Dutch authorities to reduce the national funding in 2016–2017 for CCE by more than 60 per cent and by 100 per cent as of 2018. The reduction in national funding will have a negative effect on the implementation of the 2016–2017 workplan items that require input by CCE. The National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM) which hosts CCE in a letter of 8 March 2016 informed Ms. Anna Engleryd, Chair of the Executive Body about the current CCE situation and the priority items for CCE in the 2016–2017 workplan. The priority items include maintaining and updating the European critical loads database to support the effects based science and policy under the Convention, and the follow up to the 2015–2017 call for data (see ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2015/2).

20. The Bureaux discussed and expressed deep concern about the financial situation of CCE. A “tour de table” brought a strong support from the scientific community for the continuation of the CCE work especially with respect to the priority items in the 2016–2017 workplan as indicated by CCE. The Bureaux also identified the key role of CCE in:

(a) harmonization and regular update of methods as a basic condition for comparability of indicators over Europe (Manual on Methodologies and Criteria for Modelling and Mapping Critical Loads and Levels and Air Pollution Effects, Risks and Trends);

(b) development of integrated approaches to consider air pollution effects and climate change effects on ecosystems and biodiversity;

(c) organization of ICP Modelling and Mapping/CCE Task Force meetings and workshops as platforms to link science with policy;

(d) launching and coordination of calls for data and evaluation of their responses to the final end of using them in integrated assessment modelling.

21. The discussion among Parties about the CCE funding situation and possible solutions will continue during the forty-fifth session of the Executive Body (May 2016) and the second joint session of EMEP Steering Body and WGE (September 2016).

F. Air pollution effects on health

22. The Chair of Task Force on Health provided the update on Task Force and WHO activities. The Bureaux welcomed the progress made by the Task Force and, in particular:

(a) Welcomed the information about the Task Force on Health main activities during 2014–2015, including the publication of three key reports “Economic cost of the health impact of air pollution in Europe: Clear air, health and wealth”, “Health risk assessment of air pollution: General principles”, and “Residential heating with wood and coal: health impacts and policy options in Europe and North America”.

(b) Noted the launch of the update of the WHO Global Air Quality Guidelines at the end of 2015; the update is expected to last for at least 4 years;

(c) Welcomed the forthcoming launch of the new WHO software AirQ+ to quantify the health impacts of air pollution; the AirQ+ software has been developed to support experts, policy makers and a variety of stakeholders at local and national levels; an interactive training workshop on the use of the software is planned back-to-back with the next meeting of the Task Force in May 2016;

(d) Noted that the Task Force activities serve not only ECE Parties but also contribute to the global response from WHO to address the adverse health effects of air pollution and are in-line with objectives of important global initiatives, in particular the World Health Assembly Resolution 68.8 on air pollution and health.

G. Air pollution effects on environment, materials and crops

23. The representatives of ICP Forests, Waters, Materials, Integrated Modelling, Vegetation and JEG informed the Bureaux about the implementation of the 2014-2015 workplan focussing on the key developments and major outputs. The Bureaux welcomed the progress made by ICP Forests, Waters, Materials, Integrated Modelling, Vegetation and JEG and:

(a) Welcomed the forthcoming (2016/17) joint study of ICP Forests and ICP Vegetation on ozone injuries as well as the ICP Forests continuing consideration of more sensible compartments of forest ecosystems towards N deposition, like mycorrhizas, as its contribution to the “State of Europe’s Forests 2016” an initiative of the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forest in Europe;

(b) Welcomed a closer cooperation of ICP Waters with ICP Integrated Monitoring; both ICPs will contribute to the thematic report on mercury in the environment planned for 2016 and will hold a joint task force meeting in May 2016;

(c) Welcomed and supported the Call for data on “Inventory and condition of stock of materials at UNESCO cultural World heritage sites” approved by the first joint session of EMEP Steering Body and WGE and launched in October 2015;

(d) Welcomed the progress on priority work items by ICP Integrated Monitoring such as long-term monitoring at 28 forest sites (collaboration with ICP Forests with a focus on effects of nitrogen deposition) and monitoring of mercury levels in forest floor and mineral soil, as well as the effects of future climate changes on the effects of air pollutants;

