



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

EB.AIR/GE.1/2002/2
4 October 2002

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)

REPORT ON THE TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION

Introduction

1. The Steering Body held its twenty-sixth session in Geneva from 2 to 4 September 2002.
2. The session was attended by representatives from 29 Parties to the Convention: Austria, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Luxembourg, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States and the European Community.
3. Representatives of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), as well as from the European Environment Agency (EEA) and the four EMEP Centres (Centre for Integrated Assessment Modelling (CIAM), Chemical Coordinating Centre (CCC), Meteorological Synthesizing Centre-East (MSC-E), and Meteorological Synthesizing Centre-West (MSC-W)) also attended.
4. Mr. Martin WILLIAMS (United Kingdom) chaired the meeting for agenda items 1-4. Mr. Juergen SCHNEIDER (Austria) chaired the meeting for agenda items 5-10.

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.
--

I. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

5. The Steering Body adopted the provisional agenda as contained in document EB.AIR/GE.1/2002/1.

II. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT ON THE TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION

6. The Steering Body adopted the report on its twenty-fifth session (EB.AIR/GE.1/2001/2).

III. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE NINETEENTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE BODY FOR THE CONVENTION AND ACTIVITIES OF THE EMEP BUREAU, INCLUDING COOPERATION WITH THE WORKING GROUP ON EFFECTS

7. The secretariat informed the Steering Body about matters arising from the nineteenth session of the Executive Body for the Convention (ECE/EB.AIR/75) and developments since that meeting. It highlighted that Azerbaijan had ratified the Convention to become the 49th Party. Estonia had ratified the EMEP Protocol, bringing the number of Parties to 39. The Protocols on Heavy Metals and on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) were now approaching entry into force with 12 and 11 ratifications, respectively.

8. The Chairman of the Steering Body presented the summary report on the work of the EMEP Bureau between the Steering Body's twenty-fourth and twenty-fifth sessions, including cooperation with the Working Group on Effects (EB.AIR/GE.1/2002/3). He drew the Steering Body's attention to the Bureau's proposal, annexed to the document, for a new procedure for reporting by the centres and for derestricting reports by the Steering Body.

9. The Chairman also reported on the first joint meeting of the Bureaux of the EMEP Steering Body and the Working Group on Effects, which had taken place in Geneva on 27 February 2002. The meeting also involved representatives from the international centres of the two bodies together with the chairpersons of the programme task forces. The meeting had addressed the complete range of scientific and technical issues related to the review of the three most recent protocols and had agreed conclusions and recommendations as well as the deliverables and inputs necessary to meet expected deadlines. An informal summary report, including the conclusions from the meeting, was made available.

10. The Chairman of the Working Group on Effects, Mr. H. GREGOR (Germany), informed the Steering Body about discussions held at the recent twenty-first session of the Working Group on Effects (EB.AIR/WG.1/2002/2). He highlighted that the Working Group had welcomed the outcome of the joint Bureaux meeting and stressed the importance of some of the data that the Working Group was expecting from EMEP. These included, in particular, data on ecosystem-specific depositions for sulphur and nitrogen and historic deposition data for dynamic modelling. He also mentioned the work on a substantive report that was intended to be prepared by 2004, pointing out that the Working Group was eager to conduct this work in close cooperation with the EMEP work on the assessment report.

11. Commenting on the new reporting procedure for EMEP centres, one delegation suggested that such a delegation of authority to the task forces required a more formal arrangement, reserving the part of the task force meetings dealing with such formal decisions to nominated experts. Also, another delegation drew attention to the need for a formal approval procedure. Other delegations pointed out that EMEP should be open to the participation of the best experts that it could attract to scrutinize technical reports by its centres.
12. Another delegation suggested to the EMEP Bureau that the contents of the status reports should be defined in more detail as they would gain in importance in the future.
13. The Steering Body:
- (a) Took note of the report on the activities of the EMEP Bureau;
 - (b) Also took note of the results of the joint meeting between the Bureaux of the Steering Body and the Working Group on Effects and agreed to take them into account in preparing its work-plan;
 - (c) Expressed its readiness to cooperate with the Working Group on Effects in the preparation of the assessment report (see agenda item 5 (g));
 - (d) Adopted the guidelines for reporting under EMEP as proposed by its Bureau (EB.AIR/GE.1/2002/3, annex);
 - (e) Recommended the Executive Body to reconsider the need for derestricting technical reports and notes, as spelled out in the Steering Body's mandate (ECE/EB.AIR/68, annex III, appendix III, para. 4 (f)) and to amend the mandate as appropriate;
 - (f) Agreed to address the need for nominating national focal points for monitoring raised by the Task Force on Measurements and Modelling (EB.AIR/GE.1/2002/4, para. 89) under agenda item 5 (g).

IV. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

14. The Steering Body elected Mr. J. SCHNEIDER (Austria) as Chairman. It re-elected Mr. S. DOYTCHINOV (Italy), Mr. P. GRENNFELT (Sweden), Mr. R. VAN AALST (Netherlands), Mr. J. SANTROCH (Czech Republic) and Ms. S. VIDIC (Croatia) as Vice-Chairpersons and elected Ms. M. WICHMANN-FIEBIG (European Community) as a new Vice-Chairperson.
15. The Steering Body expressed its great appreciation to Mr. M. WILLIAMS (United Kingdom), who was giving up his chairmanship after a change of responsibilities, for the many years that he had led the work of EMEP.

V. PROGRESS IN 2002 AND FUTURE WORK

16. The Chairman invited the Steering Body to discuss separately each area of work, considering progress made in 2002 with respect to the adopted work-plan (ECE/EB.AIR/75, annex VI, chapter 2) and taking into account the draft work-plan for 2003 (EB.AIR/GE.1/2002/9), which would be discussed under agenda item 6.

