



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

EB.AIR/GE.1/1999/7
28 June 1999

ORIGINAL : ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

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

Steering Body to the Cooperative Programme
for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range
Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe (EMEP)
(Twenty-third session, Geneva, 6-8 September 1999)
(Item 6 (b) of the provisional agenda)

EMISSION INVENTORIES

Progress report by the Co-Chairmen of the Task on Emission Inventories,
prepared with the assistance of the secretariat

Summary

The Task Force on Emission Inventories met in June 1999 to consider the progress of work on the Atmospheric Emission Inventory Guidebook and improve reporting of emissions and projections for the Convention. Ad hoc sessions also addressed communication with cooperating bodies, the clarification of the draft reporting guidelines, improving estimates of POP emissions and the transfer of technical information.

Documents prepared under the auspices or at the request of the Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution for GENERAL circulation should be considered provisional unless APPROVED by the Executive Body.

Introduction

1. The Task Force on Emission Inventories was established to harmonize methodologies and assist Parties to report to EMEP. An important tool developed for this purpose is the EMEP/CORINAIR Atmospheric Emission Inventory Guidebook. The Task Force holds yearly meetings to:

- Improve the quality of reported data by harmonizing methodologies and updating the Guidebook if required;
- Identify problems relating to reporting and recommend action to be addressed by its members or by the EMEP Steering Body;
- Assess the progress of its expert panels, review their workplans and amend them if necessary;
- Address current inventory provider and user needs under the Convention;
- Promote the Guidebook and inform its members of relevant activities in other groups to avoid duplication.

The Steering Body has also requested the Task Force to assist the EMEP Centres and the Implementation Committee with inventory validation and verification, uncertainty estimation and projections for the years 2000, 2005 and 2010, if possible.

2. The eighth meeting of the Task Force on Emission inventories took place at Roskilde (Denmark) from 8 to 11 June 1999. One hundred and twenty experts and representatives from cooperating bodies and from 38 countries attended: Albania, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Republic of Macedonia, United Kingdom and United States.

3. The cooperating bodies represented included: the European Commission (DGXI); the European Environment Agency (EEA) and its topic centres on Air Emissions and Air Quality (ETC/AE, ETC/AQ); the Statistical Office of the European Communities (EUROSTAT); the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA); and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

I. RECOMMENDATIONS/REQUESTS TO THE STEERING BODY

4. The Task Force reviewed emission reporting practices, assessed the work of its expert panels developing the Guidebook and examined the needs of inventory data providers. A number of technical papers were presented. The secretariats of the cooperating bodies met. The Task Force made the following recommendations/requests to the Steering Body:

- Since the documentation from the ECE secretariat to Parties is addressed to formal representatives, the Steering Body is requested to establish a list of designated national organizations that should receive copies of the formal requests for emission data. This will also improve the flow of information within various national organizations;
- Parties should be asked to report emissions to the Convention/EMEP at a source level split equivalent to SNAP level 2. This requires a change in the reporting procedures, since Parties are currently asked to report on SNAP level 1 and preferably on SNAP level 2;
- The Guidebook requires expansion (HMs, POPs, VOC species, particulates) and more frequent updating and resources should be provided for this;
- The coordination between the bodies requesting information needs to be improved so as to harmonize the reporting formats of present and future inventories. The secretariats of cooperating bodies should meet more regularly.

II. PROGRESS REPORT OF THE TASK FORCE

A. Review of reporting procedures

5. The Task Force discussed and reviewed the draft reporting procedures (EB.AIR/GE.1/1997/5) with inventory experts, users and cooperating bodies. Although the draft reporting procedures were basically sound, it was agreed that more should be done to make the reporting guidelines, together with the associated forms and templates, clearer. The experience gained during the two test years should be taken into account. Therefore, the Task Force members were invited to send their comments to MSC-W (sophia.mylona@dnmi.no) or to the ECE secretariat (eiija.lumme@unece.org) by 31 August 1999. Revised guidelines would be posted on the EMEP website (<http://www.emep.int>) after the Steering Body's twenty-third session, for testing at the next round of reporting at the end of 1999.

