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

REPORT OF THE TWENTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE BODY

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Introduction

1. The twenty-first session of the Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution was convened in Geneva from 15 to 18 December 2003.
2. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following Parties to the Convention: Armenia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States of America and the European Community (EC).
3. Representatives from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Health Organization's European Centre for Environment and Health (WHO/ECEH), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) attended. The European Environment Agency (EEA) was also represented.
4. Representatives of the following non-governmental organizations were present: European Chemical Industry Council (CEFIC), International Union of Air Pollution Prevention and Environmental Protection Associations (IUAPPA), World Conservation Union (IUCN).
5. The Meteorological Synthesizing Centre-East (MSC-E), the Meteorological Synthesizing Centre-West (MSC-W) and the Centre for Integrated Assessment Modelling (CIAM) of EMEP were also represented.
6. Mr.. H. Dovland (Norway) chaired the meeting.
7. The Director of the UNECE Environment and Human Settlements Division, Mr.. K. Bärlund, addressed the meeting. He drew attention to the Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe" held in Kiev in May 2003 where ministers had taken note of the Executive Body's decision 2002/1 on the financing of core activities. He stressed the importance of a future focus on East Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) to encourage participation and accession to the protocols, and noted the Guidelines for Strengthening Compliance with and Implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), endorsed by ministers at Kiev. He outlined secretariat projects aimed at building capacity for air quality management in Central Asia, and drew attention to the collaboration among the UNECE Conventions both at the secretariat and at the bureau levels.

I. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

8. The agenda (ECE/EB.AIR/78) was adopted.

II. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE FIFTY-EIGHTH SESSION OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE AND THE TENTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

9. Mr. K. Bull, of the secretariat, provided further information on the fifth Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe”. He also noted that the Committee on Environmental Policy at its tenth session in October 2003 had given consideration to the consequences of EU enlargement as well as to the regional implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development. The Committee’s proposed increased focus on EECCA reflected trends in the Convention, while the Committee had also agreed plans to develop a communications strategy. The fifty-eighth session of the Economic Commission for Europe had been held in March 2003. The Commission had also considered the issue of sustainable development, as well as its reform and major policy direction.

10. The secretariat informed the Executive Body of the status of ratification of the Convention and its Protocols. Since the previous session there were new Parties to: the EMEP Protocol (Romania, Lithuania); the Protocol on Heavy Metals (Bulgaria, Germany, Monaco, Romania, Slovakia); the Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) (France, Iceland, Romania, Slovakia); and the Gothenburg Protocol (Romania, European Community). As a result of the ratifications the 1998 Protocol on POPs had entered into force on 23 October and the 1998 Protocol on Heavy Metals would enter into force on 29 December 2003.

III. COMPLIANCE WITH PROTOCOL OBLIGATIONS

11. Mr. P. Széll (United Kingdom), Chairman of the Implementation Committee, introduced its sixth report (EB.AIR/2003/1 and Add.1) on compliance by Parties with their protocol obligations, including the results of the eleventh and twelfth meetings of the Committee. He drew attention to the recommendations made by the Committee, in particular those that proposed decisions concerning the compliance by five Parties with their obligations under the 1991 VOC Protocol (EB.AIR/2003/1): Norway (para. 10), Finland (para. 15), Italy (para. 21), Spain (para. 62) and Sweden (para. 28), and by three Parties with their obligation under the 1988 NO_x Protocol (EB.AIR/2003/1): Greece (para. 34), Ireland (para. 39), and Spain (para. 45).

12. Mr. Széll highlighted the results of the Committee’s annual review of Parties’ compliance with reporting obligations and its in-depth review of the 1994 Sulphur Protocol, and drew attention to instances of non-compliance with reporting obligations and where submission of insufficient information had prevented the Implementation Committee from assessing compliance with substantive obligations under the Protocol. Mr. Széll also reported on cooperation with other bodies and drew attention to the Committee’s proposals for its mandate for the coming year.

13. Many delegations expressed their appreciation to the Implementation Committee, its Chairman and the secretariat for their excellent work over the past year.

14. With reference to paragraph 10 of EB.AIR/2003/1, the delegation of Norway described the steps taken to accelerate Norway's compliance with its obligations under the 1991 VOC Protocol and pointed out that the preliminary 2002 data showed a downward trend in emissions.

15. With reference to paragraphs 4 and 9 of EB.AIR/2003/1/Add.1, the delegation of the Russian Federation pointed out that it had now submitted all the necessary data on sulphur and nitrogen oxides emissions.

16. With reference to paragraph 16 of EB.AIR/2003/1/Add.1, the delegation of Croatia explained that the delay in its submission of emission data under the 1994 Sulphur Protocol was due to the introduction of a new comprehensive emission inventory system. Next year Croatia would provide high-quality data in a timely manner.

17. With reference to paragraphs 6, 9 and 12 of EB.AIR/2003/1/Add.1, the delegation of Hungary apologized for the delay in providing the final emission data. It indicated that all the necessary data had now been submitted. With reference to paragraph 41 of EB.AIR/2003/1/Add.1, the delegation of the Czech Republic provided additional information and clarification. The Chairman invited these delegations to provide the secretariat with the necessary information in writing so that it could bring it to the attention of the Committee.

18. With reference to paragraph 21 of EB.AIR/2003/1, the delegation of Italy explained that non-compliance with the 1991 VOC Protocol was due mainly to increased emissions from traffic. As preliminary data for 2002 showed a downward trend, it hoped that Italy would be in compliance with its Protocol obligations in 2002. Furthermore, it drew attention to an error in the emission data submitted to the Committee on 9 September 2003, noting that the emissions reported were total, not anthropogenic.

19. With reference to paragraph 39 of EB.AIR/2003/1, the delegation of Ireland explained the reasons for Ireland's exceedance of NO_x emissions and drew attention to a programme of measures to reduce them. Preliminary estimates for 2002 showed some decreases. Ireland would make every effort to provide the information requested by the Implementation Committee by the deadline.

