



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
14 September 2015

English only

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**

Working Group on Effects

First joint session*

Geneva, 14–18 September 2015

Agenda item 4 of the provisional agenda

**Matters arising from recent meetings of the Executive Body
and its subsidiary bodies and activities of the Bureaux of
the Steering Body and the Working Group on Effects**

Activities of the Bureaux of the Steering Body and the Working Group on Effects**

Note by the secretariat

Summary

The present note provides a report of the discussions at and outcomes of the meeting of the Bureaux and the Extended Bureaux of the Steering Body to the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe and the Working Group on Effects held from 16 to 19 March 2015 in Geneva, Switzerland.

* The Executive Body to the Convention agreed that, as of 2015, the Working Group on Effects and the Steering Body to the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe should meet jointly, to achieve enhanced integration and cooperation between the Convention's two scientific subsidiary bodies (ECE/EB.AIR/122, para. 47 (b)).

** The present document is being issued without formal editing



Introduction

1. The present note details the activities of the Bureau of the Steering Body (SB) to the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe (EMEP) and of the Bureau of the Working Group on Effects (WGE), reporting the results of the joint meeting of the respective Bureaux and the Extended Bureaux held from 16 to 19 March 2015 in Geneva, Switzerland.

A. Attendance

2. The following EMEP SB Bureau members attended the meeting: Ms. Laurence Rouil (France), Chair of the Steering Body; Ms. Sonja Vidič (Croatia), Mr. Paul Ruysenaars (Netherlands), Mr. Xavier Querol (Spain), Mr. Nebojsa Redzic (Serbia) and Mr. Rudolf Weber (Switzerland). All the members of the WGE Bureau attended the meeting: Mr. Grennfelt (Sweden), Chair of WGE, Ms. Sabine Augustin (Switzerland), Mr. Jesper Bak (Denmark), Ms. Gudrun Schuetze (Germany), Ms. Sonja Vidič (Croatia), Mr. Thomas Dirnböck (Austria), Ms. Isaura Rabago (Spain) and Mr. Nebojsa Redzic (Serbia). Ms. Anna Engleryd (Sweden), Chair of the Executive Body to the Convention, also attended.

3. The meeting was attended by representatives from the five EMEP Centres: the Meteorological Synthesizing Centre-East (MSC-E); the Meteorological Synthesizing Centre-West (MSC-W); the Chemical Coordinating Centre (CCC); the Centre for Integrated Assessment Modelling (CIAM), and the Centre on Emission Inventories and Projections (CEIP). Also attended representatives of all the WGE Centres: the Programme Co-ordinating Centre of the International Co-operative Programme (ICP) on Assessment and Monitoring of Air Pollution Effects on Forests (ICP Forests), the Programme Centre of the ICP on Assessment and Monitoring of the Effects of Air Pollution on Rivers and Lakes (ICP Waters), the Programme Centre of the ICP on Effects of Air Pollution on Materials, including Historic and Cultural Monuments (ICP Materials), the Programme Centre of the ICP on Effects of Air Pollution on Natural Vegetation and Crops (ICP Vegetation), the Programme Centre of the ICP on Integrated Monitoring of Air Pollution Effects on Ecosystems (ICP Integrated Monitoring), the Coordination Centre for Effects (CCE), the ICP on Modelling and Mapping of Critical Levels and Loads and Air Pollution Effects, Risks and Trends (ICP Modelling and Mapping), and the Joint Task Force on the Health Aspects of Air Pollution (TFH). Mr. Martin Adams (European Environment Agency), co-Chair of the Task Force on Emission inventories and Projections (TFEIP), Mr. Rob Maas (the Netherlands), co-Chair of the Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling (TFIAM) and Mr. Augustin Colette (France) and Ms. Oksana Tarasova (WMO), co-Chairs of the Task Force on Measurements and Modelling (TFMM), Mr. Filip Moldan, Chair of the Joint Expert Group on Dynamic Modelling (JEG), also participated in the meeting. Mr. Andre Zuber (European Commission) and the secretariat of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) were also present at the meeting.

4. Mr. Terry Keating (United States of America) and Mr. Frank Dentener (Joint Research Centre), co-Chairs of the Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution (TFHTAP), took part in the discussions via telephone and web connections.

