

**Working Group
for the
EUR OPMET BULLETIN MANAGEMENT**

**Report of the Third Meeting
(BMG/3)**

19 - 20 March 1998

CAA/NATS London, Heathrow

Report
of the
EUR OPMET Bulletin Management Group

BMG/3 ; 19-20 March 1998 London

1. Introduction

1.1. The meeting took place in London/Heathrow under the kind hospitality of CAA/NATS from 19 to 20 March 1998. The group expressed thanks to CAA/NATS for the invitation.

1.2. After the MOTNEG/3 meeting the BMG is continuing the work in the terms of reference and according to MOTNEG Conclusion 3/3.

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

1.4. The agenda of the meeting was following :

1. Review of the experience with the EUR OPMET METNO procedure (e.g. information of connected centres, time scale)
2. Review of the catalogue publication
3. Improvement of the EUR OPMET exchange (SADIS requirements, new bulletins, use of monitoring results)
4. EUR dissemination/routing of "Special" bulletins (e.g. WV, WC, FV ..)
5. Interim PDN routing of non EUR OPMET data (catalogue information, use of standard addresses)
6. Operational shortcomings (e.g. message length problems)
7. A.o.b.
e.g. use of standard decoders and tools for mail attachments, updated internet mail addresses

2. Review of the experience with the EUR OPMET METNO procedure

2.1. The new EUR OPMET Procedure which was prepared on the two previous BMG meetings and adopted by the MOTNEG with Conclusion 3/1 . The procedure was carried out as planned from the AIRAC date of January (29-01-98) and followed by the next dates of February and March . Due to some organisational reasons at the first period the milestone dates were not met.

2.2. The group highly appreciated the work of the BMG focal point Brussels in handling the workload of the procedure.

2.3. By handling the procedure problems relating to the timescale with deadlines, institutional problems, handling of information flow (e-mail decoders, FTP-server availability and update rate) were reported and/or observed. This new method is a provisional one and the results should be presented on the MOTNEG/4. It was noted that the efficiency of this procedure will be reached in the near future.

2.4. The distribution and also the description of the procedure must be made available to all connected COM/MET Centres under the umbrella of the MOTNE-Centres and also to Non-EUR areas e.g. US, Canada and Asia(WS). Therefore the ICAO Office should be requested to inform all EUR States and also the other Regions with a State letter about the new method of information distribution.

2.5. It was also noted that few members have the provision that the response time between information of the focal point and the later distribution is too short to proceed according to the rules. Also the users should have the possibility to have an impact into the decision process. The Group agreed that if this timeframe will be enlarged it is not possible to hold the one month cycle and the updates are delayed to the next AIRAC date. Also no classification of the required changes are expected from the BMG. It should be mentioned that only a NO decision after the first information is necessary to delay the introduction of the specific change. This should be possible in about one week. If such compressed time scale can not be reached the situation will be the same as in the Loop time again.

2.6. In the first period of this update procedure some shortcomings are observed in the transparency of the legend in the process of deleting, adding reports and/or bulletins. Therefore a modification was introduced:

DELBUL	delete complete bulletin
NEWBUL	new bulletin
RMVRPT	remove report from an existing bulletin
ADDRPT	add report to an existing bulletin

Also the timeframe of actions before the next AIRAC date will be distributed.

2.7. The information flow to ICAO will be clarified by direct contact of the Belgium member as focal point of the BMG.

2.8. In the interregional coordination of such information it is necessary to establish an agreement in the formalism of the changes regarding collection, modification and dissemination to and from other Regions. It should be mentioned that a possibility will be seen by publication in the SADIS News Letter and perhaps WMO/CAeM coordination.

2.9. The online access of the BMG information via the oma.be - server will be moved in the near future to FTP-server of the SMA.

The access will be possible on:

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FTP://ftp.sma.ch
login:      icao
password:   opmet1
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The availability on the WWW-Server in Vienna (<ftp://www.austrocontrol.co.at/pub.opmet>) is

normally 1 week delayed.

