
EXECUTIVE BODY FOR THE CONVENTION ON
LONG-RANGE TRANSBOUNDARY AIR POLLUTION

Bureau to the Executive Body

NOTES OF THE BUREAU MEETING

Monday, 11 September 2017, room S4 , Palais des Nations,

12:30 – 15:00

Attendance: The following Bureau members attended: Mr. S. Vasiliev (Russian Federation), Mr. J. Kerr (Chair of WGSR), Ms. L. Rouil (Chair of the EMEP SB), Ms. I. Rabago (Chair of WGE). Ms. K. Weber (US) and Mr. R. Ballaman (Switzerland) participated by teleconference. Mr. S. Ludwiczak, Ms. A. Karadjova, Mr. K. Olendrzynski, Ms. A. Novikova, Mr. K. Kordzakhia and Ms. C. Sanz Noriega from the ECE secretariat attended. The meeting was chaired by Ms. A. Engleryd, Chair of the Executive Body.

1. *Draft provisional agenda for the thirty-seventh session of the Executive Body*

The Bureau discussed the draft provisional agenda for the thirty-seventh session of the Executive Body, circulated by the secretariat (ECE/EB.AIR/139) and provided guidance to the secretariat for its finalization and subsequent submission for translation.

The Bureau agreed to reserve some time for Parties to report on submission of new commitment under the Batumi Action for Cleaner Air (BACA) initiative and the implementation of existing ones. In particular, it agreed that the Chair of WGSR, when informing the Executive Body under agenda item 5(b) about the outcomes of the fifty-fifth session of the Working Group, would include the respective update provided by participants at the session. After that, the Parties would be invited to add further information on their actions under the BACA initiative.

With respect to item 7 of the draft provisional agenda, the EMEP SB and WGE Chairs clarified that the mandates of the task forces and centres were currently under review with the aim to specify their core activities in a clear way and not to include them in the workplan. The mandates were expected to simplify the workplan and to serve Parties as informative and reference documents. The draft mandates would be presented to Executive Body at its thirty-seventh session for information only, taking into account that they would have to be further aligned with the long-term strategy. They could be presented for adoption by the EB in 2018 together with the long-term strategy. The EB Bureau emphasized that the role and responsibilities of lead countries should also be clarified in the mandates. In this context, the WGSR Chair noted that she would discuss with TFRN and TFTEI whether an update to their mandates to align with the approach of the EMEP/ WGE task forces and centres would be desirable.

The Bureau agreed to switch the order of agenda items 6 and 7 and to add a remark that the Executive Body was supposed to agree on the list of official documents when discussing the calendar of meetings for 2018-2019. It further agreed at the initiative of the Chair to include in the agenda a brief report by Parties on their steps taken towards ratification of the three amended protocols to the Convention, in a similar way it was done at the thirty-sixth session. Before the session. Parties should be encouraged to send in short written “report” on their progress towards ratification, in particular those who had not sent anything in writing last time and come prepared to give a short oral statement. It is important to make clear to Parties

that a short status update is expected, not a long report. The Bureau agreed to remove the note on the finalization of the report under item 11.

The EB Chair proposed to draft in cooperation with the policy review group a number of key questions and suggestions for delegations to prepare for the discussions on the long-term strategy (item 6 of the draft provisional agenda). This could be shared with EB delegates in October as an informal document; courtesy translation would be provided by Sweden. A respective remark could be added in the annotations to the respective agenda item. In view of the momentum created by the Scientific Assessment Report and the work of the policy response group, the aim would be to adopt an updated long-term strategy in 2018. If more time was needed, it could also be submitted for adoption in 2019.

2. Preparation of the 2018-2019 workplan for the implementation of the Convention

The Bureau provided comments on the draft 2018-2019 workplan compiled by the secretariat on the basis of inputs received from the subsidiary bodies. The EB Bureau discussed a number of proposed changes, which will be reflected in a revised version of the workplan and be circulated again to the EB Bureau.

3. Financing

The Bureau discussed issues of concern with regard to the financing of activities under the Convention. With regard to the effects-oriented activities under the Convention and the updates on the Coordination Centre on Effects (CCE), the Chair informed the Bureau of Germany being interested in taking over the Centre, and of respective exchange between Germany and the Netherlands. However, the final decision would be taken by Germany in 2018, which leaves a gap of one year. A possible solution to this could be to assign more money to CIAM to take over the databases from CCE in 2018 (a respective item 1.1.1.17 is added in the draft workplan). This would require an extraordinary decision by the EB. The Bureau reiterated its wish to get necessary details from RIVM regarding staff and technical requirements to maintain the work.

With regards to the travel of participants from Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia in accordance with decision 2006/13, the secretariat informed that the funds were not sufficient to cover the participation of all eligible delegates. The Bureau member from Switzerland announced a contribution of 50,000 CHF by Switzerland to support capacity-building and participation by representatives from Central Asia and Azerbaijan.

Bureau members also discussed, more generally, financing opportunities and options for attracting the resources required. The Bureau agreed that innovative approaches to attract resources were required. Some Bureau members stressed the difficulty Parties had with making voluntary contributions. For those Parties, it would be easier to pay if contributions were mandatory, such as in the EMEP protocol. The idea of amending the EMEP protocol to increase mandatory contributions was discussed, but deemed to be difficult.

The Bureau agreed that in-kind contributions to the Convention and its subgroups should be better acknowledged. However the Bureau also noted that in kind contributions to specific tasks should not be seen as a substitute to contributions to the trust fund. In order to better reflect the financial requirements and contributions, the Bureau asked the secretariat to present the financial flows under the Convention in an informal document to be presented and discussed at the EB 37. The discussion at the EB should focus on what contributions are used for and be more results-based.

The Bureau agreed that the practice that only a couple of Parties provide voluntary contributions to the effects-based work cannot continue. It was suggested that the WGE Chair

present what activities would need to be undertaken but that are missing in the workplan due to lack of funding .

4. *Other business*

The Chair provided an update on the preparations to Saltsjöbaden VI Workshop (19-21 March 2018) hosted by Sweden. The title of the workshop is Clean Air for Sustainable Development. The first announcement has been circulated. Planning and preparation for the workshop is underway.

The EB Chair asked the secretariat to prioritize uploading of meeting documents well in advance of the Convention meetings to allow delegations to prepare.

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

The Bureau will hold its next meeting on 10 December 2017, prior to the 37th session of the Executive Body (11-14 December 2017). The EB Chair and the WGSR Chair will try to check with their hotels if a meeting room would be available on 10 December 2017. The secretariat suggested that a meeting on Monday morning, 11 December, between 8 and 10 am, would be feasible if no other solution can be found.