

Economic Commission for Europe

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

Bureau of the Executive Body

Meeting

8 May 2023

Via videoconference

Note of the meeting

I. Attendance

Bureau members: Ms. Kimber Scavo (United States of America), Chair; Mr. Noe Megrelishvili (Georgia), Vice-Chair; Mr. Eduard Dame (Netherlands), Vice-Chair; Ms. Elizabeth Nichols (United States of America), Vice-Chair; Mr. Till Spranger (Germany), Chair of the Working Group on Strategies and Review; Ms. Isaura Rabago (Spain), Chair of the Working Group on Effects; Ms. Laurence Rouil (France), Chair of the EMEP Steering Body and Mr. Marek Maasikmets (Estonia), Chair of the Implementation Committee

Observer: Ms. Susanne Lindahl (European Union)

II. Additions to the Agenda

The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (Convention on Biological Diversity) and adjustment applications for projections were added to item IV. below.

III. Review of the mandate of the Implementation Committee

The Chair invited the Bureau members to submit written comments on the secretariat's note on the review of the Implementation Committee's mandate until 19 May 2023 to be used as a basis for a proposal on a revised mandate to be drafted by the secretariat. The Chair and the secretariat agreed to provide the Bureau members with a timeline for the further process.

IV. Outcome of the Extended Bureaux of EMEP Steering Body and Working Group on Effects meeting

The Chairs of the EMEP Steering Body and the Working Group on Effects informed the Bureau about discussions held at the Extended Bureaux meeting (hybrid, 24-27 April 2023, Uppsala, Sweden). Both noted to not perceive any problems with the implementation of the 2022-2023 workplan but, as not all Task Force meetings had taken place before 24-27 April 2023, the proposition of 2024-2025 workplan elements to be slightly premature. The Chair of the Working Group on Effects updated the Bureau on the upcoming elections for the Working Group on Effects and referred to the call for nominations to be prepared by the secretariat.

Regarding the assessment of options for the relocation and re-allocation of the tasks of the Meteorological Synthesizing Centre East (MSC-E), the Chair of the EMEP Steering Body informed the Bureau about the options discussed at the meeting, including an

offer by the Jožef Stefan Institute (Slovenia) to host MSC-E in the future. The secretariat had forwarded this offer to the Bureau. The Bureau agreed on sending out a description of all options to the Parties for information and for comments for the orientation of the discussion at the Ninth Joint Session of the EMEP Steering Body and the Working Group on Effects (11-15 September 2023, Geneva) but without precluding any decision to be taken by the EMEP Steering Body. It further requested the secretariat to circulate the letter from the Jožef Stefan Institute to the national focal points and make it available as an informal document for consideration at the 9th Joint Session of EMEP/WGE.

The Chair of the EMEP Steering Body also drew the Bureau's attention to a matter raised by MSC-E regarding (possible future) contracts with external partners for which it had asked for an endorsement by the EMEP Steering Body. The Chair of the EMEP Steering Body noted that in light of the Executive Body's decision of December 2022 to task the EMEP Steering Body with the above-mentioned assessment, the EMEP Steering Body could not be expected to endorse any activities of MSC-E at the moment. The Bureau took note of the information by the EMEP Steering Body Chair.

On the Chair of the Working Group on Strategies and Review's initiative, the Bureau agreed that the Working Group on Effects should include a discussion of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (Convention on Biological Diversity) into its agenda before it could be brought to the attention of the Executive Body.

The Chair of the EMEP Steering Body further raised the question of whether adjustment applications could be extended to projections reported by Parties. The observer commented that developing and applying any such mechanism during a currently ongoing process of reporting projections might not work, but that the discussion could be started for the next round of reporting projections which would also allow for an estimate of the efforts necessary to implement this suggestion.

V. Intersessional Webinar and Working Group on Strategies and Review Bureau meeting

The Chair of the Working Group on Strategies and Review noted the usefulness of the intersessional webinar's outcomes (online, 17-18 April 2023) for the work of the expert group on policy options development. He further informed the Bureau about the progress on the 2024-2025 workplan elements as a result of the Working Group on Strategies and Review Bureau meeting (hybrid, 26 April 2023, Uppsala, Sweden).

VI. Review of the Mandate of the EECCA Coordinating Group

The Bureau agreed to postpone the matter of the EECCA Coordinating Group's mandate and to instead consider it as part of a discussion on progress on the implementation of the more recent protocols to the Convention at the Executive Body session (Geneva, 11-14 December 2023).

VII. The secretariat's resources

The Chair let the Bureau know that the secretariat had agreed to prepare a new table with information on the secretariat's resources and expressed her intention to further discuss this at the next Bureau meeting.

VIII. Preparations for the forty-third session of the Executive Body

The Bureau added "Progress in activities towards implementation of the last three protocols in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia" as well as "The status of

ratifications” as new items to the draft provisional agenda for the forty-third session of the Executive Body (Geneva, 11-14 December 2023). The Vice-Chair from the Netherlands further presented the progress of the ad hoc group tasked with the review of the Rules of procedure and described the timeline envisaged for the consultation of the ad hoc group of legal experts. The observer reminded that the EU will likely not have enough time left to obtain a mandate for supporting a decision on amendments of the Rules of procedure at the Executive Body session (Geneva, 11-14 December 2023). The Bureau further discussed the secretariat’s list of possible decisions and decided to further discuss which form some of those decisions should take.

IX. Intersessional communication

The Chair informed about ideas for the improvement of intersessional communication and stated her intent to follow-up on this topic with the secretariat.

X. Date, place and time of the next meetings

The Bureau provisionally agreed to have its next meeting on 11 September 2023 (10:00-12:30, Geneva time, hybrid). It also agreed that, if necessary, it might have a short 1-hour meeting on 4 September 2023, prior to the start of the session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review. The Bureau further discussed the possibility of an in-person meeting in October or November to prepare for the Executive Body session (Geneva, 11-14 December 2023).