2.10. In the distribution of the OPMET METNOs no effective time was noted. It was agreed that the time of changes will be 1000 UTC. Also the standard WMO-BBB-groups for eventually necessary corrections, amendments or retards - CCx, AAx, RRx - should be used.

2.11. The results of the experience with this update procedure will be summarized and presented at the next MOTNEG Meeting.

3. Review of the catalogue publication

3.1. The information and status of the METNEG/3 meeting related to the publication and availability of the catalog was reviewed. The new layout referring to the discussion on previous meetings is described in the README.TXT file on the Internet-servers. The information includes all available data in this matter. The catalogues from EB and LO are available. LF will be integrated in the next time. In general the Group found the existing tables as a practicable tool.

3.2. A documentation of the EUR OPMET survey was presented. The database is using "PARADOX" and Object PERL as programming language.

3.3. Extensions relating the last date of monitoring and adjustment of some fields were discussed. Changes relating this item will be provided on the next meeting.

3.4. By using the catalogues of the three databases differences in the interpretation are encountered by one of the Belgium participants. A clear definition between required, existing and exchanged data and the collection and dissemination should be made available. This will be brought up for discussion and clarification on the next BMG meeting.

3.5. An advantage relating the use of a query language for data access is in production in EB. The Group expressed highly appreciation for the presentation of this database by the staff of EB.

3.6. The publication of the databank catalogues should be splitted up into an

- i.) official ICAO international part and additional a
- ii.) part with national extensions.

4. Improvement of the EUR OPMET exchange

4.1. The SADIS programme is the basic requirement which should be reached as a target. The volume of the content should be an addition of the collected EUR dataset, the interregional dataexchange of the PDN and the restructured bilateral exchange. To get an improvement for SADIS it is necessary to combine the management of the bulletins itself and their improved routing via the SADIS Gateway.

4.2. For coordination of Non-EUR-data UK will contact US and Canada, in cooperation with Madrid for SAM to arrange proper ways to collect the reports of NAT/NAM, CAR and SAM.

4.3. Monitoring results (Attachment B) were presented in a paper from EB. This monitoring was performed on the 2 December 1997 from the centres EB, ED and LF. The results have been inserted into the OPMET Catalogue version Dec97 and Jan 98. The group discussed the tables and found that some columns need deeper clarification. To get a more complete information it is necessary to involve more centres. LO will be in the near future to use also monitor tools.

4.4. The monitor tables indicate a great problem in the multiple exchange of the same or similar bulletins. It was stated that the best solution will be a start from the base line but this seems unpracticable. Therefore a short term improvement with a step by step solution from the involved centres with close coordination can be envisaged.

4.5. The greatest problem is the large amount of too many bilateral exchanges which are not documented or known and the direct use of AFTN or GTS for this exchange. To get information and/or control over this part of OPMET exchange it is necessary that all centers work in basic rules :

i.) For regional exchange EUR AFS (AFTN and CIDIN/OPMET) should be used. The data should be streamlined to all MOTNE Centres and SADIS Gateway.

ii.) All OPMET data available at the OPMET Gateways (EB, EG, LF, LO) from outside the Region should be sent under the same rules as above.

iii.) OPMET data received via GTS at one or the other Centre should be sent to the responsible OPMET Gateway AFTN address.

iv.) Information about changes should be provided to the BMG in the rules of the update procedure and if necessary with additional information.

4.6. To get documented results of improvements the Group found it necessary to establish a periodic monitoring which should be performed 7 days after the AIRAC date. This should be introduced as a beginning by coordination of the cooperating centres. It was underlined to get a better overview additional centres should monitor their exchanged traffic.

4.7. Unfortunately the centres are using different tools for the monitoring and therefore deviation of the representation exists. To minimize differences a common table layout will be necessary for the next monitoring.

5. EUR dissemination/routing of "Special" bulletins

5.1. The review of the exchange of the WC / WV - SIGMETs shows positive results especially from MID and ASIA, the reception of CAR-data is also improved. Unfortunately a perfect reception can not be guaranteed because no control for the issue exists. The distribution of this data onwards to the other centres and to SADIS depends on the reception on the distribution address. The distribution table of LO is attached as Attachment C.

