

Economic Commission for Europe

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

Bureau of the Executive Body

Meeting

11 September 2023

Hybrid meeting

Note of the meeting

I. Attendance

Bureau members: Ms. Kimber Scavo (United States of America), Chair; Mr. Eduard Dame (Netherlands), Vice-Chair; Ms. Elizabeth Nichols (United States of America), Vice-Chair; 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)

Not present: Mr. Noe Megrelishvili (Georgia), Vice-Chair; Mr. Till Spranger (Germany), Chair of the Working Group on Strategies and Review

II. Preparations for the ninth joint session of the EMEP Steering Body and the Working Group on Effects

The Chairs of the EMEP Steering Body (SB) and the Working Group on Effects (WGE) informed the Bureau about the main issues on the agenda of the joint session (Geneva, 11–15 September 2023). The Chair of the EMEP SB summarized the options on the reorganization and relocation of the Meteorological Synthesizing Centre-East activities as presented in document ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2023/7–ECE/EB.AIR/WG.1/2023/7. She noted that MSC-East had sent out a status report to an unknown list of addressees via e-mail. The Bureau took note of the letter by the Russian Federation of 2 August 2023 indicating a direct payment of its mandatory contributions for 2022 and 2023 to MSC-East. The secretariat informed the Bureau about information it had gathered on similar matters in past reports of the Executive Body, the EMEP SB and the EMEP SB Bureau. The Chair of the EMEP SB decided to recall the facts on the matter to the EMEP SB. The secretariat further drew the Bureau's attention to the necessity of finding a way to transfer the data currently stored and managed by MSC-East.

III. Outcomes of the sixty-first session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review

The Chair presented the key outcomes of the sixty-first session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review (Geneva, 4–6 September 2023) and its recommendations to the Executive Body. She appreciated the work of the Vice-Chairs of the Working Group in conducting the meeting in the absence of the Chair of the Working Group. She further highlighted that – after the discussion of the document provided by the Expert Group on Policy Options Development and a brainstorming session on non-Party needs conducted by one of the Vice-Chairs of the Working Group – there had been an

agreement to recommend the launch of a revision of the Gothenburg Protocol, as amended in 2012. The Vice-Chair from the Netherlands noted that the Executive Body should use this opportunity to terminate older Protocols to the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution or to pause the compliance related work on these Protocols. The Chair pointed out that the latter is part of the draft decision on the revision of the mandate of the Implementation Committee to be considered by the Executive Body at its next session. The Bureau agreed that the Executive Body could encourage ratification of the latest protocols at its next session(s).

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

The Bureau discussed and approved the final draft of the provisional agenda for the forty-third session of the Executive Body. It agreed that a presentation on behalf of the Bureau under agenda item 5 could be made by the Vice-Chair from Georgia. It noted that a brainstorming session for non-Parties could be held at the margins of the Executive Body's session, similar to the one held in the margins of the WGSR session. The secretariat further informed the Bureau about the status of the preparations of the pre-session documents. The Bureau provided comments on the draft decisions of the Executive Body. It suggested that the change in the leadership of the task forces is reflected in the report of the session, rather than in stand-alone decisions.

The secretariat briefly presented upcoming improvements to the website concerning the presentation of the Executive Body's decisions.

V. Resources of the secretariat

The Bureau continued its discussion on the financial requirements for the implementation of the Convention with respect to a long-term funding solution to cover core activities of the secretariat. Following the Bureau's request, the secretariat agreed to prepare a proposal for prioritization of activities in 2024 for the next meeting of the Bureau. The secretariat reiterated the need of advancing the discussion, taking into account the amount of information provided to the Bureau during the last several years and the necessity to close the resources gaps for the secretariat to be able to provide adequate support to Parties.

VI. Mandate of the Implementation Committee

The Bureau discussed the proposal revised following some comments received from the Bureau and a member of the Implementation Committee. The Bureau noted that the draft operating rules for the Implementation Committee would have to be prepared by the Committee with assistance from the secretariat for consideration and adoption by the Executive Body.

VII. Vision for the future of the Convention

The Chair postponed the discussion of this item. She suggested that the recent discussions by the Working Group on Strategies and Review, such as those on the use of health metrics and demonstrating progress versus a broader goal on health and ecosystems be taken into account.

VIII. Date, place and time of the next meetings

The Bureau provisionally agreed to have its next meeting on 15 November 2023 (14:00–16:00, Geneva time, online). It also provisionally agreed on an informal in-person meeting on 11 December 2023 (10:00–12:00, Geneva time).

IX. Other business

The Bureau referred to the possibility of making the joint EMEP SB/WGE session hybrid and agreed that this would for broader participation. It recommended to explore this option subject to availability of resources.