A. Heavy metals

17. Mr. S. DUTCHAK (MSC-E) presented an overview of activities on monitoring and modelling heavy metals, including progress in work at CCC and MSC-E, and plans for work up to 2005. The Steering Body had before it the technical reports listed in its agenda (EB.AIR/GE.1/2002/1, item 5 (a)).

18. Mr. Dutchak referred to the progress in emission data reporting, stressing the need for further review of the quality of data that seemed to underestimate the pollution load in Europe. He noted the laboratory intercomparison conducted by CCC and the progress in using monitoring data to validate model results. He highlighted the work conducted jointly by MSC-E with the Coordination Center for Effects (CCE) to map critical loads for cadmium and lead and their exceedances in Europe. Hemispheric modelling was pursued by MSC-E as a matter of high priority. Work done for the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP) had indicated that some 60% of anthropogenic mercury was transported outside the EMEP area. Mr. Dutchak stressed the good progress in the model intercomparison exercise and expressed his appreciation to Parties for their support to the participating experts.

19. The Chairman of the Working Group on Effects informed the Steering Body about the plans for further work on the mapping of critical limits for heavy metals. The Working Group had expressed satisfaction about the good cooperation between MSC-E and CCE.

20. Several delegations congratulated the centres on their excellent progress and commended MSC-E for the good cooperation that it had established with national experts and other programmes. One delegation stressed the good quality of the reports and the user-friendly web site of MSC-E.

21. Commenting on some lead deposition maps, the delegation of Italy indicated that Italy had phased out leaded petrol at the beginning of 2002.

22. The Steering Body:

- (a) Took note of the reports presented and decided to derestrict them;
- (b) Expressed its appreciation to MSC-E and CCC for the excellent progress in the work on heavy metals;
- (c) Also expressed its satisfaction over the good progress in the reporting of emission data, calling upon those Parties that had not yet done so to develop heavy metals emission inventories; and
- (d) Requested MSC-E to give high priority to the validation of its model and to report on progress at the next session of the Steering Body.

B. Photo-oxidants

23. Mr. A. ELIASSEN (MSC-W) provided an overview of recent work on the unified Eulerian model. He stressed the significant progress made since the third meeting of the Task Force on Measurements and Modelling in March 2002. Among the recent model improvements, he highlighted a revision of the parameterization of vertical diffusion. While the model still

overestimated SO₂ and nitrate, the differences were much smaller than those presented to the Task Force. Mr. Eliassen expected further improvements to be completed by December 2002. They should make the model sufficiently accurate so that its output can be used for applications, such as integrated assessment modelling.

24. Mr. D. SIMPSON of MSC-W presented an overview of activities on monitoring and modelling of photo-oxidants, including progress in work at CCC and MSC-W and plans for work up to 2005. The Steering Body had before it the technical reports listed in its agenda (EB.AIR/GE.1/2002/1, item 5 (b)).

25. Mr. Simpson stressed that measurement data showed that critical levels for ozone continued to be exceeded both for crops and for forests. He also gave an overview of the work of CCC on VOC measurements and on analysis of trends. He reported on a first comparison between measurements from selected stations and results obtained with the Eulerian model. At most stations, the agreement was satisfactory. He also presented first results of calculating stomatal fluxes to model ozone damage to vegetation. These results suggested that there were larger differences in ozone-uptake patterns over Europe than in the calculations of the accumulated ozone exposure. Mr. Simpson explained that ozone flux modelling required very specific biological data on stomatal conductance for different species or land-use classes as well as local meteorological data at a fine temporal (e.g. hourly) resolution.

26. Several delegations congratulated the two centres on their work. Some delegations sought further details on the timetable for finalizing the Eulerian model and the work to validate it.

27. The delegation of Switzerland introduced the summary report of the workshop on NO_x versus VOC limitations in the control of ground-level ozone: a synthesis of research findings and implications for emission controls (EB.AIR/GE.1/2002/10), which had been organized in cooperation with the EUREKA Environmental Project on the Transport and Chemical Transformation of Environmentally Relevant Trace Constituents in the Troposphere over Europe; Second Phase (EUROTRAC-2). The delegate stressed it had been very difficult to bridge the gap between EMEP scientists taking a broad European long-term perspective and scientists focusing on time-limited local episodes, and the workshop had successfully met this challenge.

28. The delegation of Germany informed the Steering Body about preparations for the EMEP workshop on hemispheric air pollution: trends and intercontinental transport of photo-oxidants, particles and their precursors across the northern hemisphere (observations, models, policy implications) to be held on 7-9 October in Bad Breisig (Germany, near Bonn) and organized jointly with the United States. Some 100 participants had already registered for the workshop and offered presentations. A programme would be drawn up by mid-September. The workshop would be followed by a workshop on air chemistry and policy problems jointly organized by Germany and the United States.

29. The Steering Body:

- (a) Took note of the reports presented and decided to derestrict them;
- (b) Expressed its appreciation to MSC-W and CCC for the good progress in the work on photo-oxidants;

(c) Also noted the results of the workshop on ozone control (EB.AIR/GE.1/2002/10), expressing its appreciation to Switzerland for organizing and hosting it;

(d) Welcomed the target of MSC-W to finalize the basic development work for the unified Eulerian model by December 2002, requesting MSC-W to keep Parties informed about progress, including the work to validate the model;

(e) Underlined the importance of the planned workshop on hemispheric air pollution, thanking Germany and the United States for organizing it.

C. Particulate matter

30. Mr. K. TORSETH (CCC) presented an overview of activities on atmospheric monitoring and modelling of particulate matter (PM), including progress in work at MSC-W and CCC and the results of the Task Force on Measurements and Modelling (EB.AIR/GE.1/2002/4) and plans for work up to 2005. The Steering Body had before it the technical reports listed in its agenda (EB.AIR/GE.1/2002/1, item 5 (c)), except for MSC-W note 3/2002, which had not been issued on time.