B. Organization of work

5. The Bureaux took note of the oral reports from: the EMEP Centres and Task Forces and written reports from the TFIAM and CIAM, as well as oral reports from WGE Centres, JEG and TFH, on the progress made in implementing the 2014–2015 workplan.

I. Matters arising from the thirty-third session of the Executive Body, thirty-eighth session of the EMEP Steering Body and the thirty-third session of the Working Group on Effects

6. The Chair of the Executive Body, supported by the secretariat, drew attention to the major outcomes of the thirty-third session of the Executive Body for the Convention and, in particular, on the outline, expected content and timeline of the Convention 2016 assessment report and on adoption of the Revised UNECE Framework Code for Good Agricultural Practice for Reducing Ammonia Emissions (ECE/EB.AIR/2014/8).

7. The Chair of the EMEP Steering Body summarized the highlights and outcomes of the Steering Body's thirty-seventh session, as well as those of the thirty-third session of the Executive Body that related to EMEP, including: discussion on emission inventories (recalculations, inventory review process, compliance related issues), adjustments under the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone (Gothenburg Protocol). At its thirty-third session the Executive Body adopted additional decision (2014/1) on Improving the guidance for adjustments under the 1999 Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground level Ozone to emission reduction commitments or to inventories for the purposes of comparing total national emissions with them, and the Technical Guidance for Parties Making Adjustment Applications and for the Expert Review of Adjustment Applications (ECE/EB.AIR/130). In view of the limited financial resources, the Executive Body gave a priority for the inventory review process compared with the review of Parties' applications for adjustments.

8. The Chair of the Working Group on Effects pointed out to the need for a better communication between policy and science. The two thematic reports and related presentations delivered by representatives of the WGE during the thirty-third session of the Executive Body: *Deposition of air pollutants to vegetation in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central and South-East Asia and their impacts* (by ICP Vegetation; ECE/EB.AIR/2014/5) and *Residential heating with wood and coal: health impacts and policy options in Europe and North America* (by the TFH; ECE/EB.AIR/2014/6) served exactly that purpose. The Chair also mentioned to the efforts of WGE community to implement the recommendations from the recent ICP review (carried out in 2013).

9. The secretariat drew attention to the report on outreach activities (ECE/EB.AIR/2014/7) elaborated by the secretariat in collaboration with the Bureau of the Executive Body. The report provides information on cooperation opportunities for the Convention with various international mechanisms on transboundary air pollution including the Arctic Council, UNEP's Stockholm and Minamata Conventions, Climate and Clean Air Coalition, and various subregional efforts in Asia (Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET), North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation (NEASPEC), the Joint Research Project on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollutants in North-East Asia and the Malé Declaration).

II. Progress of work

A. Emission inventories

10. The representative of CEIP presented the status of emission data reporting in 2014 and 2015, as well as various tasks of CEIP in relation to national emission inventories. The co-Chair of the Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projections presented the main outcomes of the 2014 Task Force meeting and the held back to back with workshop.

11. The Bureaux welcomed the progress made by CEIP and the TFEIP and, in particular:

(a) Noted the information that European Environment Agency will no longer fund the updates to the EMEP/EEA air pollutant emission inventory guidebook;

(b) Reiterated that Parties' in-kind support and additional funding in 2015 would be necessary to support stage 3 reviews; recommended that the EMEP Steering Body at its thirty-eighth session pay special attention to the funding needs;

(c) Recommended to TFEIP, CEIP and TFMM to jointly work out a proposal for the EMEP SB on the treatment of condensable particles (a joint workshop on constables could be organized together with WMO);

(d) Expressed concern about recent major recalculations of the emission entire time series notably of fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) by some Parties.

B. Adjustments under the Gothenburg Protocol

12. The representative of CEIP and TFEIP on behalf of expert review team (ERT) presented information about the review of applications by seven Parties for adjustments in 2015. The reviews of the applications will be carried out by CEIP and the ERT between April and June 2015. The review coordination meeting will be held in Copenhagen in the last week of June in parallel with the stage 3 review. The summary report on the outcome of the review will be an official document for the first joint session of EMEP SB and WGE in September 2015, while the country review reports will be informal documents for the joint session. The secretariat will assist CEIP and ERT to draft the summary and the country reports.