6. The channels of communication under the Convention were vital for effective reporting. Some experts did not receive all documentation. Both designated Executive Body members and designated national experts who compile emission data for EMEP should receive all documentation.

7. There was insufficient coordination and harmonization between cooperating bodies. Closer liaison between the secretariats of cooperating bodies had been established and they had agreed that they should meet more often. In recognition of the increasing use of measurements within inventories, formal liaison had been established with the European Committee for Standardization CEN Technical Committee 264 Air Quality.

8. Some Parties fully met the reporting requirements and they could be used as examples of good practice. There were other examples of good practice in reporting both within the Convention and in cooperating bodies and these should be used to guide and assist Parties in their reporting.

9. As requested by the Steering Body, the expert panels had included particulates, POPs and heavy metals in their work programmes. Work was continuing to complete VOC speciation.

B. Management of the EMEP/CORINAIR Guidebook

10. The Guidebook continued to be an important source of reference information and good practice for Parties. The Guidebook was now more comprehensive and accessible to central and east European countries. It was available on the website of EEA (<http://www.eea.eu.int/aegb/>) and had been translated into Russian. It would also be accessible through the EMEP website (<http://www.emep.int>). The Guidebook was judged to be a flexible tool, capable of strengthening the ability of Parties to report emissions of the extended range of pollutants foreseen in the EMEP work plan. It was capable of supporting multi-media inventory requirements should that be required in the future.

11. The second edition of the Guidebook required active promotion and more regular maintenance and updating than resources currently allowed. National experts should be encouraged to take a more active part in its promotion to ensure that the full potential of the Guidebook was realized.

12. The Guidebook expert panels wished to bring the following specific issues to the attention of the Steering Body:

- The need to improve emission factors relating to technologies currently in use in central and east European countries;
- The small number of national experts involved in the projection of emissions;
- The need to improve source nomenclature to be consistent with different reporting requirements;
- The Guidebook should be adapted with regard to pollutants and source nomenclature to meet the future needs of inventories. Furthermore, harmonization with requirements for multi-media inventories needs to be anticipated for persistent organic pollutants (POPs) and heavy metals (HMs).

C. Issues relating to EMEP reporting needs

13. The number of countries now reporting to EMEP had increased, but there was still scope for improvement in terms of the quality of reporting. Reporting on SNAP level 2 would increase clarity, improve quality and assist the work of the cooperating bodies. The current practice of allowing reporting on SNAP level 1 allowed little transparency and restricted the ability of MSC-W to compare effectively with the EEA systems and EUROSTAT. Consequently, the uncertainty associated with submitted information was hard to assess. Were reporting done on SNAP level 2, it would enable better verification of submitted data. The Task Force will continue to address the issue of

verification at its subsequent meetings.

14. The Guidebook's chapter for reporting projections had been reviewed and found to be sound. Reporting was, nevertheless, poor and Parties would benefit from more comprehensive guidance from EMEP, possibly based on the experience of the cooperating bodies. The identification and promotion of good practice would help.

III. OTHER ITEMS

15. The Meeting was pleased to welcome Mr. C. Evers of the European Commission to co-chair the Task Force together with Mr. M. Woodfield of the United Kingdom.

16. To avoid duplication and improve coordination, a joint meeting of the Task Force and the European Environment Information and Observation NETwork (EIONET) was proposed. Italy might be willing to host such a meeting from 15 to 18 May 2000.

17. The Chairmen thanked Denmark (and the representatives of RISØ) and the United Kingdom's Department of the Environment for hosting the meeting. In particular, he complimented RISØ for organizing the meeting so well.

18. A fuller report of the meeting, together with the list of participants, reports by the leaders of the expert panels and the list of the technical papers, is available on the Task Force's web page (<http://www.aeat.co.uk/netcen/airqual/TFEI/unece.htm>). They would also be accessible through the EMEP website (<http://www.emep.int>).