Working Group
for the
EUR OPMET BULLETIN MANAGEMENT

Fourth Meeting
(BMG/4)

9 - 10 September 1998

KNMI , De Bilt

DRAFT REPORT

DRAFTREPORT
of the
EUR OPMET Bulletin Management Group

BMG/4 ; 9 - 10 September ; De Bilt

1. Introduction

1.1. The meeting took place in the KNMI Headquarter, De Bilt under the kind hospitality of the Koninklijk Nederlands Meteorologisch Instituut from 9 to 10 September. The group expressed thanks to KNMI for the kind invitation and hospitality.

1.2. The last BMG-meeting (BMG/3) in Vienna let open many not finsihed tasks and ongoing work in the terms of referece.

1.3. A list of the participants is enclosed in appendix A. By internal reasons the invited member of Italy could not attend the meeting.

1.4. The agenda of the meeting was following :

1.) Unique OPMET-Information Publication
(BMG, MOTNEG, SADIS / METG-Requirements, ANP EUR-Supplements)

2.) Preparation of a MOTNEG WP -
EUR OPMET METNO procedures (status report, experience ....)

3.) EUR routing table and address table for :
i.) Non EUR - OPMET data
ii.) WV, WC, FV,FK - bulletins

4.) Transition of the existing PDN-routing to the new addressing scheme

5.) OPMET data monitoring -
results, experience, requirements, priorities

6.) Operational shortcomings

7.) Documentation for the MOTNEG/4 meeting

8.) Any other business

2. Unique OPMET-Information Publication

2.1. For an efficient and optimized OPMET data management updated official tables and requirements must be available to perform the collection and distribution of OPMET data. In the EUR Region the management of the exchange will be done by the EUR OPMET Bulletin Management Group (BMG).

2.2. Up to now basic information was collected with the EUR OPMET questionaire in 1996/1997 and unofficial updated MOTNE tables and bulletins are prepared and in force and also handled by the EUR OPMET METNO procedure.

2.3. On the other hand different official tables are and documentation is existing . They are mostly outdated or are not representing the actual operational requirements.

2.4. These are primary :

- ICAO Doc. 7754 - EUR ANP / VIII -
  Supplement 2-MET Edition March 1992
  Tables MET-2A and 2B - Edition March 1990
- ICAO Doc. 7754 - EUR ANP / X - COM / Attachment E - MOTNE System
  Amendment 17 - March 1990
- ICAO EUR OPMET Databank Catalogue Edition Jan. 1994
  i.) A - ANP tables MET2A and 2B - Jan. 1994
  ii.) B - PDN distribution of Non-EUR TAFs in Europe - Jan. 1994
  (Only reprinted)
  iii.) C - Rules for the use of international MET Data Banks
  (Only reprinted)
  iv.) D - Meteorological Databank Brusssels - Jan. 1997
  v.) E - Databank Wien - Jan. 1996
  (On request vailable Ed. Jan. 1998)

- SADIS User Guide - (Amendment 2 - March 1998)
  i.) Annex 1 - Aerodromes for the inclusion on SADIS broadcast

(table of requirements)

ii.) Annex 2 - SADIS products

Annex 3.

- Preleminary EUR ANP Supplement 1 - MET
  Operational requirements for OPMET information (Oct. 1997)

- MET tables in the ANPs of the other Regions

- ROBEX and AMBEX Handbook

2.5. On the other hand working information was collected by the MOTNEG and the BMG WG in 1996/1997. The mainsource was the questionaire for OPMET data which was unfortunately not completely finished end of 1997 . Also collected data from the MOTNE Centres are used to build up a database which is maintained by Brussels (EB). The structure and the content of the different tables were developed in the BMG meetings. These tables are updated by Belgium(EB) frequently and in ~~parallel~~ to the METNO OPMET METNOs. But these tables are only updated on a regulary basis with data from the MOTNE area.

