

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

**NOTE OF THE BUREAU MEETING**

Monday, 30 May 2017, 14.00-18.00, room S4, Palais des Nations

Ms. J. Kerr (Chair of WGSR), Ms. L. Rouil (Chair of the EMEP SB), Ms. I. Rabago (Chair of WGE), Mr. R. Ballaman (Switzerland), Mr. S. Vasiliev (Russian Federation) and Ms. K. Weber (United States). Ms. M. Tista (on behalf of the Chair of the Implementation Committee, Mr. M. Ritter) attended by telephone. Mr. A. Zuber attended as an observer on behalf of the EU. Mr. S. Ludwiczak, Mr. K. Olendrzynski, Ms. F. Ilg-Hirsch, Ms. A. Novikova, Ms. 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. Preparations for the 55<sup>th</sup> session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review (31 May-2 June 2017)**

The Chair of the Working Group on Strategies and Review (WGSR) reported on the preparations for the 55<sup>th</sup> session and on the proposed organization of work. The Bureau discussed in particular the special session on agriculture and air pollution to be held on 1 June 2017, organized by the Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen, in cooperation with the secretariat. Following several questions by Bureau members with regard to the nature of the special session, the Chair and the secretariat clarified that the session was organized pursuing the decisions by the Executive Body at its 36<sup>th</sup> session (14-15 December 2016) to continue the information sharing on policies, strategies and measures as part of WGSR sessions, with a focus on thematic sessions. It was the second such thematic session, following a special session on transport and air pollution organized in the framework of the 52<sup>nd</sup> session of WGSR (30 June-3 July 2014), also held - as this session - as a formal part of the Working Group under the agenda item "Information sharing by Parties on the Implementation of the Convention."

Furthermore, the Bureau discussed the next steps in the process preparing a policy response to the 2016 Scientific Assessment. The Chair of the Bureau clarified that the Executive Body will have three ways of taking account of the recommendations by the policy review group and the recommendations by WGSR: 1) Decision on the future updates of the long-term strategy, i.e. its policy response to the Scientific Assessment Report; 2) Reflecting in the meeting report relevant aspects, including the elements to be considered in the review of the Gothenburg Protocol; 3) Adopting the 2018-2019 workplan. She also pointed out that the Saltsjöbaden VI workshop which Sweden will host in spring 2017,<sup>1</sup> will provide key input to the process of updating the long-term strategy.

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<sup>1</sup> The dates of the Saltsjöbaden VI workshop were confirmed for 19-21 March 2018.

## ***2. Issues arising from the joint meeting of the Bureaux of the EMEP Steering Body and the Working Group on Effects (WGE)(20-23 March 2017) and other science related issues***

The Chairs of the EMEP Steering Body and of the Working Group on Effects reported on the outcomes of the joint meeting of the Bureaux of the EMEP Steering Body and the Working Group on Effects (WGE) focussing on:

- reported - for the first time - gridded emissions in the 0.1° resolution (data quality needs to be improved)
- linking local, national and global scales (a theme for the thematic session during the 3<sup>rd</sup> joint session of EMEP SB and WGE)
- updates of mandates of task forces and centres (EMEP and WGE); contributions to 2018-2019 workplan; funding needs for the workplan
- review of data used by Parties (e.g. national research needs) with the help of a questionnaire
- review of ICP work and its links to the updated European Union National Emission Ceiling directive;
- common web portal for effects related work
- financial resources needed to maintain monitoring activities
- efforts to find a successor to the Coordination Centre for Effects (possibly in Germany).

Andre Zuber informed the Bureau about implementation status of the emission inventory review project carried out in the context of the revised European Union National Emission Ceilings directive (NECD). The project is similar to the stage-3 review and adjustment review under the Gothenburg Protocol. The two processes should go in parallel and should share the same technical basis. An updated version of a European Commission report on the project will be presented at the 3<sup>rd</sup> joint session. The Centre on Emission Inventories and Projections and co-Chairs of the Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projections are involved in the EU project. He also informed about a three-year project proposal on the reduction of black carbon emissions in the Arctic environment - a joint initiative by the European Union and Canada. The Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP) will be the operator of the project. AMAP has contacted various groups under the Convention exploring the possibilities for cooperation. The Bureau welcomed the initiative.