20. With reference to paragraph 35 of EB.AIR/2003/1/Add.1, the delegation of Slovakia submitted a letter containing a detailed explanation of the reasons for non-compliance and pointing out that, with a new ministerial decree on emission limit values entering into force on 1 May 2004, Slovakia would be in full compliance with its obligations under the 1994 Sulphur Protocol.

21. A number of Parties suggested that a stronger compliance regime with mandatory consequences might better encourage Parties to meet their obligations under the protocols, and suggested that the Implementation Committee and the Working Group on Strategies and Review should consider this for the future. Others pointed out that this was a sensitive and technically difficult issue and expressed their reservations.

22. The delegation of the Netherlands requested that the Committee should explore further measures to deal with continued non-compliance. It enquired how the Committee might deal with cases of emissions reporting where the new emissions reporting guidelines were inconsistent with the present protocols, and how it might address the quality of emission data reported.

23. The delegation of the Netherlands also requested a revision of the new emissions reporting guidelines in order that they might be used for compliance monitoring of emission ceilings, as well as for generating data harmonized with methods in the framework of climate change.

24. Mr. Széll indicated that the Implementation Committee had had some preliminary discussions on further measures that might be used to encourage or put pressure on Parties to move into compliance. However, he cautioned that introducing a mandatory compliance regime could only be achieved effectively through a legally binding instrument. Such a step was more likely to succeed in the context of the negotiation of a new protocol than attempts to amend an existing one. A move in this direction would further increase the need for better emissions data.

25. Mr. Széll also requested that issues of clarification raised by the Parties with regard to the sixth report of the Implementation Committee, should be brought formally to the attention of the Committee, through the secretariat.

26. The Executive Body took note of the sixth report by the Implementation Committee (EB.AIR/2003/1 and Add.1), expressing its great appreciation to the Committee, its Chairman and the secretariat. It adopted, with dates amended to reflect the changed dates of the 2004 meetings of the Committee:

(a) Decision 2003/1 concerning compliance by Norway with its obligations under the 1991 VOC Protocol (see ECE/EB.AIR/79/Add.1);

(b) Decision 2003/2 concerning compliance by Finland with its obligations under the 1991 VOC Protocol (see ECE/EB.AIR/79/Add.1);

(c) Decision 2003/3 concerning compliance by Italy with its obligations under the 1991 VOC Protocol (see ECE/EB.AIR/79/Add.1);

(d) Decision 2003/4 concerning compliance by Sweden with its obligations under the 1991 VOC Protocol (see ECE/EB.AIR/79/Add.1);

(e) Decision 2003/5 concerning compliance by Greece with its obligations under the 1988 NO_x Protocol (see ECE/EB.AIR/79/Add.1);

(f) Decision 2003/6 concerning compliance by Ireland with its obligations under the 1988 NO_x Protocol (see ECE/EB.AIR/79/Add.1);

(g) Decision 2003/7 concerning compliance by Spain with its obligations under the 1988 NO_x Protocol (see ECE/EB.AIR/79/Add.1); and

(h) Decision 2003/8 concerning compliance by Spain with its obligations under the 1991 VOC Protocol (see ECE/EB.AIR/79/Add.1).

27. Furthermore, the Executive Body:

(a) Requested the secretariat to communicate these decisions to the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Parties in question;

(b) Adopted decision 2003/9 concerning compliance with reporting obligations in respect of emission data and of strategies and policies (see annex IX);

(c) Requested the Committee to conduct over the 2004-2005 period an in-depth review on compliance by Parties with their obligations under the Protocol on POPs;

(d) Noted that two members remained on the Committee for another year: Mr. Cristiano PIACENTE (Italy) and Ms. Melanija LESNIAK (Slovenia);

(e) Re-elected the following for a second term of two years: Ms. Sue BINIAZ (United States); Mr. Volkert KEIZER (Netherlands); Mr. Lars LINDAU (Sweden); and Mr. Stephan MICHEL (Switzerland);

(f) Elected as a new member Mr. Christian LINDEMANN (Germany) and re-elected Mr. Tuomas KUOKKANEN (Finland) and Mr. Patrick SZÉLL (United Kingdom) for a term of two years. Mr. Széll would continue as Chairman of the Committee for the two years;

(g) Expressed its gratitude to the outgoing member, Mr. Ivan Mojik (Slovakia), for his valuable work on the Committee over the past four year.

IV. REVIEW OF PROTOCOLS AND OTHER STRATEGY ACTIVITIES

28. In view of the entry into force of the Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and the imminent entry into force of the Protocol on Heavy Metals, the Executive Body agreed to address the review of the three Protocols separately.

A. Protocol on POPs

29. The Chairman welcomed the Parties to the Protocol to their first meeting at a session of the Executive Body. He noted that decisions specifically related to the Protocol should be taken by Parties to that Protocol, but that all Parties to the Convention may take part in deliberations and recommendations on the Protocol and on POPs in general. He also stressed that the Convention had provided a framework for Parties to other protocols to enable the Convention's work to be done in the most efficient manner.

30. Mr. R. Ballaman (Switzerland), Chairman of the Working Group on Strategies and Review, presented the report of its thirty-fifth session (EB.AIR/WG.5/76), drawing attention to the discussions on methods and procedures for reviewing the Protocol, reassessing/re-evaluating certain POPs, and considering proposals for new substances. He outlined the provisions for draft

decisions as provided in EB.AIR/2003/7, a revised version of the document discussed by the Working Group.

31. The delegation of the United States expressed reservations about the wording of the decision to establish a task force on POPs. It proposed new terms of reference through an amended decision.

32. A number of delegations expressed the opinion that existing practices within the Convention should be used for establishing and running task forces. Others noted the importance of clearly defining the work of the proposed new task force and the need to amend parts of the draft decision in EB.AIR/2003/7.

33. To incorporate the views of Parties, a drafting group prepared a revised draft decision on establishing a task force on POPs and a new draft work-plan for the work on POPs for 2004.

34. Related to the draft work-plan, the delegation of the United States indicated that in the original drafting of Executive Body decision 1998/2 it was not the intent that the determination on whether a proposal was “deemed acceptable” should unnecessarily delay technical work on the proposal. It was rather intended to be a simple check on the completeness of the proposal in addressing the criteria under paragraph 1 of that decision. A review of paragraph 2 of the decision by the Working Group on Strategies and Review was included in the draft work-plan to address this issue.