2.6. In the last MOTNEG meetings it was discussed that only one the catalogue should be available and monthly updated in electronic form and only made available in paperform on request.
In summer 1998 some problems exists in the access of the FTP-server in Vienna by introducing a new firewallsystem and a new WWW-server.
In Belgium ~~there are two possibilties to get~~ OPMET information:
BMG .....
The "old" databasecatalogue was long time provided in the ICAO document.....

2.7. At the moment following ~~online~~ information is available :

OPMET BMG ....oma.be
OPMET BMG ftp ...~~sma~~
Databank BX ..... oma.be
Databank Vienna .....acg ...
BMG mirror site acg ftp .....

(rem.: will be tested and inserted later !!!)

2.8. Based on the experience for daily operation and planning the existing tables should be verified for further use. The available OPMET tables should be enhanced to include also the compiling station of bulletins (CCCC) and by few members the

up to date

IATA 3-letter code is additionally requested. Unfortunetaly no electronic version of the ICAO reference documents (e.g. 7910) is available free of charge for this work. This should be provided for the work in the group. The spelling of names will be done in same manner as in the ICAO documents. A problem is existing with the CCCC of the FIRs. At time no access is possible for an official electronic version on a worldwide basis. A letter to HQ ICAO Montreal is required for assistance in this matter.

2.9. The available EUR OPMET information from the whole EUR-Region is based on the questionaire and answers which was issued beginning 1997 and the information extracted end of 1997 was used for the basic work. Not all States replied to this and also some information is not longer existent or valid. Also developments took place in the availibilty and capacity of networks.

2.10. The Group found it necessary to update these tables. This should be done by modifying the existing information. The available (last updated) version of these tables can be made available as hardcopy. The MOTNE centres should organize the collection of table entries in their "areas of responibilty". Where this is not effective ICAO Paris should be invited to support this by using their contacts.

2.11. MOTNE centres and areas of responsibilty :

.....

TABLE

2.12. In the BMG tables also the latest SADIS requirements are introduced. The ICAO table (1997) which will be published as supplement to the EUR ANP is not seperately introduced, because no electronic version was available.

2.13. An example of the draft version is enclosed as attachment B.

2.14. It was discussed that the automatic production of the MOTNE-BULLETIN table will be in future automatically derived by the BMG focal point from the last available BMG tables. The draft version is enclosed as Attachment C. This will replace the off-line table of Vienna.

2.15. To organize the production and publication of a unique OPMET table a WP for

the MOTNEG/4 will be prepared.

2.16. This WP should include a (DRAFT) conclusion
to use this tables as a unique one for all purposes (ANP ,SADIS) and
to inform the other Regional ICAO Planning Groups about this work and handling.
This work will be coordinated by Belgium and Austria.

3. EUR OPMET METNO procedures (status report, experience ....)

3.1 The EUR OPMET Data Update Procedure has been carried out as planned from the AIRAC date 29.01.98. In its initial phase some minor problems have been encountered :

- Institutional problems
- Timing problems
- E-mail (decoding) problems
- FTP-server problems
- Coordination/information problems.

3.2. The institutional problems that have been encountered are mainly due to the interpretation of a sentence in the MOTNEG/3 Report, paragraph 1.6 : .. to put the update procedures into informal use to test their effectiveness. This raises questions like :

- are the changes permanent or only valid for a test period ?
- may non-MOTNE centres distribute bulletins ?
- what about ANP and tables 2A and 2B ?
- what about coordination if changes have an impact on Volmet transmissions ?

3.3. A few remarks have been received on the rapidity of the procedure : it was felt that the duration of the modification procedure was too fast. An other remark was that an exact date/time was required as recommended METNO modification date:time.

3.4. E-mail decoding problems have been solved by using simpler data compression and well defined formats (WP5, DBF, TXT).

3.5. In the initial phase the upload to the FTP-servers went very difficult due to the ISP-speed and due to the omittance of some necessary rights. The kind MeteoSchweiz offer to use their FTP-server and an improvement of the speed and rights on the Belgian KMI-server solved also that problem.