31. Mr. Torseth stressed that the number of PM monitoring sites was growing and that 18 Parties had indicated that they would start or had started measurements in 2002, but still many parts of Europe were not covered by adequate PM monitoring. CCC had initiated a measurement campaign for elemental and organic carbon (EC/OC). Emission data reporting had progressed; 20 Parties had reported on PM emissions for the year 2000. A first evaluation of the data by MSC-W had indicated that methodologies for emission inventories needed to be refined further with respect to both the emission factors used and the sources covered. The unified Eulerian model had now been extended to describe the transport, transformation and removal of aerosol. First comparisons with observations indicated that the model produced reasonable results on PM mass concentrations and chemical composition. Further work was needed to implement processes yet unaccounted for and to improve the preliminary schemes in the model. The modelling work suffered from missing emission speciation and a lack of monitoring data.

32. Mr. M. AMANN of CIAM presented the CIAM report on a methodology to estimate changes in statistical life expectancy due to the control of particulate matter air pollution. The methodology followed recommendations by the World Health Organization (WHO) and by the workshop on the measurement and valuation of health impacts under the Network of Experts on Benefits and Economic Instruments (NEBEI). While the main purpose of the report was to present the methodology that introduced life expectancy as an end-point in the evaluation of abatement strategies, it also gave some illustrative results. The work still required a further analysis of uncertainties. Work was also needed to address morbidity effects, and this should also cover those related to ozone exposure. Mr. Amann informed the Steering Body that CIAM had continued to review national data on PM emission projections and the costs of abatement. The results of the detailed analysis were being discussed bilaterally with national experts.

33. The EEA representative informed the Steering Body about work to analyse hourly and daily PM measurements collected in the European Air Quality Information System database.

34. Several delegations expressed their appreciation for the centres' work on PM.

35. The Steering Body:

- (a) Took note of the reports presented and decided to derestrict them;
- (b) Expressed its appreciation to MSC-W, CIAM and CCC for the work carried out and the considerable progress achieved in the work on particulate matter;
- (c) Endorsed the revised Manual for Sampling and Chemical Analysis of Aerosol Particles adopted by the Task Force on Measurements and Modelling (EB.AIR/GE.1/2002/4, paras. 46-47);
- (d) Noted with satisfaction the progress in PM emission data reporting, calling upon all Parties that had not yet done so to make every effort to develop emission inventories, including those for the year 2000; and
- (e) Expressed its satisfaction about the progress in monitoring work and work initiated to measure EC/OC, calling upon Parties that had not yet done so to start monitoring PM as soon as possible.

D. Acidifying and eutrophying compounds

36. Ms. L. Tarrasón (MSC-W) presented an overview of activities on monitoring and modelling acidifying and eutrophying compounds, including progress in work at CCC and MSC-W, discussions by the Task Force on Measurements and Modelling (EB.AIR/GE.1/2002/4) and plans for work up to 2005. The Steering Body had before it the technical reports listed in its agenda (EB.AIR/GE.1/2002/1, item 5 (d)).

37. Ms. Tarrasón highlighted progress in the work on the unified Eulerian model. A recent study conducted with the Norwegian Institute for Air Research (NILU) had allowed a revision of the model so that it could examine air pollution problems ranging from those on a hemispheric to those on an urban scale, if input data were available. Work had started to examine the non-linearities in the source-receptor relationships calculated with the Eulerian model. First results indicated that inaccuracies introduced by using linear source-receptor relationships due to numerical approximations might be small (3-5%). Significant work would be required to validate the model once the development phase was complete. MSC-W was seeking to use several ways to move this work forward: (i) by scientific peer review; (ii) by continuing cooperation in model intercomparison projects (e.g. the EUROTRAC2 GLOREAM project and the City-Delta project); (iii) by cooperating with research projects that would focus on specific model elements; and (iv) by inviting national experts in the framework of the Task Force on Measurements and Modelling to assist in model validation.

38. Several delegations commended MSC-W for the large amount of work done. They agreed with the need for rapid progress in the validation of the model so that EMEP would soon be able to publish source-receptor matrices again showing the transboundary transport of air pollution. One delegation also stressed the importance of sound model validation to ensure that policy makers gained confidence in the model and used its results for the next round of negotiations.

39. The Steering Body:

- (a) Took note of the reports presented and decided to derestrict them;

- (b) Expressed its appreciation to MSC-W and CCC for the progress in the work on acidifying and eutrophying compounds;
- (c) Requested MSC-W to prepare, by October 2003, for the validation of the Eulerian model by drawing up, in consultation with interested Parties, a list of specific tasks that needed to be performed, by making this list available through the secretariat to Parties and by reporting progress in the model validation work to the Task Force on Measurements and Modelling at its fourth meeting;
- (d) Called upon Parties to consider supporting the model validation work at MSC-W by taking up some of the specified tasks;
- (e) Requested the Task Force on Measurements and Modelling to review the validation work of MSC-W and determine whether it would be possible to present source-receptor matrices calculated with the Eulerian model for the next session of the Steering Body; and
- (f) Welcomed the progress in the work to prepare ecosystem-specific deposition data, noting the importance of this work both for the Working Group on Effects and for CIAM.

E. Persistent organic pollutants (POPs)

40. Mr. V. SHATALOV of MSC-E presented an overview of activities on monitoring and modelling POPs, including progress in work at CCC, MSC-E, the results of the Task Force on Measurements and Modelling (EB.AIR/GE.1/2002/4) and plans for work up to 2005. The Steering Body had before it the technical reports listed in its agenda (EB.AIR/GE.1/2002/1, item 5 (e)).