35. The delegations of Canada and the Netherlands offered to act as lead countries for the proposed task force. The delegation of the Czech Republic announced it would host the second meeting of the proposed task force from 31 May to 3 June in Prague.

36. The delegation of Norway informed the Executive Body that it had sent a proposal for a new substance, pentaBDE, to be added to the Protocol’s annexes.

37. The Executive Body adopted decision 2003/10 on establishing a task force on POPs. It further agreed the text of a work-plan element for POPs for 2004 to replace the text in the draft work-plan (EB.AIR/2003/4, item 1.5).

B. Protocol on Heavy Metals

38. Mr. Ballaman noted that the first meeting of the Parties was scheduled for the twenty-second session of the Executive Body in December 2004. He noted that the Expert Group on Heavy Metals had made a good start on the preparatory work for the review of the Protocol. Its first meeting had been held on 21-22 March 2003 in Geneva, under the Chairmanship of Mr. D. Jost (Germany). It had focused on the three metals currently in the Protocol (cadmium, lead and mercury), though the possibility of adding new metals had been considered. Information on deposition maps and emissions inventories had been provided by MSC-East and the Expert Group had agreed that improved emission data quality was important for the review of the Protocol. The Expert Group had also received information from UNEP regarding its Global Mercury

Assessment Working Group. The next meeting of the Expert Group, from 31 March to 1 April 2004 in Brussels, would be back to back with a workshop (29-30 March 2004) organized by Sweden on mercury and its environmental problems.

39. A workshop held on 17-18 November 2003 in Langen (Germany) had considered the merits of effects-based and technology-based approaches for the review of the Protocol. It had considered the need for revision of the technical annexes to the Protocol to reflect technical and scientific progress. Its results would be reported at the next meeting of the Expert Group.

40. The delegation of Canada, in anticipating the formation of a task force next year, proposed more guidance for the Expert Group on Heavy Metals. Priorities should be to: consider procedures, methods and timing for the review of the Protocol; finalize a clear medium-term work-plan; continue the collection and review of information related to the work-plan, e.g. best available techniques and limit values.

41. The Executive Body:

(a) Expressed satisfaction with the work of the Expert Group on Heavy Metals and invited it to continue its preparatory work, reporting to the Working Group on Strategies and Review, until the first meeting of the Parties took place;

(b) Requested its subsidiary bodies to continue to provide support to the Expert Group;

(c) Urged Parties to provide the information required for the development of the work-plan related to heavy metals;

(d) Requested the Chair of the Expert Group, in collaboration with the secretariat, to develop methods and procedures for reviewing the Protocol, possibly along the lines of those developed for the Protocol on POPs.

C. Gothenburg Protocol

42. Mr. Ballaman outlined the discussions and decisions of the Working Group at its thirty-fifth session (EB.AIR/WG.5/76) relevant to the review of the Protocol. He also noted the recent results of the workshop held in November in Oslo on the review of the EMEP Eulerian model. The Working Group had noted that PM_{2.5} was recommended as a health effect indicator, but PM₁₀ would still be used as an air quality standard. It had decided that useful target years for dynamic modelling were 2030 and 2050. Mr. Ballaman drew attention to the results of the workshop on synergies and linkages between regional and global emission controls, held at the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) in January 2003 and the possible resulting reduction in abatement costs. He highlighted the ongoing work on the review of the RAINS model at CIAM and stressed the importance of integrating data from countries not covered by the Clean Air for Europe (CAFE) programme. He highlighted work by WHO/ECEH to evaluate the health effects of exposure of the urban population to ozone and PM and the CITY-DELTA project to link the EMEP model to rural concentrations. Furthermore, he drew attention

to recent developments within the Network of Experts on Benefits and Economic Instruments (NEBEI) and its meetings planned for 2004, with the CAFE programme, on instruments to reduce air pollution and for 2005 on dealing with damage to materials including cultural heritage. He drew attention to the work of the Expert Group on Ammonia Abatement and its planned workshop in Poland on agricultural emission abatement options. Finally, he noted progress by the Expert Group on Techno-economic Issues; the Group was collecting information only on existing technologies, so future work on new and emerging technologies was important.

43. The delegation of EC drew attention to the close relationship between the National Emissions Ceilings (NEC) Directive and the Gothenburg Protocol. It expected a final revision of the EU member States baseline scenarios on energy and agriculture to be completed in late 2004. The revised scenarios would serve as a basis for a more formal proposal for a revision of the NEC Directive, which was expected by late 2005. It also announced that EC had ratified the Gothenburg Protocol and expected that its member States would proceed with their ratifications so that the Protocol could enter into force in 2004.

44. The delegation of Finland noted that by the end of 2003 Finland would conclude its national procedures for the ratification of the Gothenburg Protocol.

45. A number of delegations drew attention to the importance of the work on synergies and linkages between regional and global air pollution problems, noting the economic relevance and the need to give the results wider publicity. The incorporation of greenhouse gases into the RAINS model would be finalized next year. It was suggested that a presentation on this issue should be made at the next session of the Executive Body. EEA drew attention to its report on synergies between greenhouse gas emissions, abatement options and cost control prepared for the fifth Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe".

46. The delegation of Sweden provided information on the workshop planned for 2004 on the review and assessment of European air pollution policies, focused on the future work and priorities of the Convention and the CAFE programme.

47. Some delegations identified the need to consider the quality of emissions data reporting. It was agreed that this was best approached through EMEP and by requesting a paper for submission to the Working Group on Strategies and Review.

