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

Steering Body to the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation
of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe (EMEP)
(Twenty-ninth session, Geneva, 5-7 September 2005)
Item 3 of the provisional agenda

ACTIVITIES OF THE EMEP BUREAU

Note prepared by the secretariat based on the minutes of the Bureau meetings

Introduction

1. This note presents a summary of the work of the Bureau, including the results of the two meetings of the extended EMEP Bureau held in Gothenburg (Sweden) on 25 October 2004 and in Geneva from 23 to 25 February 2005. The Bureau's proposals related to the financing of EMEP are presented in the document on financial and budgetary matters (EB.AIR/GE.1/2005/11).
2. The following Bureau members attended one or both of the Bureau meetings:
Mr. J. SCHNEIDER (Austria) as Chairman, Mr. P. GRENNFELT (Sweden), Mr. J. REA (United Kingdom), Mr. J. SANTROCH (Czech Republic), Ms. S. VIDIC (Croatia), Mr. K. WIERINGA (Netherlands), Ms. M. WICHMANN-FIEBIG (Germany), Mr. S. DOYTCHINOV (Italy) did not participate in either meeting.

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.

3. Representatives from the four EMEP centres, the Centre for Integrated Assessment Modelling (CIAM), the Chemical Coordinating Centre (CCC), the Meteorological Synthesizing Centre-East (MSC-E) and the Meteorological Synthesizing Centre-West (MSC-W), and the UNECE secretariat participated in one or both meetings. Ms. L. JALKANEN (World Meteorological Organization), Co-Chair of the Task Force on Measurements and Modelling, Ms. K. RYPDAL (Norway), Chair of the Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projections, Mr. André ZUBER (European Commission) and Mr. T. KEATING (United States) Co-Chairmen of the Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution, participated in the second meeting.

I. PROGRESS IN EMEP ACTIVITIES AND PLANNING OF FUTURE WORK

4. The Bureau discussed progress in EMEP activities and future work following the order of the Executive Body's 2005 work-plan (ECE/EB.AIR/83/Add.2, annex XIII, item 2). It received oral progress reports from the task forces and the centres. Summaries of the discussions on this item are given in the minutes of the Bureau's meetings, which can be accessed as informal documents in English on the Internet at <http://www.unece.org/env/emep/welcome.html>.

5. The draft workplan presented to the Steering Body (EB.AIR/GE.1/2005/10) was prepared by the secretariat, in consultation with the centres, on the basis of this discussion. The secretariat discussed with the Bureau the possibilities for streamlining documentation and making better use of the Internet for disseminating information, as requested by the Executive Body (ECE/EB.AIR/83, para. 56 (i)). In this respect, the Bureau agreed that there was a good opportunity to improve the format of the workplan.

6. The Bureau also considered a draft strategy paper for EMEP, prepared by MSC-W. The strategy paper, as further elaborated by MSC-W at the request of the Bureau, is presented as an informal document to the Steering Body for discussion. The Bureau welcomed the possibility of making the source code of the EMEP model publicly available with financial support from Norway and, subject to all legal implications of such a decision being cleared, agreed to recommend to the Steering Body to make the source code publicly available.

7. The Bureau also discussed the work of the Expert Group on Techno-economic Issues in relation to integrated assessment modelling. It was concerned, in particular, that background documents on abatement technologies and costs for certain selected sectors were developed under the Expert Group, but there was not always the necessary quality scrutiny by national experts, since Parties were often not in a position to participate fully, due to resource constraints. The

Bureau saw a need for improving the collaboration with national experts in this process and suggested that the Chairman of the Steering Body express these concerns to the Working Group on Strategies and Review at its next session.

8. The Bureau agreed to hold its next meeting in the autumn of 2005.

II. CONTRIBUTIONS TO EMEP

A Status of mandatory and voluntary cash contributions

9. The secretariat reported on the status of cash contributions, stressing the positive financial situation. All Parties to the EMEP Protocol, except for Ukraine, Greece, Portugal and Romania had paid at least part of their contributions for 2004. The Bureau welcomed the positive situation.

B Status of mandatory contributions in kind: Belarus and Ukraine

10. Concerning the contribution by Belarus, the Bureau was informed about the work carried out in 2004 (further research on HCB and PCB emission inventory improvement in the New Independent States (NIS) using the example of Belarus).

11. The Bureau also considered the proposed contribution from Belarus for 2006 (on further research on particulate matter emission inventory improvement in the NIS).

12. The Bureau recommended that the EMEP Steering Body should approve the contribution from Belarus for 2004. It approved the proposed contribution for 2006 on the understanding that the project would be conducted in close consultation with the Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projections.

13. With regard to Ukraine's contribution in kind, the Bureau had no current information about the progress of the project for the development of a national model for the assessment of the environmental impact of heavy metals emissions (equivalent to US\$ 140,989) which had been approved in 2001 (EB.AIR/GE.1/2001/10, para. 23) to cover Ukraine's arrears for 1992-1994.

14. With regard to the project for establishing an international EMEP site on the Black Sea island of Zmejiny, approved by the Steering Body at its twenty-eighth session to cover Ukraine's arrears for 1996-2001 (equivalent to US\$ 175,205), the Bureau considered that in view of the pending case between Romania and Ukraine concerning their maritime boundary at the

International Court of Justice, it was appropriate to recommend a change in the location of the site. It requested the secretariat to contact the Ukrainian authorities inviting them to propose a new location, in consultation with CCC.

C Use of resources in 2004 and the detailed budget for 2006

15. The Bureau considered the reports on the use of resources in 2004 by MSC-E, MSC-W and CCC. It was satisfied that the resources for 2004 were used as budgeted.

16. The Bureau, without the participation of the centres, discussed the distribution of the budget for 2006. The Bureau suggested some amendments compared to the 2005 budget, taking into account the priorities for 2006.

III. COOPERATION WITH THE WORKING GROUP ON EFFECTS AND OTHER NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMMES

17. The Bureau held a joint meeting with the Bureau of the Working Group on Effects on 24 February 2005. The note on the joint meeting can be accessed as an informal document on the Internet at <http://www.unece.org/env/emep/welcome.html>.

18. The Bureau also discussed existing and potential cooperation with other national and international organizations and programmes, including the European Commission's Clean Air for Europe (CAFE) programme and the projects NATAIR and City-Delta, the European Environment Agency, the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET), the International Union of Air Pollution Prevention and Environmental Protection Associations (IUAPPA), the United Kingdom, the United Nations Environment Programme and WMO.