(e) Supported ICP Vegetation collaboration with MSC-W regarding further development of the ozone critical levels methodology for vegetation and mapping vegetation at risk as well as the ICP Vegetation progress with main deliverables in 2016, i.e. glossy brochures on ‘Field evidence of ozone impacts on vegetation in ambient air (2007–2015)’ and on ‘Impacts of ozone pollution on biodiversity’ and preparations for the ozone critical level workshop in November 2016 in Spain;

(f) Welcomed the successful outcome of the twenty-ninth Task Force meeting of ICP Vegetation organized jointly with the Joint Institute for Nuclear Research at Dubna, Russian Federation (29 February–3 March 2016) which focused on moss survey 2015/16 and ozone issues with considerable participation (90 experts) from 33 countries including countries in Eastern and South-eastern Europe, the Caucasus, Central Asia and other countries in Asia;

(g) Supported the dynamic modelling work of JEG especially related to ecosystem services and recommended the continuation of JEG work for the 2016–2017 biennium.

H. Follow up on ICP Review

24. The Chair of the WGE informed the Bureaux about the implementation of the recommendations from the ICP review. Some of the ICPs informed (see above) about joint activities with other ICPs and EMEP. Some ICPs also noted increased participation of national experts but not all of them. In order to increase the credibility of the scientific work, efforts need to be made to increase the participation in the ICP activities also by scientists from outside of the community. ICP Integrated Monitoring and ICP Waters confirmed their joint workshop to be held later in 2016. Other ICPs should also explore possibilities for joint workshops and activities.

25. Mr. Jesper Bak (Denmark) supported by ICP Forests updated the Bureaux on efforts to set up a common WGE webpage portal similar to the one for EMEP. The portal should, inter alia, help to share the data collected by all the WGE centres and to further promote the effects related activities within and outside the Convention. The options for setting up the WGE web portal will be presented during the second first joint session in September 2016.

I. Update of the mandates for centres and task forces

26. The Chair of the Steering Body to EMEP supported by the secretariat developed templates for updated mandates of centres and task forces under EMEP. The updated mandates should specify the main functions and obligations for centres and task forces and should include some key elements common to all scientific activities under the Convention e.g. support to Parties, in particular, to countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Europe and cooperation with internal (within the Convention) and external partners. The templates can also be used for WGE centres. By the end of June 2016, centres and task forces are requested to fill in the templates following their annual task force meetings. Most of the meetings will be held between April and June 2016. The draft mandates are to be submitted to the EMEP Steering Body and WGE for their consideration during the second joint session. The second joint session may decide to submit the draft mandates for consideration and approval by the executive body at its thirty-sixth session in December 2016.

J. Trends reports

27. Both the EMEP and WGE communities informed the Bureaux about the status of the trends reports. The EMEP trends report “Air pollution trends in the EMEP region between 1990 and 2012” was coordinated by TFMM while ICP Waters took the lead on the WGE trends report “Trends in Ecosystem and health responses to long-range transported atmospheric pollutants”. The key elements of the two trends reports provided the key contributions to the 2016 assessment report (see section III).

28. The Bureaux welcomed and acknowledged all the contributions to the trends reports from centres, task forces and expert groups from EMEP and WGE communities. The Bureaux especially acknowledged the excellent work of Ms. Heleen de Wit (Head of the ICP Waters Programme Centre) and Mr. Augustin Colette (co-Chair of TFMM) who were the key editors of the WGE and EMEP trends reports, respectively. The Bureaux approved the WGE trends report and provided further guidance to the editors on the finalization of the EMEP trends report.

III. 2016 assessment report

29. Mr. Rob Mass, Chair of TFIAM and one of the key editors of the 2016 assessment report gave an overview of the up to date work on the report and the detailed plan for its completion. What remains to be done with the report is: a) the inclusion of comments from Canada and the US (ongoing); b) adding the references, list of abbreviations and glossary.

