

Economic Commission for Europe

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

Bureau of the Executive Body

Meeting

18 July 2022

Via videoconference

Notes of the meeting

I. Attendance

Bureau members: Mr. Noe Megrelishvili (Georgia), Mr. Eduard Dame (Netherlands), Ms. Elizabeth Nichols (United States of America), Mr. Till Spranger (Chair of the Working Group on Strategies and Review), Ms. Isaura Rabago (Chair of the Working Group on Effects)

Observer: Mr. Alex Hurley (European Union)

Not present: Ms. Anna Engleryd (Sweden, Chair), Ms. Laurence Rouil (Chair of the EMEP Steering Body) and Mr. Manfred Ritter (Chair of the Implementation Committee)

II. Preparations for the eighth joint meeting of the Extended Bureaux of the EMEP Steering Body and the Working Group on Effects

The Chair of the Working Group on Effects (WGE) and the secretariat informed the Bureau about the organization of the joint session and availability of official documents.

The Bureau members shared their initial views with respect to the proposal for reallocation of the EMEP funds in 2023¹, being discussed by the EMEP core Bureau, and its potential implications. The secretariat suggested that, for the official discussion, the Parties come prepared to answer the question on whether the proposed approach would be legal, or not. The Bureau members from the United States of America noted the proposal concerning an intersessional decision-making mechanism submitted by the United States of America under the on-going review of the rules of procedure to address similar issues in the future.

The secretariat noted that the proposal for the EMEP allocation should reach the secretariat by 10 August at the latest for inclusion in the official document for the eighth joint session.

¹ As described by the Chair of the EMEP Steering Body in her email message to the Bureau

III. Preparations for the informal meeting of the Heads of Delegations for the Working Group on Strategies and Review

The Bureau member from the Netherlands informed the Bureau about the logistical arrangements, and the Chair of the Working Group on Strategies and Review about the programme of the meeting (The Hague, Netherlands, 27-30 September 2022). The secretariat informed the Bureau of the webpage for the meeting created with reference documents posted and the invitation with a registration link circulated. The agenda of the meeting would also be posted.

IV. Long-term financing of the secretariat

The secretariat presented the note on financing of the Convention prepared jointly by the Chair and the secretariat. The Bureau members shared their provisional views and agreed to provide written comments within two weeks after the meeting.

It was noted that some Parties would be able to pay only annual and not quadrennial contributions. Some Bureau members inquired about the actual increase implied in options 2 and 3 as well as more details on the portfolios of the posts. Some Bureau members expressed concerns about the secretariat support to the Implementation Committee to be streamlined and about the implications for the WGE centres funding. With regard to option 3, it was noted that there might not always be a need for a second WGSR session; while promotion and visibility efforts could include secretariat support for organizing high-level segments of the EB sessions.

The secretariat clarified that the proposed options reflected the staff situation as of 2024, for this reason the temporary posts open in 2022-2023 were not included in the tables. It also clarified that individual portfolios were developed in line with a generic job description, and it would not be possible to provide a detailed break-down. The secretariat noted that there should not be any implications for the WGE financing. The Working Group would need to consider and provide recommendations with respect to the first 3 columns of the table with the revised scale of contributions, irrespectively of the decision on the secretariat funding. In view of the introduction of a new scale of assessment, it was a good moment to also include financial support to the secretariat. The new scale of assessments implies that there would be increases for some Parties and decreases for others, regardless of the general total increase for the secretariat funding. It was also noted that an amendment to decision 2022/1 or a new decision superseding it should be drafted.

The Bureau agreed to continue the discussion at its next meeting.

V. Declaration of non-conflict of interest

The secretariat referred to some other MEAs' examples of impartiality declarations it circulated to the Bureau before the meeting. The Bureau agreed to consider these examples and to discuss this matter at its next meeting.

VI. Date and time for the next meeting

The Bureau provisionally agreed to have its next meeting on 7 September 2022. The secretariat noted that the draft agenda of the forty-second session of the Executive Body would be circulated well before that date.