41. Mr. Shatalov noted the important progress in monitoring; 14 sites were reporting data, but there were still important gaps in the coverage of Europe. The model intercomparison with CCC showed satisfactory results. Emission data reporting was improving, but as there continued to be gaps and concerns about data quality, it was still necessary to complement the data by expert estimates. The POPs model of MSC-E had been further refined for dioxins/furans and for polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) with significant impacts on some of the model estimates. Comparison with measurements had also shown a significant improvement. Work for AMAP had shown the importance of hemispheric transport and this was being pursued as a matter of high priority. Mr. Shatalov stressed the importance of the model intercomparison exercise and of broad participation in this work, noting that MSC-E would, for instance, very much welcome participation from experienced model experts from the Netherlands.

42. Several delegations congratulated MSC-E and CCC on the work done and for the impressive results. Some delegations expressed their dissatisfaction that there was still no clear perspective for using these results for preparing future policies on POPs and suggested that this should be brought to the attention of the Working Group on Strategies and Review.

43. A representative from UNEP Chemicals informed the Steering Body about progress in the work for the Stockholm Convention on POPs. He highlighted preparatory work for the establishment, after the Convention's entry into force, of a POPs review committee that would have tasks similar to the Expert Group on POPs under the UNECE Convention. He also explained that work had been initiated for the evaluation of the effectiveness of the Stockholm Convention, which was due four years after its entry into force. This included work to set up a global monitoring network. A workshop to draw up the scope of such a network was planned for March 2003 and UNECE had been invited.

44. The Steering Body:

- (a) Took note of the reports presented and decided to derestrict them;
- (b) Expressed its appreciation to MSC-E and CCC for the good progress in the work on POPs;
- (c) Endorsed the conclusions of the Task Force on Measurements and Modelling on the state of the POPs modelling work (EB.AIR/GE.1/2002/4, paras. 64-67);
- (d) Welcomed the progress in the development of the superstation network, calling upon Parties that had not yet set up a superstation, in particular Parties in areas without any sites, to consider establishing one;
- (e) Also welcomed the progress in emission data reporting, while authorizing MSC-E to continue to use expert estimates for its modelling work, as reported data were insufficient; and
- (f) Invited Parties that had not yet done so, especially those with significant POPs modelling activities, to consider participating in the MSC-E model intercomparison exercise.

F. Emissions

45. Mr. M. WOODFIELD (United Kingdom), Chairman of the Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projections, reported on the progress made (EB.AIR/GE.1/2002/6), including the results of the eleventh meeting of the Task Force in Cordoba (Spain) on 6-8 May 2002, the third to be organized jointly with the European Environment Information and Observation Network (EIONET). In addition, he introduced the draft guidelines for emission data reporting (EB.AIR/GE.1/2002/7) and informed the Steering Body about the status of emission data reporting (EB.AIR/GE.1/2002/8) as well as the further development of the emission database at MSC-W and emission data-related work at MSC-E. The Steering Body also had before it the technical reports listed in its agenda (EB.AIR/GE.1/2002/1, item 5 (f)), except for MSC-W note 2/2002, which had not yet been issued.

46. Mr. Woodfield underlined the continued cooperation with EEA/EIONET and other groups in the work of the Task Force. He noted that the level of reporting achieved last year had been maintained, despite the more detailed reporting format set out in the revised guidelines, but stressed the need for Parties to improve reporting on gridded data. There was now a need to examine the data in greater detail and to improve data quality. As reflected in the strategy paper developed by the co-chairs, the Task Force would give increased priority to the scientific review and assessment of reported data, and would consider a more flexible structuring of its work and the use of ad hoc task groups. He also noted the continued updates of the EMEP/ CORINAIR Emissions Inventory Guidebook, noting that the Task Force had looked closely at the process of revising the Guidebook, including both resources and management of the revision process. The Guidebook would be updated on the EEA web site, ensuring references to the Nomenclature for Reporting (NFR) and internal indexing of material. The Task Force had recommended that the Steering Body should approve the new material for the Guidebook and requested EEA to publish a revised version, once approved. It had agreed that the revised Guidelines for Estimating and Reporting Emissions Data (EB.AIR/GE.1/2002/7) currently provided the best solution for efficient and effective reporting and recommended the Steering Body to adopt them.

47. The delegation of Sweden reported on the preparations for the workshop on validation and evaluation of air emission inventories to be held in Gothenburg (Sweden), 14-16 October 2002.

48. The delegation of Poland informed the Steering Body that Poland intended to assume the role of lead country for the Task Force. Poland envisaged co-chairing it with the United Kingdom in 2003, and would envisage assuming the chairmanship together with another co-chair. Poland would host the next Task Force meeting, together with an EIONET meeting, from 22 to 24 September 2003 in Warsaw.

49. The delegation of the United Kingdom informed the Steering Body about its readiness to continue to support the Task Force for another year and to ensure that Mr. Woodfield continued to co-chair the Task Force up to and including its next meeting. The delegation of Norway informed the Steering Body that it was considering taking over the co-chair from the United Kingdom.

50. A number of delegations indicated that they might not be in a position to report data according to the new format in the revised guidelines in 2003, but would make every effort to do so after that.

51. The secretariat proposed amendments to paragraph 6 of the Guidelines to clarify the relationship between the guidelines and the legal obligations of Parties: The amendment would replace in: subparagraph (d) “defined by the present guidelines”, subparagraph (e) “as specified by the present guidelines”, subparagraph (f) “listed in the present guidelines” and in subparagraphs (f), (g) and (h) (i) “set out in the present guidelines” by “specified in accordance with the Protocol”.