48. The Executive Body:

(a) Expressed satisfaction with the progress made in preparing for the review of the Gothenburg Protocol, calling upon Parties to support the scientific activities by providing the necessary data (emissions, modelling, critical loads, etc.);

(b) Urged Parties to ratify the Gothenburg Protocol as soon as possible, preferably well before the 25th anniversary of the Convention in 2004;

(c) Noted with appreciation the work of CIAM, whilst recognizing shortfalls in emission projection data, and urged countries that had not done so to hold bilateral discussion with CIAM to agree on the data used for modelling;

(d) Noted the important conclusions from the examination of the linkages and synergies between regional air pollution and climate change, recognized the importance of developing links with relevant bodies and requested the Working Group to keep it informed of activities in this area;

(e) Welcomed the important contribution of WHO to the work towards the review of the Gothenburg Protocol, and invited it to continue its efforts in this area;

(f) Noted with appreciation the confirmation by Sweden of its plans to organize a workshop in 2004 to take stock of the state of science and prepare an assessment for policy discussions for the review of the Gothenburg Protocol and for the CAFE programme;

(g) Noted the progress made by the Expert Group on Techno-economic Issues in developing its techno-economic database (ECODAT) and providing the necessary data to CIAM;

(h) Welcomed the proposal of the Expert Group on Ammonia Abatement to collaborate with the Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projections in holding its next meeting in Poznan (Poland), with a one-day workshop devoted to assist countries with economies in transition in the areas of ammonia emission abatement options and emission inventories;

(i) Requested the Chairman of the EMEP Steering Body to produce, in collaboration with the EMEP Bureau and the secretariat, a note on emissions data reporting, identifying quality assurance issues and proposals for improving data quality;

(j) Noted that the planned activities may be dependent upon funding being available.

D. Exchange of information and communications

49. An expert from Kazakhstan presented a report on a TACIS project on emission inventories of air pollutants and monitoring and modelling of air pollution in Kazakhstan, carried out under the UNECE Working Group on Environmental Monitoring with funding by the European Union. The EMEP centres had played an important role in the project. The respective recommendations for other EECCA countries were also presented.

50. Mr. B. Libert, UNECE regional adviser, stressed the professional work carried out by the Kazakh hosts of the project and expressed his thanks to MSC-E, CCC and the other experts participating in an international meeting held in Almaty. Mr. Libert noted this was an excellent preparation for the United Nations Development Account (UNDA) project "Capacity Building for Air Quality Management and the Application of Clean Coal Combustion Technologies in Central Asia" and expressed his hope that there would be a decision for its funding very soon. Finally, Mr. Libert drew attention to the recommendation, discussed at the international meeting in

Almaty, for holding a series of technical seminars for all EECCA countries, for example on emission inventories for mobile sources.

51. The delegation of the Russian Federation presented a questionnaire for the purpose of collecting information on obstacles to ratification and implementation faced by the EECCA countries. The questionnaire focused on the three most recent protocols and sought, as well as information on obstacles, information on the needs for technical assistance, including for the drawing up elaboration of national implementation plans.

52. Mr. Ballaman noted the report of the workshop on a communications strategy for the Convention, held on 9-11 April 2003 in London (EB.AIR/WG.5/2003/7). It had recommended several initiatives to raise the profile of the Convention, including improvements to the Convention's web site and media-friendly press materials. The workshop had also discussed the possibility of an expert group on communications as well as a global forum to share the Convention's knowledge and experience with other regions. He also noted the upcoming 25th anniversary of the Convention as an ideal opportunity to draw attention to the Convention, noting that the Bureau of the Executive Body had discussed possibilities for a high-level event and a press conference. He suggested, depending on the available resources, an interactive web site for children, a book on the history of the Convention, and an attractive brochure. He noted the imminent substantive reports from EMEP and the Working Group on Effects, and the 2002 Review of Strategies and Policies for Air Pollution Abatement would be available for the event.

53. Several delegations supported the idea of celebrating the 25th anniversary during the twenty-second session of the Executive Body, but noted that it would be difficult to attract ministers to such an event.

54. The delegation of Norway stated that it was preparing a national celebration highlighting the importance of the Convention for Norway and encouraged other Parties to do the same. Another delegation suggested holding a video conference for ministers.

55. The Executive Body:

(a) Took note of the TACIS project and the proposed UNDA project, invited relevant programme centres to actively participate in this work, and requested it be kept informed of further progress;

(b) Thanked the Russian Federation for drafting the questionnaire for EECCA countries, and requested the secretariat to circulate the questionnaire, collate the answers and provide a note to the Working Group on Strategies and Review at its next session;

(c) Noted the need for organizing annual workshops among the EECCA countries and for preparing implementation manuals/guides for the more recent protocols to the Convention, whilst recognizing the importance of adequate resources for this work;

(d) Welcomed the offer of the United States to host a workshop on control technologies for particulate matter in Indianapolis, Indiana (United States) on 23-25 June 2004;

(e) Took note of the results of the communications workshop, commended them for use by the Convention and proposed that they should be drawn to the attention of other environmental conventions;

(f) Entrusted its Bureau with the organization of the 25th anniversary of the Convention in November/December 2004, and requested the secretariat to make the necessary information available on its web site.

V. PROGRESS IN CORE ACTIVITIES

A. Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe (EMEP)

56. Mr. J. Schneider (Austria), Chairman of the EMEP Steering Body, reported on the activities of EMEP (EB.AIR/2003/3), including the results of the twenty-seventh session of its Steering Body (EB.AIR/GE.1/2003/2). He noted the good progress made on modelling POPs and heavy metals, and highlighted the country-specific reports prepared by MSC-E. He drew attention to the recent workshop on the review of the EMEP unified Eulerian model, noting that the results for sulphur, nitrogen and ozone were satisfactory, though more work was needed to address particulate matter. Mr. Schneider stressed the lack of emissions and measured data as the main limitation in the modelling work. High-quality emissions data were important and the revised Emission Reporting Guidelines were a major step towards achieving harmonized data. The Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projections was collating a list of problems that had arisen with the new Guidelines. Some technical corrections had already been incorporated. Some other issues required further consideration at the policy level. To address data quality, EMEP would place a high priority on the ongoing work to review and improve emission inventories, and he noted a pilot project by EEA and MSC-West to review emission inventories. Mr. Schneider drew attention to the draft monitoring strategy and appealed to Parties to consider carefully the requirements that it contained and to assess its feasibility. He also highlighted progress in the work on the EMEP assessment report. He stressed that the main focus of the work on integrated assessment modelling was currently on the development of the baseline scenario. He drew attention to the extension of the scale of the EMEP model, namely to the urban and the hemispheric scales. The CITY-DELTA project would provide data on the urban scale, needed to assess the health effects, in particular of ozone and particulate matter. Extension to the hemispheric scale was dictated by two factors: (i) the expansion of the EMEP modelling domain with the accession of new Parties from EECCA, and (ii) the intercontinental transport of some pollutants. Finally, Mr. Schneider stressed the excellent collaboration of EMEP with EC and EEA, and the prospects for future cooperation with EECCA countries. Closer contacts between EMEP

centres and EECCA countries and the organization of EECCA workshops were consistent with the conclusions of the Almaty workshop.