3.6. It became clear that the defined modification indicator needed more clarification : NEW, ADD, DEL, CHA has been changed in NEWBUL, DELBUL, ADDRPT and RMVRPT. The Internet was not always reliable. Some distributed E-mails were not received in some locations. E-mail address modifications or errors were other sources of non-delivery. Most of these problems have disappeared by obtaining more experience.

3.7. The update procedure has been highly automated and is carried out without major problems. From a CHNGddmm.DBF file containing the records subject to modification the complete OPMET Catalogue (OPMTddmm.DBF) and a number of derived files are generated.

3.8. After BMG/3 nearly all problems are solved and the use of this procedure improved the flexibility and effectiveness of the EUR OPMET exchange.

3.9. The draft WP for the MOTNEG/4 will be attached as Attachment D. This paper needs few modification before presentation.

3.10. Discussion on the SADISOPSG/3 and other operational problems in the gateway centres make it necessary to inform also the other regions and invloled contact points of non-EUR OPMET gateways about the procedure and the available information. This will be included into a Conclusion MOTNEG/4(x) in the presented draft WP:

Due to the lack of information from other regions regarding bulletins and reports availibilty, the Group find it necessary to inform the other regions about the EUR OPMET Update Procedure in order to invite them to reciprocate using a similar procedure which then provide a much improved record of worldwide OPMET data.

Conclusion MOTNE/4 (x) - Notification to non-EUR Regions for OPMET Catalogue Data Exchange

That the ICAO Regional Office inform the other Regions about this update procedure and establishes contact points for coordination and exchange of

interregional OPMT Catalogue Data.

3.11. The presented draft MOTNEG/WP will need only few changes :

- The complete OPMET Catalogue should be provided in hardcopy only on request (Sorry : Thats what I remember - I lost the agreed result)
- A conclusion regarding the discussion item 2.10. above will be introduced.
- Some minor editorial changes
- Update of the Bulletin Management Group Member List
- Update of the list of MOTNE Centres Contact Points
- A new list of the MOTNE Centre Responsibilties

4. EUR routing table and address table for :
i.) Non EUR - OPMET data
ii.)WV, WC, FV,FK – bulletins

4.1. EUR routing- and address table for non EUR - OPMET data

4.1.1. In the past meetings possible enhancements were discussed to improve the addressing of non-EUR OPMETdata into EUR and in the last MOTNEG meeting the introduction of a unique EUR-OPMET indicator was planned. This was given for further discussion to the AFS Expert Group.

4.1.2. After lengthy discussion AFSG/1 prepared a Conclusion (1/3) for the assignment of the EU indicator.

That :

the four States hosting the inter-regional OPMET gateways Austria,Belgium, France United Kingdom) request the allocation of the letters EU for the EURO location indicator on behalf of the AFSG and MOTNEG from the ICO Office in Montreal.

The use of the EU indicator will be restricted to the inter-regional OPMET gateway function. Further use of the EU indicator must be studied and agreed by the AFSG.

The use of the new indicator must be in accordance with agreed principles and procedures.

4.1.3. In the time between activities were done to start the procedure via the national CAAs. Belgium had already sent out the letter and Austria is on preparation. Also France and UK will follow this.

4.1.4. The Group was informed that the ICAO Regional Office is planning a State letter to establish an address for the global reception of WS-data in EUR. To provide a general solution the outcome of the discussion in this matter will be awaited.

4.1.5. The short term introduction of the use of the EU-indicator was discussed in detail and one Member will expect some problems by the introduction of this PDAI. Problems are seen in the safety distribution and routing also by duplication and circling of messages if backup and centre outages will occur. It was agreed that the use will need more detailed problem analyses and should be implemented very carefully. Also investigations for routing details will be made on the next AFSG/Working Group for Routing (September 1998).

4.1.6. In the discussion it was proposed that the number of OPMET gateways can be perhaps reduced, so that the incoming routing can be simplified for the EUR- and SADIS dissemination. It should be envisaged in further planning that this reduction can improve the reception of non-EUR OPMET data.