13. The Bureaux welcomed the provided information and:

(a) Expressed concern due to apparently insufficient number of reviewers supported by Parties;

(b) Noted that voluntary contribution by Parties to CEIP might be necessary to carry out the review of all the submitted applications for adjustments in 2015.

C. Atmospheric monitoring – quality issues

14. Representatives of CCC and TFMM informed the Bureau about the recent monitoring activities of EMEP. Unfortunately, the recent data indicate that quality of EMEP observations did not improve. Due to reduction in CCC part of the EMEP budget, the continued work on intercomparisons is funded internally. Many parties do not fulfill the monitoring requirements (level 1) and less than a third of Parties fulfill more than 60 per cent of the monitoring requirements. CCC and TFMM pointed out to continuous collaboration of EMEP with the Stockholm Convention, Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP), the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the

North-East Atlantic (OSPAR), Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (HELCOM) and WMO lead activities. On the European Union level, cooperation opportunities for EMEP include the Copernicus Monitoring Atmospheric Composition and Climate (MACC/COPERNICUS) and the Aerosols, Clouds, and Trace gases Research InfraStructure Network (ACTRIS) projects.¹ It is important for EMEP to promote and share its data but also to gain knowledge and get easy access to relevant data from partner organizations and projects.

15. The Bureaux welcomed the progress made by CCC and TFMM and:

(a) Expressed concern about the quality of the monitoring data and insufficient fulfilment of monitoring obligations by some Parties;

(b) Called for better data sharing internally (within the Convention) and externally;

(c) Encouraged EMEP to seek ways to extend relations with partner organizations, conventions and relevant research projects.

D. Atmospheric modelling, hemispheric transport of air pollution and integrated assessment modelling

16. Representatives of MSC-E informed the Bureau about the progress in atmospheric modelling of persistent organic pollutants (POPs) and heavy metals. Attention was drawn to the cooperation with a number of Convention bodies, including Working Group on Effects (on heavy metals in mosses), TFHTAP and several external partners.

17. Representatives of MSC-W and TFMM presented the progress in atmospheric modelling of acidifying pollutants, photo-oxidants and fine particles, drawing attention to the global and regional scales, including the cooperation with TFHTAP, a number of EU-funded projects like ACTRIS, COPERNICUS, *Evaluating the climate and air quality impacts of short-lived pollutants* (ECLIPSE)² and *Effects of Climate Change on Air Pollution and Response Strategies for European Ecosystems* (ECLAIRE).³

18. The co-Chair of the Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution reported on the progress made in the Task Force's activities, drawing attention to the development of global emission inventories (2008 and 2010) and 2030 (2050) benchmark scenarios.

19. Representatives of TFIAM and CIAM presented the recent progress in the integrated assessment modelling focussing on the inputs to the EMEP trends report and the 2016 assessment report.

20. The Bureaux welcomed the progress made by MSC-E, MSC-W, TFMM, TFHTAP, TFIAM and CIAM and:

(a) Acknowledged MSC-E continued extensive collaboration with the Parties and a number of international programmes and organizations, such as the Stockholm Convention on POPs (through the joint secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions), the Minamata Convention on mercury, AMAP, Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (HELCOM) and the European Commission;

(b) Supported MSC-E efforts to tighten the collaboration with external partners, in particular, with the Stockholm Convention (SC) and recommended to EMEP SB to

¹ See <http://www.actris.net/>.

² See <http://eclipse.nilu.no/>.

³ See <http://www.eclair-fp7.eu/>.

consider various ways on how to extend the cooperation with SC and other external partner organizations;

(c) Noted the need for further research in ozone and nitrogen (N) modelling with the EMEP model as several Parties recently reported significant differences between modelled and measured N data;

(d) Stressed key role played by TFHTAP for the Convention in scientific outreach beyond the UNECE region, in particular towards the key countries in Asia, namely: India, China and Japan.

E. Critical Loads and other ICP Modelling and Mapping/CCE issues

21. The representatives of CCE informed the Bureaux about the ongoing Call for data related to critical loads in increased spatial resolution aligned to EMEP grid resolution (with a deadline for Parties in March 2015), outcome of the 2014 ICP Modelling Mapping/CCE Task Force meeting, and progress on the implementation of the 2014-2015 workplan. The Bureaux welcomed the progress made by ICP Modelling and Mapping and CCE and:

(a) Welcomed, in particular, the training sessions and other support for the national work;

(b) Supported the ongoing work on the update of the Modelling and Mapping Manual (to be completed in 2016);

(c) Noted that the decreasing funding (including national one) for CCE might negatively influence its work especially with respect to support provided to countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Europe.