30. The Executive Body meeting at its thirty-fourth session in December 2015 recognized the 2016 assessment report as a scientific report. The report is largely based on two trends reports developed by EMEP and WGE communities, respectively (see Chapter II.J above). The assessment report is addressed to policy makers beyond delegates to the Executive Body. The report focuses on remaining policy challenges and encourages further progress on air pollution abatement in all Parties to the Convention. The policy response to the report will be further discussed by the Executive Body.

31. The final version of the report will be presented to the Parties during the thirty-fifth session of the Executive Body in May 2016. The report will also be launched at a dedicated event in Brussels on 31 May 2016 and will be presented at the Eighth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference (Batumi, Georgia, 8–10 June 2016, see section VII).

32. The Bureau welcomed and acknowledged all the contributions to the report from EMEP and WGE communities including the excellent work done by the editors. The Bureaux also:

- (a) Provided guidance to the editors for the finalization of the assessment report;
- (b) Approved the 2016 assessment report following the request of the Executive Body made at its thirty-fourth session;
- (c) Welcomed the funding for the 2016 assessment report provided by Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland and the Nordic Council of Ministers.

IV. Implementation of the 2014–2015 and 2016–2017 workplans for the implementation of the Convention

33. The Bureaux discussed and highly acknowledged the implementation of the science part of the 2014–2015 workplan as reported by centres, task force and expert groups. As requested by the Executive Body, the Bureaux also discussed the priorities for science in the 2016–2017 workplan. The Bureaux could not agree on the definite list of scientific priorities but several areas of research have been identified as key ones:

- (a) Support to Parties e.g. with respect to national research (emissions, monitoring, effects work); access to data, development of tools etc.;
- (b) Depending on national needs, extension of the technical support to countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia;
- (c) PM and ozone (health issues), improvement of the emission data with a focus on black carbon/elemental carbon (consistency, completeness, reasons for recalculations, review process, stage 3 review and adjustments under the Gothenburg Protocol);
- (d) Cooperation with external partners (AMAP/Arctic Council, Asia) and the key role of TF HTAP.

34. The scientific priorities within EMEP and WGE will be discussed during the task force meetings between April and June 2016 and will be reported during the second joint session of EMEP Steering Body and WGE in September 2016.

V. Cooperation with other bodies, outreach and sharing information with other regions

35. Several of the Convention centres and task forces (MSC-E, MSC-W, CCC, CIAM, TFMM, TFHTAP, various ICPs and TFH) informed the Bureaux about past, ongoing and planned activities with other international projects, bodies and mechanisms within (e.g. European Union research projects) and beyond ECE region. Several opportunities for increased cooperation were mentioned, in particular, in relation to work on:

- (a) Persistent organic pollutants and heavy metals (Stockholm and Minamata Conventions);
- (b) Black carbon emission inventories (the Arctic Council/AMAP);
- (c) Hemispheric and global air pollution assessments (South and South-East Asia);
- (d) Climate change and biodiversity (CCAC, UNFCCC, European Union Habitat).

36. The secretariat provided information about its recent information sharing efforts focused on partner organizations e.g. WHO and UNEP. The efforts include presentations on relevant Convention activities at meetings in Geneva and — upon invitation — outside Geneva (e.g. at intergovernmental meetings of Acid Deposition Network in East Asia (EANET)). The secretariat makes continuing effort to invite relevant speakers from partner organizations, conventions and mechanisms to the sessions of the Executive Body and the joint sessions of EMEP Steering Body and WGE.

37. The secretariat also informed about the forthcoming second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly that will take place in Nairobi from 23 to 27 May 2016 (UNEA 2). Following the resolution on air pollution (1/7) at UNEA 1 (2014), a report will be presented to Member States, informing them about UNEP's achievements. Another report assessing policy solutions on air quality around the world will be launched. There will be no further resolution on air pollution, as resolution 1/7 is seen to be a long-standing one. Air quality will be integrated in UNEP's subprogramme on Chemicals and Waste (new: Chemicals, Waste and Air Quality). During UNEA 2, there will be an exhibition and a side-event on air quality. The secretariat also informed about the sixty-ninth session of the World Health Assembly (WHA) that will take place in Geneva, Switzerland from 23 to 28 May 2016. Following resolution 68.8 on air quality, WHO is currently working on a roadmap for implementation of this resolution, to which UNECE has given comments. This will be presented at WHA 69. It is expected that Member States will organize a side-event on air quality.