52. The secretariat introduced a note (EB.AIR/GE.1/2002/13) on the legal status of the Guidelines for Estimating and Reporting Emissions Data. The note was prepared following discussions by the Implementation Committee at its ninth meeting. It contained a draft decision for consideration by the Steering Body if it wished to make use of the authority that the 1994 Protocol on Further Reduction of Sulphur Emissions rendered to it in article 5. The note also explained that the Executive Body could take decisions concerning the legal status of the Guidelines based on the provisions of protocols to the Convention.

53. The Steering Body:

(a) Took note of the report of the Task Force, expressing its great appreciation to the Co-Chairmen and the lead country for the valuable support and leadership that they had provided to the Task Force and thanking national experts and EEA for supporting the work of the Task Force;

(b) Also took note of the status of emission data, expressing its gratitude to MSC-W for the work on the Internet-accessible emission database;

(c) Also took note of the MSC-W and MSC-E notes and decided to derestrict them;

(d) Welcomed the work on the restructuring of the EMEP/CORINAIR Emissions Inventory Guidebook and approved the updates;

(e) Expressed its gratitude to the United Kingdom for continuing to co-chair the Task Force another year and to EEA for its readiness to continue to support the Task Force;

(f) Thanked Poland for offering to host the next meeting of the Task Force and the EIONET meeting, and to consider supporting the Task Force as lead country, beginning with the next meeting in 2003;

(g) Adopted the Guidelines for Estimating and Reporting Emissions Data (EB.AIR/GE.1/2002/7) with the amendment presented by the secretariat and recommended the Executive Body to approve them;

(h) Took note that some Parties might not yet be in a position to report all emissions data according to the new Guidelines in 2003 and might need to continue to use the old reporting format for one more reporting round, and urged all Parties to make every effort to report according to the new Guidelines as soon as possible and also to report emissions data for 2000 according to this format, if they had not done so in the last reporting round; and

(i) Adopted the decision on the legal status of the Guidelines for Estimating and Reporting Emissions Data set out in the annex, taking note of the information in the secretariat note (EB.AIR/GE.1/2002/13).

G. Measurements and modelling

54. Mr. J. SCHNEIDER (Austria), Co-Chairman of the Task Force on Measurements and Modelling, reported on progress, including the results of the third meeting of the Task Force, held at WMO in Geneva on 19-22 March 2002 (EB.AIR/GE.1/2002/4). He also presented the work of CCC to related monitoring quality. The Steering Body also had before it the technical reports listed in its agenda (EB.AIR/GE.1/2002/1, item 5 (g)).

55. Mr. Schneider highlighted the proposal to harmonize the reporting schedule with that of EC so that Parties would report monitoring data only once a year by 1 October. He also referred to the continued cooperation with the Expert Group on Ammonia and the need to include the measurement of reduced nitrogen in the monitoring strategy. The next meeting of the Task Force was scheduled for March/April 2003 in Valencia (Spain). Mr. Schneider explained that after his election as EMEP Chairman, he would step down as Co-chair of the Task Force. He expressed his appreciation to the other Co-chair, Ms. L. Jalkanen of WMO, and to WMO for the support given to the Task Force.

56. Mr. M. Williams (United Kingdom) paid tribute to the excellent work done by Mr. Schneider in building up the Task Force. He announced the readiness of the United Kingdom to take over the role of lead country for the Task Force and proposed that Mr. R. DERWENT should become Co-Chair of the Task Force.

57. The delegation of Germany welcomed the idea raised within the Task Force to have nominated experts under EMEP for monitoring. It reserved, however, its right to come back at a future session of the Steering Body to its proposal to limit the participation at meetings of the Task Force to nominated experts. Another delegation noted that the relationship between nominated experts for monitoring and the data quality managers needed to be determined. The EEA representative suggested that the nomination of focal points for monitoring should follow the procedure used for the nomination of national focal points for integrated assessment modelling and be done in cooperation with EC and EEA.

58. Mr. K. Torseth (CCC) presented, based on considerations by the Task Force on Measurements and Modelling (EB.AIR/GE.1/2002/4, paras. 33-38), an outline for a new EMEP monitoring strategy, highlighting the main criteria that such a strategy should fulfil and the basic approach that CCC proposed.

59. Many delegations welcomed the presentation by CCC and encouraged it to pursue the ideas in drafting a monitoring strategy. One delegation stressed that such a draft should be distributed well in advance of discussions to allow for good preparation at the national level. Other delegations highlighted the importance of such an strategy when budget constraints made it necessary to set priorities. A strategy drawn up by international experts could help justify the continuation of some monitoring activities. Several delegations commented on the possibility of using EMEP stations to monitor greenhouse gas concentrations. One delegation appealed to CCC to develop a proposal for a specific network structure, as this could help to gain support at the national level. Another delegation appealed to CCC to strengthen cooperation with the European Committee for Standardization (CEN).

60. The secretariat informed the Steering Body about plans for a possible workshop on air pollution monitoring and emission inventories in Kazakhstan. The plan was developed under the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring of the Committee on Environmental Policy. It would target Parties to the Convention in that subregion and aim at assisting the development of national monitoring strategies and emission inventories. The workshop would rely on support from the EMEP centres and national experts from Parties.

61. Mr. A. Eliassen informed the Steering Body about progress in the preparation of the assessment report. He explained the new structure that the Bureau had adopted (EB.AIR/GE.1/2002/4, paras. 10-12). Twenty-seven Parties had announced their participation in the work and 13 of these had completed the checking of monitoring data held by CCC. CCC had introduced a new flagging system and discussed the modifications with the Parties concerned. As the process was behind schedule, but was proving to be very valuable for the work of EMEP, Mr. Eliassen suggested extending the time frame so that the report would be finalized in 2004 instead of 2003 as originally planned.