F. Air pollution effects on health

22. The Chair of TFH provided the update on WHO and TFH activities. The Bureaux welcomed the progress made by TFH and:

(a) Noted that the expected global resolution on air quality by the World Health Assembly in May 2015 might have important and long-term consequences on transboundary air pollution worldwide and on the Convention in particular;

(b) Supported the WHO/TFH further work on economic valuation of health aspects and the development of the global platform for particulate matter data (the second meeting on the global platform is planned in summer 2015).

G. Air pollution effects on environment, materials and crops

23. The representatives of ICP Forests, Waters, Materials, Integrated Modelling, Vegetation and JEG informed the Bureaux about the implementation of the 2014-2015 workplan focussing on the key developments and major outputs. The Bureaux welcomed the progress made by ICP Forests, Waters, Materials, Integrated Modelling, Vegetation and JEG and:

(a) Welcomed, in particular, contribution of ICP Forests to the “State of Europe’s Forests 2016” an initiative of the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forest in Europe (a process located at the European Environment Agency);

(b) Noted and appreciated the ICP Waters continued work on biological and chemical recovery and on recovery of fish in Norway, and the thematic report on mercury in the environment planned for 2016;

(c) Supported the proposal for a Call for data (in early 2016) by ICP Materials in relation to cultural sites at risk that are included in the UNESCO World Heritage List;

(d) Welcomed, in particular, the progress on priority work items by ICP Integrated Monitoring such as biodiversity indicators, critical loads, heavy metals baseline and mass budgets;

(e) Supported the new smart phone app to record incidences of leaf ozone injury developed by ICP Vegetation as an example of novel approach for promoting knowledge and research on air pollution damage to vegetation; welcomed and supported the outreach efforts outside UNECE region;

(f) Supported the modelling work of JEG especially related to ecosystem services and recommended the continuation of JEG work for the next biennium (2016-2017).

H. Follow up on ICP Review

24. The Chair of the WGE informed the Bureaux about the implementation of the recommendations from the ICP review. Some of the ICPs noted increased participation of national experts but not all of them. In order to increase the credibility of the scientific work, efforts need to be made to increase the participation in the ICP activities also by scientists from outside of the community. ICP Integrated Monitoring and ICP Waters informed about a planned joint workshop in 2016. Other ICPs should also explore possibilities for joint workshops and activities.

25. The Bureaux welcomed the initiative of Mr. Jesper Bak supported by ICP Forests to explore options for setting up a common WGE webpage similar to the one for EMEP. If needed, some money (US\$ 10,000?) could be taken from the WGE budget to support the establishment of the common WGE web portal. The portal should, inter alia, help to share the data collected by all the WGE centres. The options for setting up the WGE web portal should be presented during the first joint session in September 2015.

26. The secretariat explained that the UNECE website is designed mainly for use by delegates attending Convention meetings in Geneva. Therefore, the UNECE website is less suitable for use by scientists seeking contacts and data relevant for research.

I. Trends report

27. Both the EMEP and WGE communities informed the Bureaux about their work on the planned trends reports. The EMEP trends report is coordinated by TFMM while ICP Waters took the lead on the WGE trends report. The preliminary versions of the trends reports will be reported at the first joint session. The reports are expected to be completed in 2016. The key elements of the two trends reports will contribute to the 2016 assessment report (see section III).

28. The Bureaux considered the provided information on the trends reports and recommended to keep the reports separately rather than to merge them into a single report. This is mainly due to differences in the scopes and approaches to trends applied by the two communities.

III. 2016 Assessment Report

29. Mr. Rob Mass, Chair of TFIAM and one of the key editors of the 2016 assessment report gave an overview of the up to date and planned work on the report. The 2016 assessment report will address four key questions:

- (a) What has been achieved in terms of reduction in health and ecosystem effects?;
- (b) What are remaining problems?;
- (c) What is the scope for further improvements?;
- (d) What is the scope for further co-benefits with climate change mitigation?