4.1.7. It was agreed that in the short term only the PDAI of EG should be used for the EUR reception of non-EUR OPMET data. The dissemination to SADIS , SADIS Back-Up and other MOTNE-centres will be provided by the EG-centre. The detailed back-up procedures between EG and EB needs more development. The handling of the data in cases of circuit-breakdowns and outages is in the standarnd terms of the AFS.

Structure of the PDAI :

EGZZM123

123 - is the 3 letter abbreviation of the originating ICAO-Region .

4.1.8. Following addresses for the reception of non-EUR data should be used :

	Originating Region:
	ASI
	AFI
EGZZM...	NAT

	NAM
	CAR
	SAM
	PAC
	MID

e.g.:

EGZZMID for OPMET data from the MID Region ....
EGZZMSAM .... SAM Region

4.1.9. This list will be provided on a provisional basis to the ICAO EUR Office for early information.

4.1.10. <<<< REM : Should we insert a conclusion/decision for MOTNE/EANPG ??? >>>> NO

(Use of addresses, Information of other Regions)

4.2. **EUR routing and addresses for WV, WC, FV,FK – bulletins**

4.2.1 Since years the operational requirement of such data are existing in EUR. The existing solution for the regulary reception and dissemination in EUR only for WV and WC and the provisional solution for FV was only a small step forward for solving the problem of these data.

4.2.2. For the WV / WC / FV /FK - and also for the non EUR- Regions - WS and Special UA - bulletins the imperfection of knowledge of the issued information is the main problem. Also for the correct exchange not all bulletin headings (ADH) and the dataflow is known. But this is a necessary requirement for the involved message switching systems or AFTN centres to provide the service.

4.2.3. The existing operational requirements and also the new one from the ICAO Annex 3 / Amendment 71 should/must be introduced into the exchange.

4.2.4. For the incoming information the most simplified address structure should be used to minimize the operational overhead.

4.2.5. Existing practice :

i.) WS- and Special UA-bulletins :

The group should discuss the reception of non-EUR SIGMETs and the distribution in EUR and on SADIS. Also procedures should be developed to disseminate the EUR-data to other Regions.

ii.) WV- and FV-bulletins :

Since the MOTNE/20 procedures for the EUR-delivery of WV-SIGMETs are in force and regulated in the EUR ANP. The compression of the geographical (AA)- designators to area- designators for the switching of these bulltins is not known to all . The used tables should be provided to all affected centres or published by ICAO for better information.

iii.) WC- and FK-bulletins :

For the WC-SIGMETs the same procedures as WV are used. The FK is a new Type of Tropical Cylone Advisories and similar to the FV-bulletins. There is more less information available as from the FV-bulletins.

4.2.6. In the case of volcanic ash information additionally to the existing WV- and FV-type information some romur was identified for new types - ASHTAM, Volcanic ASH-NOTAMS for a future possible requirement. This must be discussed on other bodies in detail.

4.2.7. In May 1998 a VACC-seminar was held in Toulouse / METEO FRANCE. There was also the problem of the FV-bulletins discussed. Nine VACCs are existing and are issueing at the moment more than 25 different bulletins. Not all information was provided by the centres. Input from the French BMG member was brought up for discussion and presented following results :

i.) VACC LFPW will reduce their number of bulletins from 17 to 3
FVAF01 LFPW
FVAW01 LFPW
FVEU01 LFPW

ii.) Bulletin number ii = 01 will be used (global distribution)

iii.) Geographical descriptor A1A2 should be used for siginificant areas.

iv.) ICAO HQ Montreal will coordinate the final decision of bulletin headers

v.) No change of ii should be used, because this could have important communication implications.

vi.) Coordination between the VACCs and their regional communication collegues in the respective States

After agreement of the above mentioned items the safety and timely exchange can be arranged.

4.2.8. Attachment E is showing the list of FV-bulletin headers used by the VACCs.

5. Transition of the existing PDN-routing to the new addressing scheme

5.1. By expanding the discussion of agenda item 3.i. the task was integrated in the report under item 4.1. and 4.2.

5.2. It was summarized that the transition of PDN to the general EU indicator needs more detailed development and will be done after the MOTNEG/4 and before AFSG/2. The information will than provided for the AFS experts for discussion again.