57. A number of delegations expressed their appreciation to EMEP and the Centres for their excellent work, and in particular to MSC-E for its country-specific reports.

58. One delegation stressed the need for closer collaboration with EC on rural monitoring sites to ensure the future of the EMEP monitoring network. Another delegation saw a possibility for closer cooperation between EC and EMEP to monitor mercury. Other delegations drew attention to the need to further prioritize work on emissions inventories.

59. The delegation of the Russian Federation expressed support for the future work on the assessment of intercontinental transport of pollutants and stressed the need for future assistance to EECCA countries as regards their activities for emission inventories, monitoring and modelling.

60. The Executive Body:

(a) Took note of the report of the twenty-seventh session of the EMEP Steering Body (EB.AIR/GE.1/2003/2);

(b) Noted the progress made on heavy metals modelling, monitoring and emission reporting, and called upon Parties to make greater efforts to report their data in the future, making use of the Reporting Guidelines;

(c) Noted the timely progress made on POPs modelling, in view of the entry into force of the Protocol on POPs, and welcomed the efforts being made on model validation;

(d) Welcomed the country-specific reports prepared by MSC-E and called upon Parties to comment on them;

(e) Noted the progress in the development of the unified Eulerian model for acidifying and eutrophying pollutants, ozone and particulate matter, and took note of the conclusions of the workshop for the review of the model in Oslo on 3-5 November 2003;

(f) Recognized the importance of the Parties' reporting of PM emissions and called upon Parties to continue their endeavours to provide the necessary data, including those on chemical composition;

(g) Noted the progress in modelling particulates and stressed that priorities should focus on important sources and where uncertainties are the highest (e.g. organic carbon);

(h) Noted the progress in the work on hemispheric air pollution, welcomed the continued interest of the United States in this issue and invited other Parties to lend support to this work;

(i) Accepted with appreciation the offer by Norway to lead the Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projections, and welcomed the offer of EEA to continue its support for the Task Force;

(j) Expressed its gratitude to the United Kingdom for leading the Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projections and to Mr. Mike WOODFIELD, its retiring Chairman;

(k) Noted the imminent publication of the Emission Reporting Guidelines in the Convention's Air Pollution Studies Series (No. 15);

(l) Welcomed the continued improvement in the reporting of emissions and called upon Parties to make every effort to report according to the new Emission Reporting Guidelines by the deadline of 15 February 2004;

(m) Requested the EMEP Steering Body to prepare a note on the difference between the revised Guidelines for Emissions Reporting and the previous guidelines;

(n) Strongly encouraged further work on the improvement and validation of emission data;

(o) Welcomed progress in the development of the new draft monitoring strategy for EMEP and encouraged the Steering Body to finalize this work in 2004;

(p) Recognized the importance of the work to develop a baseline scenario for integrated assessment modelling, and called upon Parties to collaborate with CIAM and provide the necessary data;

(q) Took note of the results of the workshop on linkages and synergies of regional and global emission control (EB.AIR/GE.1/2003/4/Add.1), and requested EMEP to continue work on this topic;

(r) Approved the proposed budget of CIAM for 2004 as set out in the report of the Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling (EB.AIR/GE.1/2003/4, para. 59) and agreed to keep the 2005 and 2006 budgets at the same level.

B. Effects of major air pollutants on human health and the environment

61. Mr. H. GREGOR (Germany), Chairman of the Working Group on Effects, reported on the effect-oriented activities, including the results of its twenty-second session (EB.AIR/WG.1/2003/2). He drew attention to the most important results of the Working Group on Effects, its International Cooperative Programmes (ICPs) and the Task Force on the Health Aspects of Air Pollution as summarized in EB.AIR/2003/3, paragraphs 21-35. He expressed his thanks to the lead countries for the programmes and task forces, and stressed the increasing synergies with other environmental programmes, including CAFE, and other organizations. He drew attention to the ICP Forests focus on dynamic modelling, the ICP Waters 15-year report and workshop on biological recovery, the ICP Materials work on the release of heavy metals due to corrosion, the report by ICP Vegetation on heavy metals in European mosses, the new flux approach to critical levels for ozone and the derivation of new indicators for damage risk to vegetation, the progress in work on dynamic modelling and fluxes by ICP Integrated Monitoring, the ICP Modelling and Mapping call for critical loads and dynamic modelling data, and the

progress in developing critical loads for heavy metals. He noted the publication by WHO of the Task Force on the Health Aspects of Air Pollution's report on the health risks of persistent organic pollutants from long-range transboundary air pollution and the report on the health effects of air pollutants. He noted the work carried out by the Joint Expert Group on Dynamic Modelling and its important work that showed four dynamic acidification models using the same input data gave consistent results. He also noted the results of a workshop on empirical critical loads, which had also initiated work on the harmonization of land cover data with EMEP, and a recent joint workshop with EMEP on base cation deposition. He drew attention to progress in the preparation of the Working Group's substantive report, which would be ready in time for the 25th anniversary of the Convention. He stressed the successful harmonization of the work-plan with the EMEP Steering Body, noting the regular joint meetings of their Bureaux.

62. A number of delegations expressed their appreciation for the work done by the Working Group and especially noted their gratitude to Mr. Gregor for providing valuable assistance in promoting the mapping activities in several countries. Subregional meetings, where all national focal centres could participate, were considered of special importance especially in the initial phase of mapping activities.

63. The delegation of Sweden drew attention to the changing focus of ICP Materials, for which it was lead country. It indicated that future work might be streamlined to emphasize the protection of cultural heritage, for which a new sub-centre now existed in Italy. A change of lead country was likely in the future.