62. The Steering Body:

(a) Took note of the report of the Task Force, expressing its appreciation to the two Co-Chairpersons, the lead country, Austria, and WMO for the support that they had given to the Task Force;

(b) Thanked the United Kingdom for its offer to lead the Task Force, welcomed the proposal that Mr. R. Derwent should co-chair of the Task Force and recommended to the Executive Body to accept the offer by the United Kingdom;

(c) Took note of the two CCC reports and decided to derestrict them;

(d) Endorsed the outline for the new monitoring strategy presented by CCC, encouraged it to prepare as a matter of high priority a first draft for such a strategy, and to circulate it widely well in advance of the fourth meeting of the Task Force on Measurements and Modelling;

(e) Requested the Task Force to draw up a draft strategy based on the input by CCC for consideration by the Steering Body at its twenty-seventh session;

(f) Requested the Bureau in consultation with the Task Force to prepare a proposal concerning the establishing of national focal points for monitoring;

(g) Took note of the plans for a possible workshop on air pollution monitoring and emission inventories in Kazakhstan, requested the centres to support such a workshop as far as possible and invited Parties to consider contributing to the workshop; and

- (h) Approved the revised timetable for the preparation of the assessment report.

H. Integrated assessment modelling

63. Mr. R. MAAS (Netherlands), Chairman of the Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling, reported on progress, including the results of the twenty-seventh meeting of the Task Force held in Oslo on 13-15 May 2002 (EB.AIR/GE.1/2002/5) and of the workshop on uncertainty treatment in integrated assessment modelling held at IIASA on 24-25 January 2002 (EB.AIR/GE.1/2002/5, annex). He also introduced the report of CIAM on projections of emissions of air pollutants in the northern hemisphere.

64. Mr. Maas proposed budget and called upon Parties to make every effort to ensure that CIAM received sufficient funding to fulfil its work-plan. He stressed the need for support from all other subsidiary bodies under the Convention contributing data to integrated assessment modelling to make a systematic analysis of uncertainties possible. The next Task Force meeting would be held in the Netherlands in May 2003.

65. The International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) had been granted an important contract by EC for developing the baseline scenario and integrated assessment for the Clean Air for Europe (CAFE) programme. The work on the CAFE baseline scenario was to be completed in September 2003. National submissions were expected by the end of 2002 and it was intended to use the new EMEP Guidelines for Estimating and Reporting Emissions Data. Stakeholder consultations were scheduled for April - August 2003. In this connection, it was also planned to peer review the RAINS model and this should include new source-receptor relationships prepared with the unified Eulerian model. A workshop on the model review, organized in the framework of the Task Force in cooperation with EC, would be held in autumn 2003.

66. Other work at CIAM, financed by a grant from the Netherlands, focused on developing cost curves for the greenhouse gases under the Kyoto Protocol and on introducing them into the RAINS model. This work was expected to be completed by the end of 2004. The workshop of the Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling, originally planned for November, would be devoted to the links between regional air pollution and climate change. It was scheduled to be held at IIASA at the end of January 2003.

67. Several delegations welcomed the excellent progress in the work of the Task Force and at CIAM. They raised a number of questions concerning plans for further work, including health effects, urban exposure of ozone and episodes of natural PM (e.g. due to Saharan dust). Several delegations welcomed the work related to climate change aspects of air pollution and suggested that all centres should be involved as far as relevant.

68. MSC-E indicated that it had started to consider the impacts of climate change on the volatility of POPs. MSC-W noted that a full assessment of the impacts of climate change on air pollution and its transboundary transport would require work that would exceed the present capacities of EMEP. If such an assessment were considered useful, more precise objectives for the work would be needed.

69. The Steering Body:

(a) Took note of the report of the Task Force, expressing its appreciation to the Chairman, the lead country and to IIASA, which had hosted the workshop, for the support that they had given to the Task Force;

(b) Also took note of the CIAM report presented and decided to derestrict it;

(c) Endorsed the conclusions of the workshop on uncertainty treatment in integrated assessment modelling (EB.AIR/GE.1/2002/5, annex) and requested the Task Force to pursue this work;

(d) Agreed to revert to the proposed budget for CIAM under agenda item 7;

(e) Welcomed the proposal for peer review of the RAINS model and requested the Task Force and CIAM to cooperate with the EC CAFE programme on this;

(f) Also welcomed the work initiated by CIAM to extend the modelling horizon to 2020 and to develop a baseline scenario, requested the Task Force to cooperate in this work with the EC CAFE programme and invited other Parties to actively participate in this work;

(g) Recognized the important links between regional air pollution and climate change, welcomed the work initiated to explore such links and requested the Task Force to aim at addressing all aspects of these links in its future work.

VI. WORK-PLAN FOR 2003

70. The Chairman introduced the draft work-plan for 2003 (EB.AIR/GE.1/2002/9) prepared on the basis of the long-term priorities up to 2004 (EB.AIR/GE.1/2001/9), which the Steering Body had adopted at its twenty-fifth session, and on input by the Task Force and centres. He drew attention to tables 1 and 2 in the work-plan, presenting the emission reporting and monitoring programme.

71. Several delegations welcomed the inclusion of tables 1 and 2. Some raised questions on specific entries in table 2. A number of delegations also referred to the plan of CCC to examine whether monitoring stations reporting to EEA could also be included under EMEP. EEA indicated that it would support CCC in this work. CCC explained that it was looking for rural sites and would discuss any change both with the national expert responsible for reporting to EEA and with the EMEP representative.

72. The delegation of the United States announced continued North American support for the work of EMEP. It highlighted its intention to continue, possibly on an annual basis, the series of workshops on hemispheric air pollution. It intended to organize a follow-up workshop to the workshop in Bad Breisig (Germany) on 7-9 October 2002 and would welcome doing this together with other Parties. It also announced that the workshop on particulate matter measurements and modelling originally scheduled for autumn 2003 would be held in March 2004 in the southeast of the United States.