6. OPMET data monitoring - results, experience, requirements, priorities

6.1. Monitoring of the EUR MOTNE data was started December 1998 to perform an exercise. The results were presented on the BMG/3 in March 1998 and it was suggested to introduce monitoring on a regular basis.

6.2. The analyses of the monitoring shows that in the bilateral exchange more or less a chaos exists. This should be one of the first items to be clarified with the existing results.

6.3. The monitoring should be extended to all type of OPMET messages and the requirements need more formalization to produce effective results. It was agreed that more centres (4-5) will have a better view to examine problems and shortcomings. It was noted that Austria will also be able to use the same tool as EB. The software was kindly provided by the Belgium member. Also it was agreed that 7 days after the OPMET AIRAC date each month monitoring will be made on a regular basis. EB will coordinate the publication of the results on the FTP-server.

6.4. EB, LF, ED and LO will join at time the monitoring. In the future it is possible that also UK can do some work. In the case of UK it is necessary to define the <point

of monitoring>, because there are several possibilities - SADIS gateway, AFTN-switch, UKMO, CAA .

6.5. Minimum requirements for monitoring procedures and definitons should be set up for clear and same understanding. The results should be need for definition of a level of quality, control.

6.6. If some unnormal or irregular situation is observed the monitoring should be extended to a longer period.

6.7. In the case of this task it was brought up again that no official publication is existing which can be used for reference modell. At time the BMG MOTNE bulletins and the SADIS requirement tables are used.

6.8. EB will present results of the monitoring in different views. Attachment F .

7. Operational shortcomings

7.1. IATA pointed out disagreement with the availibilty of some data. Some data could be arranged in time but some are depending on the provision of the States. Especially announced were LWSK and LIPE . Generally improvement was observed.

7.2. In the EUR area data from Central Africa are very rare, mostly due political problems; in South Africa gaps were observed. South America data are generally missing, KWBC will be contacted for improvement.

7.3. On SADISOPSG/2 problems in the SADIS SIGMET distribution in relation to the MOTNE-distribution were presented. After the first investigation it was not possible to duplicate this problem. Further investigation will be made in this matter.

8. Documentation for the MOTNEG/4 meeting

8.1. It was agreed that members or groups of BMG members will prepare WPs or IPs for the presentation on the MOTNEG/4 meeting :

- OPMET information publication and inventory - Belgium and Austria
- OPMET Update procedure - Belgium
- EU addressing - Belgium and UK

- OPMET - addressing - Belgium and Austria
- Monitoring - Belgium , Germany (?)

8. Any other bussiness and future work :

8.1. It was announced that in the near future also UK will reorganize the bulletins similar to France.

8.2. If BMG members will participate in other groups, they should be aware of the <<Year 2000>> problem.

8.3. The Austrian BMG contact address is changed to bmg@austrocontrol.at. This is a collective address. The personal addresses can be used further on.

8.4. The Group expressed thanks the Austrian memebr Mr. H. Klinsky for his work in the group. He will retire in 1.Q/1999 .

8.5. The group should focus some work to the process of interregional coordination relating :

- OPMET table
- Request/reply procedures
- Establishing contact points
- Exchange of information

8.5. The ongoing work in the terms of reference should be mainly done via mail. To remember the standards :

i. Attached documents should be attached as files in WordPerfect 5.1. and MS Word 6.0;

ii. Tables should be made available as *.DBF files (dBase)
For Paradox the length of recordnames should be restricted to 10 characters;

iii. The MIME-Coder/Decoder should be used

iv. If data compression is necessary ZIP (*.ZIP) is recommended

8.6. It is intended to hold the next meeting after available results of the AFSG/2 probably end of May beginning June 1999 in Vienna.

BMG/4

List of Attachments

A	-	List of participants
B	-	OPMET tables (extract)
C	-	MOTNE programme
D	-	OPMET Update Procedure (WP)
E	-	FV - Bullein Headers
F	-	Monitoring tables