64. The Executive Body:

(a) Took note of the report of the twenty-second session of the Working Group on Effects (EB.AIR/WG.1/2003/2);

(b) Noted the further progress in developing the effect-oriented activities and the important results achieved by the International Cooperative Programmes and the Task Force on the Health Aspects of Air Pollution in implementing the Convention (EB.AIR/WG.1/2003/3);

(c) Reiterated the importance of the active participation of all Parties to the Convention, the effective cooperation among the programmes, task forces and coordinating centres and their close collaboration with EMEP, and welcomed the further development of close links with relevant institutions and organizations outside the Convention;

(d) Reiterated its invitation to Parties to nominate national focal centres for those effect-oriented activities/programmes in which they did not yet actively participate;

(e) Took note of the updated medium-term work-plan for the further development of the effect-oriented activities (EB.AIR/WG.1/2003/4), as amended in the report on the twenty-second session of the Working Group on Effects (EB.AIR/WG.1/2003/2 paras. 44-46), and invited the Working Group on Effects and the Steering Body of EMEP to continue their close cooperation in implementing the priority tasks of the Convention;

(f) Noted the draft of the 2004 substantive report on the review and assessment of present air pollution effects and their recorded trends, summarized in document EB.AIR/WG.1/2003/3/Add.1;

(g) Appreciated the continued progress achieved in the application of dynamic modelling and the steps taken to link it to integrated assessment (EB.AIR/WG.1/2003/13);

(h) Welcomed the publication by WHO of the report on health risks of POPs from long-range transboundary air pollution, financially supported by the Netherlands, and noted the results of the recent review of WHO on the health effects of fine particulate matter and ozone, indicating their considerable impacts on health at their current levels;

(i) Noted with appreciation the revision and further development of the Mapping Manual and the continued updating of the European critical loads data set and maps;

(j) Took note of the work-plan elements dealing with the synergies between climate change and air pollution as identified by the ICPs and the Task Force on the Health Aspects of Air Pollution;

(k) Noted the importance of continuing the communication of the results and findings of the effect-oriented activities to the scientific community, policy makers and the general public both nationally and internationally, and took note that the 25th anniversary of the Convention in 2004 would provide a good opportunity for publicizing the work of the programmes;

(l) Confirmed the need for guidance to select target years for dynamic modelling, to be considered in the upcoming call for data on critical loads and dynamic modelling;

(m) Noted the need for data on non-atmospheric inputs of lead and cadmium (e.g. fertilizer) in order to assess total exceedances of critical thresholds;

(n) Welcomed the progress achieved in evaluating and updating empirical critical loads for nitrogen deposition on (semi-) natural ecosystems (EB.AIR/WG.1/2003/14);

(o) Noted document EB.AIR/WG.1/2003/12, as amended, on the financing of the effect-oriented activities.

VI. STRATEGIES AND POLICIES FOR THE ABATEMENT OF AIR POLLUTION

65. The secretariat reported that it was publishing the summary of the 2002 review of strategies and policies as agreed by the Executive Body at its twentieth session, including corrections submitted to the secretariat by 31 January 2003. The English text would be available in the first quarter of 2004, while the French and Russian texts would be ready in time for the 25th anniversary celebration of the Convention.

66. The secretariat introduced the draft questionnaire on strategies and policies for the 2004 compliance review (EB.AIR/2003/2 and Add.1 and 2). As decided by the Executive Body at its twentieth session, only questions concerning protocols in force were included. Since the Protocol

on Heavy Metals would enter into force on 29 December 2003, questions concerning this Protocol were proposed for inclusion (EB.AIR/2003/2/Add.2). The text of the questions remained essentially the same as in 2002, though notes and tables had been improved to ensure effective replies. The introductory part of the questionnaire had also been redrafted, following comment from the Implementation Committee, to indicate that it was designed to assist mandatory reporting. Replies to the questionnaire itself were not mandatory.

67. The secretariat had proposed to make the questionnaire accessible to the Parties via the Internet from 31 January 2004 with Parties submitting replies by 31 March 2004. To assist reporting, the Internet site would enable Parties to view their replies of previous years (2000 and 2002). The secretariat again proposed that replies from Parties should be made available through the Convention's web site (www.unece.org/env/eb/welcome.html).

68. Delegations thanked the secretariat for the continued development of the questionnaire, noting that it facilitated the process of replying by Parties. Some Parties indicated that they might have problems meeting the suggested deadline. It was proposed that the questionnaire should be made available earlier, in mid-January, and that if Parties still had problems with the deadline they should inform the secretariat.

69. Several delegations proposed deleting questions considered "soft" obligations such as exchange of technology and public participation (questions 8, 14-17, 19, 24-27, 38-40, 47-49), as these were unlikely to be used by the Implementation Committee to determine compliance with protocols. One delegation noted the questionnaire was not mandatory and asked that this be reflected in the questionnaire's cover letter.

70. The delegation of Austria stated that its ratification of the Protocol on Heavy Metals had been received in New York and asked to be included in the list of Parties in the questionnaire; the delegation of Bulgaria stated that it too had ratified the Protocol and the delegation of Hungary reported that it had ratified the 1994 Sulphur Protocol and asked to be included in the list of Parties in the questionnaire. These changes would be reflected in the Internet-based questionnaire.

71. The Executive Body:

(a) Thanked the secretariat for publishing the 2002 Review of Strategies and Policies, appreciating that it would be available for the 25th anniversary of the Convention;

(b) Agreed the text of the 2004 questionnaire, with the omission of questions 8, 14-17, 19, 24-27, 38-40, 47-49, and requested the secretariat to make it available on the Internet to Parties from 15 January 2004;

(c) Requested the secretariat to again limit the length of replies possible on the electronic questionnaire but also to ensure that any limit applied to all replies no matter how they were submitted;

(d) Noted that the questionnaire provided an excellent opportunity for Parties to meet

their obligations under their reporting of strategies and policies under the Protocols, and urged Parties to make every effort to respond to the questionnaire before the deadline of 31 March 2004 to enable the secretariat to prepare its report to the Implementation Committee;

(e) Requested the Implementation Committee to undertake a thorough legal review of the questionnaire before 2006;

(f) Requested the secretariat to make replies from Parties available on the Internet.