The Chair of WGE informed about the efforts under the European Union focussed on ecosystem monitoring (work under NECD). In summer 2017, draft guidelines for the monitoring (with regard to parameters to be monitored, sites etc.) are to be developed based on experiences and knowledge of ICP Forests, Waters, Vegetation, Integrated Monitoring and Modelling and Mapping. The four monitoring networks under the Convention could serve as one comprehensive monitoring network. The Chair of WGE also informed about an update to a brochure on effects-oriented work. The brochure will be distributed among Parties when requesting voluntary contributions to support the work of centres under the Working Group on Effects (scheduled for autumn of 2017).

The Chair of the EMEP Steering Body briefed about the preparations for the short-lived climate pollutants assessment to be carried out by the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC). The Convention has offered to CCAC the use of scientific data generated when preparing the 2016 Assessment report. Generation of new data including modelling work would require funding from CCAC for EMEP and WGE centres. On the other hand, CCAC requested additional funding for the project from the Nordic Council of Ministers. It was felt

that the project was to a large extent overlapping the work going on under the Convention i.e. the assessment report and the policy response to it. The Bureau therefore decided that the Chair of the EMEP Steering Body and the Chair of the Bureau should contact the CCAC to discuss the matter.

### ***3. Preparation of the 2018-2019 workplan for the implementation of the Convention***

The Bureau discussed the specific issues related to process and the timeline for the preparation of the next biennial workplan for the Convention. The Chairs of the subsidiary bodies under the Convention shared their views on the preparation of their respective parts of the workplan. The Bureau agreed to hold its next meeting on 11 September 2017 in view of reviewing and then finalizing the draft workplan. Final drafts should be provided by the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies as soon as feasible.

The Bureau members exchanged opinions on the ways of keeping track of proposed activities in 2018-2019 that are not yet funded. The option of taking out all unfunded activities from the workplan and including them in an annex to the main document would not let the important tasks to fall off and keep the workplan focussed and realistic. At the same time, retaining them in the 2018-2019 workplan with an indication of funding status would give more flexibility. For the science part, it was decided to list only activities to be implemented jointly by several bodies or groups. The Bureau suggested that a note should be developed jointly with the secretariat explaining the flows of funding under the Convention both for the science and policy making subsidiary bodies without numbers and the way the task forces are functioning (e.g. what co-chairing a task force implies). It should support the Executive Body in its discussion at the thirty-seventh session.

### ***4. Capacity-building and awareness raising***

The secretariat provided an update on the capacity building activities to be carried out in 2017, in particular the organisation of consultation meetings on emission inventory for national experts in Kazakhstan and Georgia. It noted that the format of the missions to Azerbaijan and Tajikistan is being discussed with the national authorities and is likely to cover both consultations on emission inventories and the legislative part. The secretariat informed the Bureau about the postponements of consultations on emission inventories in Uzbekistan by the end of the year.

The secretariat emphasized the support for the participation of the EECCA countries in the meeting of the Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projection in Krakow, Poland (10-12 May 2017), where the special session for EECCA countries was organized and national experts had the opportunity to directly discuss with international experts the main challenges and obstacles on reporting national emission inventories and projections.

### ***5. 6<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health, Ostrava, Czech Republic, 13-15 June 2017***

The secretariat provided an update about the preparations for the 6<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health, which will take place in Ostrava, Czech Republic from 13 to 15 June 2017. She explained that UNECE had just received the preliminary agenda from WHO for the Conference, which will have 7 substantial sessions. The topics of these sessions are cross-sectoral, i.e. there is no one session that focuses only on air pollution. Member states

are now encouraged to indicate under which session they would like to make an intervention from the floor. Delegations are also welcome to ask for the floor during the conference at any time. She encouraged Bureau members to coordinate with national focal points to ensure that the work under the Convention be highlighted in the interventions.

She also explained that the draft declaration and the implementation plan, which is an annex to the declaration, recognize air pollution as one of the major topics for environment and health and highlight the work under the Convention. Actions for improving air quality include the promotion of ratification and implementation of the Air Convention and the implementation of the Batumi Action for Cleaner Air (BACA), among others.