73. The delegation of Germany referred to its offer made at the twenty-fifth session to conduct a field intercomparison exercise for mercury in 2002. This had been rescheduled for 2003, but due to budget cuts following the floods in Germany, the delegation could not ensure that funding would still be available for this to go ahead.

74. One delegation suggested amending the work-plan to ensure that MSC-E and MSC-W cooperated with CCC in the preparation of the draft monitoring strategy. Another delegation suggested including reference to the work on the links to climate change in the work-plan, not only as concerned the work of CIAM, but also with respect to the work of the other centres.

75. The Steering Body:

(a) Decided to amend table 2 in the work-plan for particle monitoring, replacing in the lines on Na, Mg, Ca, K (Cl) and on elemental and organic carbon the “X” by “Y”;

(b) Requested the secretariat to amend the work-plan to reflect the decisions taken by it during the present session and the suggestions made by delegations under this agenda item concerning the work on the monitoring strategy and on the links to climate change;

(c) Thanked the delegation of the United States for its willingness to organize the workshop on PM measurements and modelling and to continue to support the series of workshops on hemispheric air pollution;

(d) Also expressed its thanks to the delegation of Germany for its continued interest in organizing an intercomparison study on mercury;

(e) Agreed on the work-plan presented in document EB.AIR/GE.1/2002/9 with these changes and recommended the Executive Body to adopt it.

VII. FINANCIAL AND BUDGETARY MATTERS

76. The secretariat introduced the note on financial and budgetary matters (EB.AIR/GE.1/2002/12) informing the Steering Body that, since the preparation of the document, it had received the mandatory contributions to EMEP for 2002 from Cyprus, Denmark, Liechtenstein, Netherlands, Portugal and Yugoslavia. Yugoslavia had also paid its outstanding arrears for the period 1992 to 2000. Italy had made a further partial payment for 2002. The secretariat expressed its satisfaction that this left just seven Parties that had not yet fully paid their mandatory contributions for 2002.

77. The note also presented the budget proposal for 2003 prepared on the basis of the decisions of the Bureau and a proposal for the overall budget levels for the period 2004 to 2006. It also presented a proposed revised scale for calculating the mandatory contributions for the period 2004 to 2006. The scale was based on the United Nations scale of assessments for 2003 and the note suggested the adoption of an amendment to the annex to the EMEP Protocol to introduce this revised scale.

78. The secretariat also drew attention to the status of the contributions in kind. Concerning the 2001 contribution by Belarus, the Bureau had suggested that the Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projections or one of its panels should review the contribution from Belarus and it had recommended the Steering Body to approve the contribution in kind from Belarus for 2001, unless the Task Force objected. The Task Force had no objections. Concerning the contribution from Ukraine, the Bureau had in 2001 approved the work-plan for a contribution in kind to cover Ukraine's arrears from 1992-1994 by a project to be carried out in 2002-2003 and this work had started. The Bureau had urged Ukraine to make a proposal for work to cover the remaining outstanding contributions in kind and to initiate payment of its outstanding cash contributions (EB.AIR/GE.1/2002/3, paras. 10-11).

79. The delegation of Germany announced that it had to reserve its position with respect to the proposed changes concerning the budget and the scale of contributions for 2004 and the period thereafter.

80. The Steering Body:

(a) Took note of the status of contributions to the financing of EMEP provided in document EB.AIR/GE.1/2002/12 and the additional information provided by the secretariat during the session;

(b) Approved the use of resources by the EMEP centres in 2001 as presented in table 2 of EB.AIR/GE.1/2002/12, congratulating them on the sound financial operation of the budget;

(c) Reminded Parties of the importance of paying the mandatory contributions as early as possible in the fiscal year;

(d) Agreed on the detailed budget for 2003 set out in table 3 of EB.AIR/GE.1/2002/12 and the schedule of mandatory contributions from Parties for 2003 as set out in the last column of table 4 of that document;

(e) Recommended to the Executive Body to adopt the 2003 budget and the revised schedule of contributions;

(f) Approved the 2001 contribution in kind from Belarus to MSC-E;

(g) Approved the proposed budget of CIAM for 2003 and 2004 as set out in the report of the Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling (EB.AIR/GE.1/2002/5, para. 55) and agreed to keep the 2005 budget at the same level;

(h) Called upon the Parties to the EMEP Protocol to consider making voluntary contributions (in kind, or in cash through the trust fund) to ensure that the work, especially the difficult tasks required in 2003 for the preparation of the protocol reviews, including the work on integrated assessment modelling, could be accomplished as foreseen in the work-plan;

(i) Took note of the reservation by Germany concerning budgetary changes for 2004-2006, expressing its hope that this could be resolved by the time of the twentieth session of the Executive Body;

(j) Agreed to increase the EMEP budget for 2004 to 2006 to US\$ 2,142,520 and to use the 2003 United Nations assessment scale as a basis for calculating the EMEP scale of mandatory contributions from 2004 onwards; and

(k) Recommended the Executive Body to approve the budget increase for 2004 to 2006 and to amend the EMEP Protocol by adopting, in accordance with article 4, paragraph 3, of the Protocol, the revised annex set out in the annex to document EB.AIR/GE.1/2002/12.

VIII. COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AND PROGRAMMES, INCLUDING THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION AND ITS CLEAN AIR FOR EUROPE (CAFE) PROGRAMME, THE EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENT AGENCY (EEA), THE WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION (WMO), AND THE MARINE COMMISSIONS

81. The secretariat informed the Steering Body that, in addition to the organizations present at the meeting and as requested by the Steering Body at its twenty-fifth session (EB.AIR/GE.1/2001/2, para. 110), it had invited representatives of AMAP and the OSPAR Commission for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic to present

information under this agenda item. It had also invited representatives of the East Asia Acid Deposition Network (EANET) and the Mediterranean Action Plan.