VII. ACTIVITIES OF ECE BODIES AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS RELEVANT TO THE CONVENTION

72. Mr. J. Schneider (WHO/ECEH) stressed the importance of the findings of the Systematic Review of the Health Aspects of Air Pollution, which was supported by the European Commission, for the work under the Convention. He also reported about the plans to update the WHO Air Quality Guidelines. WHO was committed to continuing its close collaboration with the Working Group on Effects and EMEP. WHO had also initiated work on air quality and health in EECCA.

73. Mr. B. Wahlstrom (UNEP) reported on the Stockholm Convention on POPs. The Convention now had 41 Parties. Entry into force was expected in the first half of 2004 and the first session of the Conference of the Parties was scheduled to be held in early 2005 in Uruguay. He invited Parties to the Convention to become Parties to the Stockholm Convention in the near future so that they could fully participate at the first session. He also noted the POP Global Monitoring Programme, which would support the effectiveness evaluation of the Convention. A guidance document for the Programme would be ready in mid-2004 and tested in pilot studies in developing country regions during 2004 and 2005. The Programme would build on and use to the fullest extent possible existing programmes, e.g. EMEP. Mr. C. French (UNEP) presented UNEP activities to address mercury pollution. A UNEP working group had completed the Global Mercury Assessment (GMA) report in 2003. In February 2003 the UNEP Governing Council, after considering the GMA, had decided that national, regional and global actions should be initiated as soon as possible to protect human health and the environment from mercury releases. In response to a request from its Governing Council, UNEP had initiated a mercury programme, aimed at assisting countries in understanding the nature and magnitude of the mercury problem and developing strategies to mitigate it. Priority activities for 2004-2005 included organizing "awareness raising" workshops, producing guidance materials, establishing an information clearing house, and facilitating discussions on the need for further actions to address mercury pollution.

74. Mr. A. Zuber (EC) presented the Clean Air for Europe (CAFE) programme, which would lead up to a thematic strategy on air pollution to be presented by the Commission in July 2005. The CAFE programme covered the air pollutants also covered in the Gothenburg Protocol (SO₂, NO_x, VOC, NH₃, PM). Other strategies under development in the Commission covered the health

aspects of POPs and heavy metals. The scientific and technical analysis of the CAFE programme builds on the basic structure and information of the Convention, bringing it further with targeted contracts to supply the Commission with relevant information. A number of CAFE/Convention work lines existed, such as the review of the EMEP/RAINS framework, the use of common guidelines for emission inventories and reporting. The joint work of CAFE and the Convention on these was expected to continue.

75. Ms. L. Jalkanen (WMO) pointed out the activities of WMO relevant to the Convention. It had continued co-chairing the EMEP Task Force on Measurement and Modelling. The fifth meeting of the Task Force would include a joint EMEP/Global Atmospheric Watch (GAW) session with the following main items: site collaboration, data centre cooperation and quality assurance/calibration activities. The GAW Training and Education Centre, located in Germany, had secured funding for another three years. As an item relevant to transboundary transport of air pollutants resulting from biomass burning, WMO had installed instruments in Indonesia and Malaysia for particle measurements in a joint project with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. The Integrated Global Atmospheric Chemistry Observations (IGACO), co-chaired by WMO, aimed to coordinate and enhance cooperation between GAW and the satellite communities concerned with atmospheric chemistry measurements. The IGACO report would be published in 2004. WMO was looking forward to continuing the constructive cooperation between GAW and the Convention, in particular with EMEP.

76. Mr. S.A. Bamford (IAEA) presented its activities in the monitoring of radioactivity levels in the atmosphere. In addition, it had also been involved in the determination of trace element concentrations (including heavy metals) in airborne PM. Activities had been carried out through technical cooperation projects with individual member States, coordinated research projects, and regional cooperation agreements with Eastern Asia, Latin America, Africa and the Mediterranean. To facilitate comparability of PM data, IAEA provided the same sampler of its own design to participating countries for the collection of PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}. It had also facilitated capacity-building in the area of nuclear analytical capabilities for element analysis of aerosol-loaded filters, and human resources development. Activities in atmospheric pollution were ongoing in Eastern Asia, and new programmes were in the formulation stages for Africa and the Mediterranean. IAEA looked forward to collaboration in Convention activities and could help meet the need of providing observational data for model validation for PM and heavy metals.

77. Mr. R. Mills (IUAPPA) drew attention to the 13th World Clean Air Congress, to be held in London in August 2004. This would consider the long-range transport of air pollution within the overarching theme of interaction of climate change and air pollution. Parties to the Convention were invited to participate in the Congress. IUAPPA further reported that, within the framework of the Congress, a special meeting would be convened of representatives of the various regional networks for managing transboundary air pollution, to share experience, consider the scope for wider collaboration, and explore the relationship between regional and global activities.

78. Mr. A. Barkman (EEA) reported continued cooperation with the Convention on pan-European air pollution issues in 2004. EEA would continue to contribute to improving the quality of emission reporting, help in developing an emission inventory improvement programme and host the Atmospheric Emission Inventory Guidebook. Back-to-back workshops between the European Environment Information and Observation Network (EIONET) and the Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projections would continue to be arranged.

79. The secretariat drew attention to the written reports made available by the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP), the Air and Waste Management Association, and the Commission for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (OSPAR).

80. The Executive Body welcomed the initiative of IUAPPA and remitted to the Bureau consideration of the detailed form of the Convention's support and participation. It also noted with appreciation the information provided by the international organizations and stressed the importance of effective collaboration in the future.

VIII. WORK-PLAN FOR 2004

81. The secretariat introduced the draft work-plan for the implementation of the Convention (EB.AIR/2003/4) and the provisional list of meetings for 2004, amended to reflect the discussion and the decisions that the Executive Body had taken earlier in the session.

82. The Executive Body adopted its work-plan for 2004 (ECE/EB.AIR/79/Add.2, annex XII). The provisional list of meetings is set out in annex XIII (ECE/EB.AIR/79/Add.2).