At the conference, UNECE, together with WHO, EEA, CCAC, UNEP and the Nordic Council of Ministers, organizes a side-event on air pollution, which will take place on 14 June 2017, in which the Chair to the Executive Body will speak on behalf of the Convention. This will be another opportunity to highlight the work of the Convention in this forum.

#### **6. *Third UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-3) having as theme: "Towards a pollution-free planet" and other communication and outreach activities and opportunities***

An informal regional ministerial consultation in preparation for UNEA-3 will take place in Ostrava, on 13 June. There are two roundtables on the draft agenda, one on the theme, outcome and format of the High Level Segment at UNEA-3 and the other roundtable on the resolutions to be adopted by UNEA-3. The secretariat encouraged Bureau members to use the informal regional ministerial consultation as an opportunity to coordinate with national focal points to ensure that work under the Convention is highlighted.

The secretariat also informed the Bureau that UNEP is currently preparing a background report on the theme of UNEA-3, which the secretariat had commented on in a first round. The report will go to member States in June for comments, which would be another opportunity for Convention focal points to ensure with respective UNEA colleagues that air pollution as a topic and the work under the Convention are referenced.

The secretariat also provided an update on a number of communication and outreach activities in 2017:

Batumi Talk Show - At the 67<sup>th</sup> UNECE Commission session, the secretariat organized a side-event to further enhance visibility of the BACA initiative. Switzerland, Canada and Georgia talked about BACA and Canada announced 17 new BACA commitments. Also, WHO submitted 3 BACA commitments. In the preparations to this side-event, the secretariat reached out to many countries that have not yet submitted any BACA commitments to encourage them to do so.

- Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Convention COPs: The secretariat attended part of the conference of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions to make an intervention and highlight the work under the Air Convention
- 1<sup>st</sup> COP of the Minamata Convention (24-29 September 2017): The secretariat was encouraged to think about the Convention's engagement
- CCAC Working Group meeting (September 2017): The topics of the CCAC High Level Assembly 2017 (to be held on the margins of UNFCCC COP 23 in Bonn) will be agriculture and waste management. This will be further discussed at the CCAC Working Group meeting in September. There might be synergies with the work on agriculture under the Convention

- UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy (CEP) 23<sup>rd</sup> session (14-17 November 2017): Switzerland and Sweden announced that they will organize an event on BACA during the CEP session
- Follow-up to the BAT workshop (2018-2019): the Task Force on Techno-Economic Issues is in contact with UNFCCC secretariat to possibly co-organize a second workshop on BATs. This is not yet confirmed and still has to be further discussed.

## **7. *Financing issues***

The secretariat reported on its efforts to reach out to potential donors and pointed out the need to find new funds. He provided an update on various financing issues. A table with data on financial contributions by Parties over the last few years was distributed among Bureau members. The key financing issues discussed were:

- the effects-oriented activities under the Convention; in particular the situation of the Coordination Centre on Effects (CCE) and related modelling and mapping work
- Activities in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and continuation of the financing the capacity building and awareness raising programme under the Convention
- Continuation of communication and outreach activities by the secretariat
- Travel of participants from Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia to Convention meetings, in accordance with the EB decision 2006/13
- Contributions by Parties to support various activities under the Convention in recent years (a table was distributed among Bureau members)

The Chair of the EB provided info on efforts to find a successor to CCE.

The secretariat stressed that there are limited funds available to support financially participants from EECCA countries in the meetings in Geneva scheduled for the second half of 2017.

## **8. *Saltsjöbaden VI Workshop***

Further to the discussion on item 1 above, Bureau members briefly touched upon possible topics to be discussed during the Saltsjöbaden VI Workshop to be hosted by Sweden in 2018. The organizers will attempt to provide financial support for representatives from Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. A dedicated meeting will be organized by Anna Englerd and Peringe Grennfelt on this issue on the margins of the 55<sup>th</sup> session of WGSR.

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

The Bureau will hold its next regular meeting on 10 December 2017 (Sunday), prior to the 37th session of the Executive Body (11-14 December 2017). Bureau members will check the availability of rooms at the missions in Geneva. The Bureau will also meet in the morning of 11 September 2017 prior to the 3<sup>rd</sup> joint session of the Working Group on Effects and the Steering Body to EMEP (11-15 September 2017) to discuss primarily the progress on draft 2018-2019 workplan for the implementation of the Convention.