5.2. Problems are existing by observed reception of WV data in WS-bulletins originated by

Italy. Unfortunately no more information is available.

5.3. The distribution of FV-bulletins is also included in the same scheme as WV/WC-bulletins. On the "Volcanic"-Issue will be held by METEO FRANCE in May. By coordination it should be possible to highlight the dissemination problem.

5.4. It was brought up for discussion that with the next Amendment of ICAO Annex 3 the worldwide availability of SIGMETs will be an OR (Operational requirement). This must be discussed on the next MOTNEG meeting and should be also transferred to the SADISOPSG to note this collection and distribution problem.

5.5. It was also noted that small differences are existing on SADIS and via terrestrial circuits (MOTNE distribution). UK (NATS and Bracknell) will coordinate in this matter.

5.6. To overcome the distribution differences and also in future the worldwide reception of WS and dissemination in EUR a possible issue of test messages was discussed. It was stated that this needs a global coordination and can not be reached in short term.

5.7. The group agreed that for the importance of this type of messages a control by exchanging regular test-messages can improve the reception for the users. It was proposed that this item should be taken for further work.

A summary of basic items are :

- Availability of message table with FIRs;
- Format, coordinated time and creation of such a test message;
- Information survey (State letter , Documentation ..);
- Coordination of WS/SS-MOTNEG addresses;
- Handling of non-identified SIGMETs;
- Creation of a "No SIGMET available" - message (possible monitoring).

6. Interim PDN routing of non EUR OPMET data

6.1. This item is one of the important for improvement of Non-EUR-data. A paper was presented by Belgium based on the work of MOTNEG/3 and with an included proposal for presentation in the AFSG end of April .

6.2. In the MOTNEG/3 two steps are envisaged in the OPMET data addressing :
- a unique EUR designator as mid to long term solution and a
- short term OPMET EUR-gateway addressing scheme replacing the collective addressing and the related distribution

6.3. By information of the work in Subgroups of the AFSG work a unique EUR indicator for use in different fields is not so far away. This WP of the BMG presented by Belgium should be discussed in the AFSG/98. This WP is attached as attachment C. The text of the proposed WP was agreed with a small addition :

2.8. Add last line :

.....Any further assessment of facilities based on the EU-indicator should be distributed to AFSG for technical feasibility and impact.

6.4. Such a new addressing philosophy should be introduced in a phased manner with concentrating to the interregional exchange and the use of databanks.

6.5. By AFS experts it was stated that there are in the AFS area more need for other user profiles with similar requirements. This application problems should be investigated by the AFSG.

6.6. The short term proposal should replace the complicated PDN managment which is outdated since no changes since the last years.

6.7. This concept which was presented on the MOTNEG/3 will use collective addresses for the OPMET Gateway Centres and the further distribution in the EUR-Region. This will be used only for incoming data from other Regions.

6.8. The EUR addresses will consist of the country code / ZZ for collective addresses / M for OPMET assignment / 3 letter abbreviation for the Region where the data are originated.

E.g. :

EG ZZ M NAT

6.9. After reception of the data at this address the bulletins will be routed to the MOTNE - centres and SADIS. The introduction of a back up routing for SADIS via EB needs further investigation.

6.10. In the discussion it was stated for clarification that that the term of a AFS Regional Gateway centre is not identical with the OPMET Gateway centres. This centres are working on the "application level" not on the "communication level". Mostly such OPMET Gateway centres have the possibility to transfer OPMET data from and to GTS.

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

	Originating Region:	xx - Center :	Remarks:
xxZZM...	ASI	EG, EB, LO	
	AFI	LF, LO	partly GTS
	NAT	EG	
	NAM	EG	CN via US
	CAR	EG	via US collectives
	SAM	EG, LF	contact ICAO - Brasilia via KWBC - EG
	PAC	EG	
	MID	LO	

e.g.:

Data from the :

MID - Region should be addressed to LOZZMMID

AFI-Region..... LFZZMAFI

6.12. For the implementation process it is not necessary to coordinate with AFSG because this will effect only the message flow and have no impact to the routing.