IX. FINANCIAL ISSUES

83. The secretariat introduced the note on the financial requirements for the implementation of EMEP and of the core activities not covered by the EMEP Protocol (EB.AIR/2003/5). It drew attention to contributions received for 2003 and those outstanding, including a project proposal by Ukraine to cover part of its arrears. It noted the budgets for 2004 and the tables identifying the mandatory contributions to EMEP and the voluntary contributions for the core activities. It noted that Bosnia and Herzegovina had paid earlier outstanding contributions to the EMEP Trust Fund, while Belgium and Monaco had made payments for earlier years to the Trust Fund for core activities. Under the decision 2002/1 on the financing of core activities, some countries had announced contributions in kind made directly to programme centres. Those confirmed by programme centres were recorded in the contributions table.

84. The note presented inter alia the detailed budgets of EMEP and the core activities for 2004, and their provisional budgets for 2004 and 2005.

85. A number of countries indicated that payments had been made or were about to be made, and agreed to collaborate with the secretariat to ensure that all transfers of funds were accounted for. Several delegations announced that they had provided significant contributions by hosting

programme centres, but that these were not always reported to the secretariat. The delegation of Austria indicated that it would complement its voluntary contribution to the core activities Trust Fund with an earmarked payment to CIAM. The delegation of the United Kingdom noted its contributions to two Working Group on Effects workshops in 2003, amounting approximately to £ 22,000, though these were not to specific centres identified in decision 2002/1.

86. The delegation of Germany announced that its country had lifted the reservation made at the twenty-seventh session of the EMEP Steering Body (EB.AIR/GE.1/2003/2, para. 62) with respect to the EMEP budget for 2004, but noted that the 2004 figure would be a cap for the forthcoming years.

87. The delegation of the Russian Federation suggested that from 2004 the revised United Nations scale of assessments for 2004 should be considered for calculating the contributions to the EMEP Trust Fund.

88. The Executive Body:

(a) Welcomed the accession of Romania to the EMEP Protocol and decided to adopt, in accordance with article 4, paragraph 3, of the Protocol, the revised annex, which included Romania, set out in annex XIV;

(b) Decided on the detailed use of resources in 2004 as set out in table 2 of document EB.AIR/2003/5 and on the scale of mandatory contributions as set out in table 3 (last two columns) of that document;

(c) Supported the Steering Body's call on the Parties to the EMEP Protocol to consider making additional voluntary contributions (in kind or in cash through the Trust Fund) to ensure that the work, especially the difficult tasks required in 2004 for the preparation of the protocol reviews, including the work on integrated assessment modelling, could be accomplished as foreseen in the work-plan (EB.AIR/GE.1/2003/2, para. 63 (h));

(d) Requested the Steering Body, with the assistance of its Bureau, to present the details of the 2005 budget together with the work-plan for approval by the Executive Body at its twenty-second session;

(e) Urged Parties that had not yet done so to pay their 2003 contributions in cash to the EMEP Trust Fund and, in 2004, to pay their contributions so that they reached the Trust Fund in the first half of the year;

(f) Took note of the contributions made to the core activities Trust Fund for 2003, welcomed the additional payments made by Belgium and Monaco, but expressed disappointment at the lack of response by many Parties;

(g) Decided that the essential coordination costs for financing the core activities of the Convention and its Protocols, other than those covered by the EMEP Protocol, would be US\$ 2,085,750 in 2004, and would provisionally be US\$ 2,152,700 in 2005 and US\$ 2,152,700 in

2006;

(h) Requested the secretariat to inform Parties of their recommended contributions to meet the 2004 budget, inviting them to make contributions as agreed in decision 2002/1;

(i) Urged all Parties which had not yet done so to consider providing voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund for financing core activities without undue delay;

(j) Noted with appreciation the essential support provided to the Convention and its bodies by lead countries, countries hosting coordinating centres and those organizing meetings, as well as countries that funded activities of their national focal centres/points and the active participation of national experts.

X. FACILITATION OF PARTICIPATION BY COUNTRIES WITH ECONOMIES IN TRANSITION

89. The secretariat introduced the document on the facilitation of participation of countries with economies in transition prepared by the Bureau in collaboration with the secretariat (EB.AIR/2003/6). It drew attention to the revised text that not only provided updated lists of countries eligible for funding but also provided more flexibility for funding participation in meetings of the Executive Body and its main subsidiary bodies. It noted that, at the request of the Executive Body and its Bureau, it had been more proactive in enabling participation in all meetings through 2003, but drew attention to the increased costs and the pressures on the Trust Fund. The current rate of spending was unsustainable so increased donations were essential to continue the current level of support.

90. A number of delegations welcomed moves towards improving participation from countries with economies in transition, but indicated that there was a need to ensure that letters requesting funds from Parties were appropriately targeted.

91. The Executive Body adopted decision 2003/11 on the facilitation of participation of countries with economies in transition (see ECE/EB.AIR/79/Add.1), and requested the secretariat to send appropriately targeted letters inviting donations.

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

92. The secretariat had been informed of no other business.

XII. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

93. Mr. H. Dovland (Norway) was elected Chairman. Ms. P. Farnsworth (Canada), Mr. L. Lindau (Sweden) and Mr. I. Mojík (Slovakia) were elected Vice-Chairpersons. The Chairmen of the EMEP Steering Body (Mr. J. Schneider, Austria), the Implementation Committee (Mr. P. Széll, United Kingdom), the Working Group on Strategies and Review (Mr. R. Ballaman, Switzerland) and the Working Group on Effects (Mr. H. Gregor, Germany) were also elected as Vice-Chairmen. The Executive Body agreed that its Bureau should invite a member of the CAFE secretariat to attend its meetings as an observer, and proposed the Bureau to invite Mr. Peter

Wicks to its next meeting. Mr. R. Ballaman was re-elected as Chairman of the Working Group on Strategies and Review.

94. The Executive Body expressed its thanks to Mr. W. Harnett (United States), its outgoing Vice-Chairman.

XIII. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

95. The Executive Body adopted for general distribution the report of its twenty-first session on 18 December 2003.