The answers to those questions will be elaborated based on reviewed scientific papers and reports elaborated by the Convention Centres, Task Forces and other groups.

30. The 2016 assessment report will be addressed to policy makers beyond delegates to the Executive Body. The report will focus on remaining policy challenges and will encourage further progress on air pollution abatement in all Parties to the Convention. The kick-off meeting for the report was organized by MSC-W in Oslo in late January 2015. The work on the report was divided into 16 key messages and all the inputs to the report are available online.⁴

31. The preliminary version of the report is to be ready by 30 June 2015. It will be discussed during the first joint session of EMEP CB/WGE in September 2015. The first draft of the report will be finalized by 31 October prior to the session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review and the Executive Body in December 2015. The final version of the report is to be completed by 28 February 2016 in time for approval by the Executive Body at its thirty-fifth session in May 2016. The 2016 assessment report will be presented at the Eighth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference (Batumi, Georgia, 8–10 June 2016, see section VII).

32. The Bureau welcomed all the contributions to the report including the work done by the editors. The Bureaux also:

- (a) Discussed various elements of the report including the key remaining challenges for the Convention e.g. further quantification of health and environmental impacts of air pollution (also in terms of ecosystem services) and;
- (b) Noted the continuous importance of ozone and nitrogen pollution, economic aspects of air pollution mitigation as well as and data uncertainty;
- (c) Discussed the key messages for policy makers: air pollution is transboundary (and transcontinental) and that the Convention has developed successful cost-effective solutions to mitigate air pollution;
- (d) Encouraged the EMEP and WGE communities to seek the balance between various elements of the report and to help to complete the report on time;
- (e) Welcomed the funding for the 2016 assessment report provided by Germany, Sweden and Switzerland.

⁴ See EMEP-wiki. For access contact Ms. Hilde Fagerli from MSC-W.

IV. Draft 2016-2017 workplan for the implementation of the Convention

33. The secretariat informed about the process of preparing a draft 2016-2017 workplan for the implementation of the Convention. It is proposed to continue with the layout and format of the current (2014-2015) biannual workplan. The draft workplan is to be submitted in June to be translated into French and Russian languages in time for the joint session of EMEP SB and WGE in September 2015. The final version of the workplan is to be developed prior to and at the thirty-fourth session of the Executive Body on 18 December 2015.

34. The Bureaux stressed the need for both the bottom-up and top-down to the development of the workplan as well as providing clear messages and setting the priorities. The Bureaux:

- (a) Discussed new issues that should be included in the workplan e.g. review and bilateral (Party-centres) consultations;
- (b) Recommended seeking further synergies with EU scientific projects;
- (c) Stressed the need for further work related to ozone especially in the Mediterranean area;
- (d) Recommended that work on trends should continue in the next workplan;
- (e) Considered a proposal for having a price tag for each of the workplan item - relevant especially for the centres;
- (f) Noted that the assessments and data developed under the Convention should be labelled as such.

V. Cooperation with other bodies, outreach and sharing information with other regions

35. Several of the Convention Centres and Task forces (MSC-E, MSC-W, CCC, CIAM, TFMM, TFHTAP, various ICPs and TFH) informed the Bureaux about past, ongoing and planned activities with other international projects, bodies and mechanisms within (e.g. EU projects) and beyond UNECE region. Several opportunities for increased cooperation were mentioned, in particular, in relation to work on:

- (a) Persistent organic pollutants and heavy metals (Stockholm and Minamata Conventions);
- (b) Black carbon emission inventories (the Arctic Council/AMAP);
- (c) Hemispheric and global air pollution assessments (South and South-East Asia);
- (d) Shipping emissions (HELCOM);
- (e) Climate change and biodiversity (CCAC, UNFCCC, EU Habitat).

36. The secretariat provided information about its recent information sharing efforts focused on partner organizations (WHO, UNEP, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia (ESCAP) and its North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation (NEASPEC)).⁵ The efforts include presentations on relevant

⁵ See <http://www.neaspec.org/>.