38. The Bureaux welcomed the various outreach activities and information sharing efforts and encouraged all the centres, task forces, groups and the secretariat to continue such actions pointing out to the need for activities at various levels (individual experts, research groups, task forces and bodies of the Convention). The Bureaux noted that such outreach activities may but not necessarily have to be formalized in form of written agreements (e.g. Memoranda of Understanding) with the relevant counterparts. The Bureaux also noted that outreach activities should be beneficial for both sides.

VI. Capacity building in countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia

39. The secretariat informed about the capacity building activities led by the secretariat in countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. The capacity building has

been carried out since late 2014 thanks to generous contributions by the European Union, the Netherlands, Norway, the Russian Federation and Switzerland. The programme is needs driven i.e. the Parties in collaboration with the secretariat set the scope of activities and the priorities. Over the last three years, the activities were focused on national emission inventories and analysis of air quality related national legislation. In 2015, the following activities were carried out:

- (a) Uzbekistan (non-Party) in May 2015; a workshop on emission inventories and a roundtable on legislation analysis; recommendations on further steps towards ratifications of three latest protocols to the Convention;
- (b) Armenia in June 2015; a workshop on emission inventories focused on industrial processes and fuel combustion;
- (c) Kazakhstan in June 2015; a workshop on emission inventories with a focus on energy and industrial processes;
- (d) Ukraine in November-December 2015; support in the preparation of the Informative Inventory Report.

40. For the first half of 2016 the following activities are planned:

- (a) Analysis of the national air quality assessment and management policies and legislation of Kyrgyzstan: a roundtable to discuss the results (April 2016);
- (b) Workshop on emission inventories in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan (April 2016);
- (c) Support in the preparation of the BAT workshop in Berlin (April 2016);
- (d) Analysis of the national air quality assessment and management policies and legislation of Kazakhstan.

41. The Bureau welcomed the capacity building activities led by the secretariat and:

- (a) Appreciated the capacity building activities since they help to generate better emission data;
- (b) Noted that the priorities will shift from building national inventories to baseline data and projections in support of ratification of the Gothenburg Protocol and also to analysis of national legislation;
- (c) Encouraged and supported these activities as increased involvement of countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia has been a priority for the Convention.

VII. Eighth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference (Batumi, Georgia, June 2016)

42. The secretariat informed about the preparations for the Eighth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference to be held in Batumi, Georgia from 8 to 10 June 2016. At its twentieth session, ECE's Committee on Environmental Policy (CEP) decided that "Improving air quality for a better environment and human health" will be one of the two main themes for the Conference. ECE prepared a substantive document (ECE/BATUMI.CONF/2016/5) as a background for the High-Level Segment on Air quality together with a number of partners (WHO, UNEP, OECD etc.). The Bureau of the Executive Body prepared an initiative, the 'Batumi Action for Cleaner Air' (2016-2021) (ECE/BATUMI.CONF/2016/7) to which countries can sign up on a voluntary basis. Also "Towards cleaner air: scientific assessment report 2016 — Summary for policymakers" will be an official document for the Conference (ECE/BATUMI.CONF/2016/12). At the Conference, ECE will also contribute to a side event on air quality together with German

Environment Agency (UBA), Climate and Clean Air Coalition, WHO EURO, UNEP and the European Environment Agency.

43. The Bureau welcomed the information provided by the secretariat and noted that the ministerial process is driven by ECE Parties under the CEP. The Bureaux encouraged their members to contact their respective national representatives to the CEP to promote the Convention work and its achievements.