6.13. Coordination of the received data is necessary between EG and LO for ASIA and LF / LO for AFI - data to avoid double transmission.

6.14. For implementation of this new dissemination to replace the old PDN-scheme following steps must be coordinated :

- i.) Timing of the use of the new addressing scheme
- ii.) Change of the existing collective addresses for dissemination via the MOTNE centres
- iii.) Perform monitoring to control the implementation and eliminate duplication
- iv.) Establish centres for the provision of data for other Regions

6.15. For the next BMG meeting it was necessary to present a draft time schedule for this improvement to inform the MOTNEG from some success in this matter. Some new addressing can be arranged from involved centres. A letter from the BMG to ICAO for assistance should be written. This is expected after approval of this report.

7. Operational shortcomings

7.1. The problem of the length of bulletins is still existing. The Group discussed few possibilities to handle the oversized bulletins via AFTN. Generally a recompilation should be done were such a gatewayfunction is helpful to avoid problems. The switching of segmented bulletins with the same bulletinheading will cause partly problems. Generally a switching is possible.

7.2. Problems with data from SAM, Central-America and S-Africa are observed. In EUR the outages from Italian data make problems in the flightplanning services. Investigations should be made for the possible use of ISCS datafor the data of South- and Central America.

7.3. UK/Bracknell should be invited to investigate ISCS data regarding availibility and quality. The data of ISCS which are not available in EUR should be made available for the centres LF, ED and LO.

7.4. For operational use of the SADIS-2-Way station of Pretoria information is requested. Perhaps it is than possible to get the data regulary.

7.5. For the outages of the LI data the Italian member will be contacted for more

information and to establish a better information process.

8. Any other bussiness :

8.1. France indicated that the METEO FRANCE aeronautical data base IRA can now be requested by AFTN with the same procedure used to request Vienna and Bruxeless databse. The AFTN adress is LFPWZYX. There is no restriction to the access, but in the first time the adress of the requesting AFTN/MET centre must be sent to LF for permission. This will be changed in the next future.

8.2. In the exchange of information in the work of the Group problems by posting mails and attached files are observed. After discussion it was agreed that :

- 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

8.3. UK (M.W.) will send a test to verify perhaps additional decoder problems.

8.4. Denmark informed the Group that for part automated processing of the OPMET METNO changes in the internet mailing for BMG-activities were done. The new addresses are :

Internet-mail : bmgr@slv.dk
Fax : +45-32-47 88 17
AFTN-METNO messages : EKZZMGMG

8.5. The Group was also informed that the new list of MOTNE bulletins will be available on the austrocontrol-server.

8.6. The Group noted also that the work of the BMG is in line with the terms of reference of MOTNEG/3 (Conclusion 3/3).Unfortunately the inventory was not provided by some States. In the EUR. Especially the non-EUR data inventory is delayed. The determination of possible focal points outside the EUR Region needs asstiance by the EUR Regional Office. Also the coordination with SADISOPSG can be helpful for the MID/ASIA and AFI area. Information of the changes in the addressing scheme will be sent to ICAO EUR Office April/May 98 (1month delayed) for information to other Regions.

8.7. The group is expecting that the most work will be done by correspondence. Nevertheless one meeting before MOTNEG/4 is necessary to coordinate the presentation of the work and the results. The next meeting is planned for the 9 - 10 September 1998 on invitation of KNMI Netherlands.

BMG / 3 - Attachments :

- A - List of Participants / Contacts
- B - Bulletin Monitoring EB-LF-ED / 2 Dec 1997
- C - EUR OPMET Data Addressing - Draft WP for the AFSG/1
- D - EUR OPMET Catalogue Publication
- E - WC/WV - SIGMETs - Grouping of the AA Designators
- F - MOTNE - AFTN / CIDIN Addresses
- G - MOTNE / OPMET Bulletins (March 1998)

Working Group for the EUR OPMET Bulletin Management
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BMG/3

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