Convention activities at meetings in Geneva and - upon invitation - outside Geneva (e.g. EANET, NEASPEC). The secretariat makes constant effort to invite relevant speakers from partner organizations and mechanisms to the sessions of the Executive Body, EMEP SB and WGE. In order to collect more information Convention outreach activities, the secretariat prepared - in collaboration with the Chairs of EMEP SB and WGE - and distributed prior to this meeting an informal document (information gathering guide) directed to centres, task forces and groups on existing and planned (short- to long-term) outreach activities.

37. The secretariat also informed about the forthcoming (late April 2015) ministerial meeting under the Arctic Council. The meeting would be an opportunity to promote the work of the Convention on black carbon emission inventories and other related activities relevant for the Arctic. The secretariat also informed about the recent initiative of the UNECE Executive Secretary on interagency cooperation and information sharing between UNECE, WHO and UNEP on transboundary air pollution.

38. The Bureaux welcomed the various outreach activities and information sharing efforts and encouraged all the centres, task forces, groups and the secretariat to continue such actions pointing out to the need for activities at various levels (individual experts, research groups, task forces and bodies of the Convention). The Bureaux noted that such outreach activities may but not necessarily have to be formalized in form of written agreements (e.g. Memoranda of Understanding) with the relevant counterparts. The Bureaux also noted that outreach activities should be beneficial for both sides.

VI. Capacity building in countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia

39. The secretariat informed about the capacity building activities led by the secretariat in countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. The capacity building has been carried out since late 2014 thanks to generous contributions by the European Union, the Netherlands, Norway and Switzerland. The programme is needs driven i.e. the Parties in collaboration with the secretariat set the scope of activities and the priorities. Over the last two years, the activities were focused on national emission inventories. In 2014, dedicated trainings and workshop were carried out in Azerbaijan, Georgia and the Republic of Moldova. For 2015, the following activities are planned in:

(a) Uzbekistan (non-Party) in May 2015, a workshop on emission inventories focused on agriculture and energy sectors and a roundtable on legislation analysis; recommendations on further steps towards ratifications of three latest protocols to the Convention;

(b) Armenia in June 2015; a workshop on emission inventories focused on industrial processes and fuel combustion;

(c) Kazakhstan in June 2015; a workshop on emission inventories with a focus on energy and industrial processes.

40. The Bureau welcomed the capacity building activities led by the secretariat and:

(a) Noted that the priorities will shift from building national inventories to baseline data and projections in support of ratification of the Gothenburg Protocol and also to analysis of national legislation (e.g. for Uzbekistan);

(b) Noted that TFTEI is directly cooperating with EECCA Coordinating Group for the countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia;

(c) Appreciated the capacity building activities since they help to generate better emission data;

(d) Encouraged and supported these activities as increased involvement of countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia has been a priority for the Convention.

VII. Eighth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference (Batumi, Georgia, June 2016)

41. The secretariat informed about the preparations for the Eighth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference to be held in Batumi, Georgia from 8 to 10 June 2015. At its twentieth session, UNECE's Committee on Environmental Policy (CEP) decided on two main themes for the Conference:

- (a) Greening the economy in the pan-European region (Europe plus Central Asia);
- (b) Improving air quality for a better environment and human health.

42. The ministerial conference is an opportunity for the Convention to provide major inputs inter alia through:

- (a) Shaping the ministerial discussions (background paper to be prepared by the secretariat in collaboration with the partner organizations);
- (b) Presentation of the Convention's 2016 Assessment Report (at a side event);
- (c) Presentation of the Action for Cleaner Air Initiative;
- (d) Communication and outreach efforts.

43. The Bureau welcomed the information provided by the secretariat and noted that the ministerial process is driven by UNECE Parties under the CEP. The key contribution to the conference from the Convention will be 2016 assessment report. The Bureaux encouraged their members to contact their respective national representatives to the CEP to promote the Convention work and its achievements.

VIII. Preparations for the thirty-eighth session of the EMEP Steering Body and the thirty-third session of the Working Group on Effects

44. The Bureaux discussed the agenda and the format for the thirty-eighth session of the Steering Body and the thirty-third session of the Working Group on Effects, to be held from 14 (beginning at 3 p.m.) to 18 (ending at 1 p.m.) September 2015. The session will be the first joint session of the two scientific bodies (EMEP SB and WGE) of the Convention with a single agenda and a single session report. The draft session agenda will be developed by the secretariat in collaboration with the Chairs of EMEP SB and WGE. EMEP related issues will be taken at the beginning of the session, followed by common issues and by WGE specific issues. The common issues would include: the Convention 2016 assessment report, trends reports and other issues of common interest.