VIII. Preparations for the second joint session of the EMEP Steering Body and the Working Group on Effects

44. The Bureaux discussed the agenda and the format for the second joint session of the EMEP Steering Body and the Working Group on Effects, to be held from 13 to 16 September 2016. Like the first joint session of the two bodies in 2015, the session in 2016 will be a joint session of the two scientific bodies of the Convention with a single agenda and a single session report. The draft session agenda will be developed by the secretariat in collaboration with the Chairs of EMEP Steering Body and WGE. EMEP related issues will be taken at the beginning of the session, followed by joint (EMEP/WGE) thematic sessions and by WGE specific issues. The joint thematic sessions will include the following issues: air pollution and climate, benzo(a)pyrene, ozone, funding of CCE activities in 2016–2017 and the collaboration with AMAP on mercury.

45. The Bureaux emphasized that the agenda item focussed on information sharing by Parties on the implementation of EMEP and of effects oriented activities, should continue to be a regular item during the joint sessions. Parties would be invited to present their national experiences, successes and challenges (including scientific reports and publications), as well as their collaboration with EMEP and WGE Centres, task forces and expert groups. In particular, at the second joint session, Parties will be requested to share their experiences and challenges in reporting national air pollutant emission inventories.

IX. Financial and budgetary matters

A. Status of mandatory and voluntary cash contributions

46. The secretariat reported on the status of cash contributions to the EMEP Trust Fund, stressing that 34 Parties to the 1984 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 2015. The total of contributions received in 2015 for the EMEP Trust Fund was \$ 2,296,012 slightly below the \$ 2,358,700 budgeted (several Parties paid their contributions for 2015 and earlier years). Several Parties had accumulated arrears prior to 2015. There had been no in-kind contributions by the Parties reported in 2015. The secretariat informed that as of 2015, United Nations Organization in Geneva, which handles the financial issues for ECE and other United Nations organizations in Geneva, has been contacting foreign ministries of ECE Member States on any arrears in mandatory payments. The Bureaux welcomed the 2015 financial situation. More details on financial and budgetary issues can be found in the financial document for the second joint session (ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2016/18–ECE/EB.AIR/WG.1/2016/11).

47. Secretariat informed also about the status of contribution by Parties to the Convention's Trust Fund for effects-oriented activities in 2015 (\$ 477,400 by 30 November 2015, subject to confirmation) and about the schedule of payments to centres for their work in 2015. The 2016 Appendices to the multi-year Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs)

are being prepared and are to be finalized later in 2016. The 2016 Appendices will include all the activities and deliverables as provided in the 2016–2017 workplan for the implementation of the Convention.

B. Use of EMEP resources in 2015 and the budget split among centres for 2017

48. The Bureaux considered the yearly financial statements of MSC-E, MSC-W and CCC for 2015. The Bureaux noted that the resources for 2015 had been used as budgeted, and noted the significant in-kind contributions by the host countries as presented in their financial statements: MSC-E \$ 40,678 and MSC-W \$ 1,605,656 including \$ 96,264 from CIAM. In 2015, CCC did not report any in-kind contribution.

49. The Bureau, discussed the distribution of the EMEP budget for 2014–2016. 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,² and the 2014–2015 and 2016–2017 workplans for the implementation of the Convention (ECE/EB.AIR/122/Add.2 and ECE/EB.AIR/133/Add.1, respectively). The Bureaux discussed but did not conclude on the EMEP budget for 2017. The issue will be further discussed during the second joint session in September 2016.

C. Contracts for Centres in 2016

50. Like in 2015, the new issue in the 2016 Appendices compared with past years — for both EMEP and WGE Centres — will be the forecasts of the 2016 budget split (e.g. into personnel costs, travel and indirect costs). The proposed splits will be based on reported expenditures in the 2015 financial statements submitted by Centres to ECE. In 2016, the secretariat will initiate the renewal of the MoUs for the WGE Centres as the current ones will expire on 30 June 2016. The current MoUs will be extended for another 5-year period (2016–2020). The extensions of the MoUs will be in form of amendments to the current MoUs.

X. Closing of the Bureaux meeting

51. The next joint meeting of the Bureaux and the Extended Bureaux of the EMEP Steering Body and the Working Group on Effects was tentatively scheduled to be held in the week 20 to 24 March 2017 in Geneva. The date for the meeting is chosen to avoid overlaps with winter holidays and the 2017 Geneva Motor Show which will be held between 9 and 19 March 2017.

² 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).