82. Ms. M. WICHMANN-FIEBIG of the European Commission informed the Steering Body about recent activities under the EC CAFE programme. A service contract was awarded to IIASA to develop the baseline and policy scenarios and integrated assessment modelling framework for CAFE. Results from the baseline scenario were expected by September 2003. The City Delta Study organized by the European Community Joint Research Centre (JRC) will assess urban-scale effects. CAFE will focus on ozone and particulate matter with a view to a review of health effects performed by the WHO Regional Office for Europe and to recent findings from the Working Group on Effects. Further attention will be given to heavy metals in the environment to follow closely the Convention's approach to determining critical loads.

83. Mr. F. RAES of JRC informed the Steering Body about activities of JRC relevant to EMEP and recent and planned collaboration with the EMEP centres.

84. Mr. R. VAN AALST, representative of EEA, informed the Steering Body about recent developments at EEA, which now had 31 member States. Currently, Mr. G. MCINNES, a former Chairman of the Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projections, was the Acting Director of EEA. A recent reorganization enhanced the interaction between sectoral and environmental experts, especially concerning environmental reporting on energy and transport. EEA had published the Environmental Signal 2002 report and was working on a report for the Kiev Ministerial Conference in 2003. The European Topic Centre was actively contributing both to EMEP and to CAFE, but also to the European Climate Change Programme. EEA would continue to hold workshops with the EMEP Task Forces on Emission Inventories and Projections and on Measurements and Modelling and actively participate in the Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling.

85. Ms. L. JALKANEN, representative of WMO and co-chair to the Task Force on Measurements and Modelling, informed the Steering Body about recent changes at the WMO secretariat and relevant activities of the WMO Global Atmosphere Watch (GAW) programme.

86. Mr. K. Torseth of CCC reported on the progress in work under EUROTRAC2, in particular the preparation of the synthesis report completing the work of EUROTRAC2. A final event of EUROTRAC2, scheduled for 18-19 March 2003 in Berlin, was aimed to focus on policy-related issues.

87. Mr. N. HEIDAM (Denmark), Vice-Chairman of the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment (MONAS) of the Helsinki Commission (HELCOM), provided an update of the cooperation with EMEP.

88. The Steering Body took note of the information with appreciation, welcoming the useful cooperation and expressing its gratitude to the organizations for their contributions to EMEP.

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

89. The delegation of the United States reported on recent work of relevance to EMEP. A note was distributed and will be made available on the Internet at: www.unece.org/env/emep.

90. In response to a suggestion by a delegation, the Steering Body requested the secretariat to make the presentations made during the session that it received electronically available on the Internet. It will use www.unece.org/env/emep.

91. The secretariat informed the Steering Body of restrictions on the size of documents introduced by the United Nations General Assembly. This restriction would limit the secretariat's ability in the future to prepare substantive reports for official translation. The Steering Body expressed its deep regret about this information, especially as this would restrict the ability to convey technical and substantive information to new Parties to the Convention and to those not able to work in English.

X. CLOSING OF THE TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION

92. Based on an informal outline of the report, presented by the secretariat, the Steering Body agreed on the main decisions taken during the session.

93. The twenty-seventh session of the EMEP Steering Body is scheduled to take place on 8-10 September 2003.

Annex

DECISION ON THE LEGAL STATUS OF THE GUIDELINES FOR ESTIMATING AND REPORTING EMISSIONS DATA

The EMEP Steering Body,

Referring to the Guidelines for Estimating and Reporting Emissions Data which it adopted at its twenty-sixth session and recommended to the Executive Body for approval,

Acting under article 5, paragraph 2, of the 1994 Oslo Protocol on Further Reduction of Sulphur Emissions,

1. Determines the periodic basis referred to in article 5, paragraph 2, of the 1994 Oslo Protocol for the reporting by Parties within the geographic scope of EMEP:
 - (a) To be annual and that submissions should reach the secretariat before 15 February, for data other than gridded data, on inventories for the calendar year that ended 13 months prior to that date and, if necessary, for updates to data for earlier years and to the emission projections; and
 - (b) To be every fifth year (2000, 2005, etc.) and that gridded data should reach the secretariat no later than 1 March;
2. Invites the Parties to the 1994 Oslo Protocol at a session of the Executive Body to approve the above decision on the periodic basis, in accordance with article 5, paragraph 2, of the 1994 Oslo Protocol;
3. Specifies the temporal resolution referred to in article 5, paragraph 2, of the 1994 Oslo Protocol for the reporting by Parties within the geographic scope of EMEP to be annual from the year 2000 onwards and encourages Parties to report data back to 1990;
4. Also specifies the spatial resolution referred to in article 5, paragraph 2, of the 1994 Oslo Protocol for the reporting by Parties within the geographic scope of EMEP to be the 50 km by 50 km grid specified in annex V to the Guidelines, noting that no revision to the Guidelines will affect this specification unless and until it has been expressly so decided by the EMEP Steering Body;
5. Requests the secretariat, in consultation with the Implementation Committee, to prepare elements of a draft decision, for consideration by the Executive Body, that would enable the Executive Body to make use of its delegated authorities under article 8 of the Convention, article 8 of the 1991 Geneva Protocol on the Control of Emissions of VOCs and article 5 of the 1994 Oslo Protocol on the Further Reduction of Sulphur Emissions;
6. Recommends the Executive Body to consider adopting the draft decision referred to in paragraph 5 above when acting to approve the Guidelines.