45. The Bureaux emphasized that the agenda item focussed on information sharing by Parties on the implementation of EMEP and of effects oriented activities should continue to be a regular item during the joint sessions. Parties would be invited to present their national experiences, successes and challenges (including scientific reports and publications), as well as their collaboration with EMEP and WGE Centres, task forces and expert groups. The new format of the EMEP SB and WGE sessions will not influence the respective financial mechanisms. The Executive Body is aware of the difficult financing situation of the effects community and that the successful implementation of the WGE part of the

Convention workplan is subject to availability of national and international funding. The secretariat will ensure that the information about the joint session is available at both EMEP and WGE parts of the UNECE website.

IX. Financial and budgetary matters

A. Status of mandatory and voluntary cash contributions

46. The secretariat reported on the status of cash contributions to the EMEP Trust Fund, stressing that 30 Parties to the 1984 Protocol on Long-term Financing of the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe had paid at least part of their contributions for 2014. The total of contributions received in 2014 for the EMEP Trust Fund was US\$ 2,452,173 slightly above the US\$ 2,358,700 budgeted (several Parties paid their contributions for 2014 and earlier years). Several Parties had accumulated arrears prior to 2014. There had been no in-kind contributions by the Parties reported in 2014. The secretariat informed that as of 2015, United Nations Organization in Geneva, which handles the financial issues for UNECE and other UN organizations in Geneva, has been contacting foreign ministries of UNECE Member States on any arrears in mandatory payments. The Bureaux welcomed the 2014 financial situation. More details on financial and budgetary issues can be found in the financial document for the first joint session (ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2015/20–ECE/EB.AIR/WG.1/2015/4).

47. Secretariat informed also about the status of contribution by Parties to the Convention's Trust Fund for effects-oriented activities in 2014 (US\$ 475,344 as of 16 March, subject to change) and about the schedule of payments to centres for their work in 2014. The 2015 Appendices to the multi-year Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) are being prepared and are to be finalized later in spring 2015. The 2015 Appendices will include all the activities and deliverables as provided in the 2014-2015 workplan for the implementation of the Convention.

B. Use of EMEP resources in 2014 and the budget split for 2016

48. The Bureaux considered the yearly financial statements of MSC-E, MSC-W and CCC for 2014. The Bureaux noted that the resources for 2014 had been used as budgeted, and noted the significant in-kind contributions by the host countries as presented in their financial statements: CCC: US\$ 127,000, MSC-E: US\$ 75,308 and MSC-W US\$ 1,698,44 including US\$ 137,519 from CIAM.

49. The Bureau, discussed in depth the distribution of the EMEP budget for 2014-2015. It noted that the structure and distribution of the EMEP budget among the Centres corresponded to the current needs and priorities as set in the Long-term Strategy,⁶ and the 2014–2015 workplan for the implementation of the Convention (ECE/EB.AIR/122/Add.2). The Bureaux discussed but did not conclude on the EMEP budget for the next biennium. The issue will be further discussed during the first joint session in September 2015.

⁶ ECE/EB.AIR/106/Add.1 Executive Body Decision 2010/18 on Long-term strategy for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution and Action Plan for Its Implementation (see ECE/EB.AIR/106/Add.1).

C. Contracts for Centres in 2015

50. The new issue in the 2015 Appendices – for both EMEP and WGE Centres - will be the forecasts of the 2015 budget split (e.g. into personnel costs, travel and indirect costs). The proposed splits will be based on reported expenditures in the 2014 financial statements submitted by Centres to UNECE. In the second half of 2015, the secretariat will initiate the renewal of the MoUs for the WGE Centres as the current ones expire on 30 June 2016. The new MoUs will be either for another 5-year period (2016-2020) or open-ended (to be decided by centres and UNECE).

X. Closing of the Bureaux meeting

51. The next joint meeting of the Bureaux and the Extended Bureaux of the EMEP Steering Body and the Working Group on Effects was tentatively scheduled to be held in Geneva during the week from 14 to 19 March 2016. The date for the meeting is chosen to avoid overlaps with winter holidays and the annual Geneva Motor Show which is usually held in the first half of March.
