

REPORT
of the
Working Group
for the

EUR OPMET BULLETIN MANAGEMENT

Sixth Meeting
(BMG/6)

7 – 9 September 1999

CAA Denmark, Copenhagen

1. Introduction :

- 1.1. The meeting took place at CAA Denmark / Kastrup Airport from 7 - 9 September 1999. .
- 1.2. The main items were the preparation of documents for the next ICAO meetings – METG/9 and MOTNEG/5 and also the Y2k related tasks
- 1.3. A list of the participants is enclosed in appendix A. By internal reasons the invited members of Italy and Spain could not attend the meeting.
- 1.4. The agenda of the meeting was following :

- 1.) EUR transmission, addressing and coordination of
 - b.) Non EUR-OPMET data
 - c.) WC,WV,FV,FK - bulletins

- 2.) EUR OPMET Monitoring
results, improvement of routing
- 3.) EUR OPMET METNO procedure
(status report, experience)
- 4.) Documentation on OPMET tables / EUR and non-EUR
- 5.) OPMET exchange coordination with other Regions
- 6.) Operational shortcomings
- 7.) Y2k Contingency in the EUR OPMET Exchange framework
- 8.) Preparation of information for presentation at the next
METG and MOTNEG meetings
- 9.) Any other business

2. EUR transmission of Non EUR - OPMET data :

- 2.1. Since the last BMG in February no major changes were introduced in the EUR region. Only small adjustments for the reception of data at the databanks with the help of the monitoring results were done.
- 2.2. Information about the introduction of the EU area as results on the AFSG/2 meeting was presented. At the beginning of the discussion no decision of ICAO HQ Montreal was available. During the meeting information about the definition of the EU indicator as accepted in the ICAO Doc. 7910 (Location Indicator) for the use for OPMET dissemination was received so that further steps could be discussed.
- 2.3. The basic development plan as result of the BMG/6 was in principle agreed by the AFSG for further work in this matter.
- 2.4. The planned work by UK for the next steps could not be achieved because internal priorities (e.g. SADIS-gateway tender, new AFTN/CIDIN switch) did not allow additional load.
- 2.5. By official publication of the EU indicator the starting point of the original time line is reached, so that the necessary work can be started. The principal implementation plan is attached as Attachment B.
- 2.6. To arrange an efficient development plan and tests of this new non-EUR OPMET dissemination a BMG Subgroup with limited participants should coordinate this important task
- 2.7. It was proposed that for this Subgroup – the EU Implementation Group – experts from AFSG and MOTNEG can provide necessary expertise.

- 2.8. If possible experts from the OPMET gateway centres UK, France, Austria and AFS experts from Belgium, Austria and UK are invited for this work.
- 2.9. It is expected that the first meeting will be hold in the 1.Q./2000 before the next AFSG meeting to have detailed planning information available.
3. **EUR transmission of WC,WV,FV,FK - bulletins :**
 - 3.1. The discussion covered a wide range with different aspects of these kind of bulletins.
 - 3.2. The received WA and WT bulletins in the UK AFTN switch which are issued by KWBC are at time only limited distributed to national UK-users. The US-WT messages are not the same as the other WC-type messages. It was stated that a solution for this non-OPMET category should be developed in the responsible METG.
 - 3.3. IATA requested that the US WT-bulletins should be circulated in EUR and on SADIS for operational use of the Airlines. The group noted that this category of messages are not defined as OPMET data. METG which set up the distribution requirements should be informed and asked for decision.
 - 3.4. The received WV- and WC-bulletins on the gateway LOWM for further UR distribution are at time not increased. An updated conversion table of the WMO AA-indicators is attached as Attachmnet C.
 - 3.5. At time an important number of non-EUR data is received via GTS. It is necessary to prepare an inventory to identify the centres at which this data is received. In the time between all GTS-Centres should transmit all this data to all MOTNE-Centres and SADIS.
 - 3.6. UK is on work with the coordination of the GTS-bulletins. At time no detailed information of the status is available. France will present on the next BMG meeting GTS tables for coordination. In this way also multiple transmission of some bulletins is started. The results should be a table which defines the responsible GTS-AFTN gateway with the best choice for reception and further distribution.
 - 3.7. In this matter an updated list of the "Area of responsibility" of each MONE Centre for EUR and the gateway function should be prepared . The existing rules are not corresponding with all entries to the best solution of collection and reception of non-EUR data. For the work in the y2k tasks such tables are necessary.
 - 3.8. Working papers in this matter were presented and the reference tables are enclosed as Attachments D and E. Overlapping areas should be coordinated between the referring centres.

3.9. The above mentioned tables should be worked out in view of the new EOE concept as collection nodes. It should be no difference between GTS and AFTN nodes.

4. EUR OPMET Monitoring :

4.1. No essential changes in the monitoring exercises were introduced since the last BMG meeting.

4.2. Summaries of the results were presented for discussion. In the scheduled and non-scheduled monitorings Belgium, France, Germany, Greece and UK (also for the SADIS downlink) were participating.

4.3. In the tables of the results some catalogue files were changed to give a better presentation. Columns for SADIS requirements, restricted distribution were inserted. In the next reachable monitoring exercise also the SADIS requirements (based on the SADISOPSG meeting) should be integrated to show the differences between the existing requirements and the availability of OPMET data..

4.4. The discussion for improvement showed a need for a special monitoring für the source of OPMET data : SADIS, AFS, GTS or others.

4.5. UK stated that at the next monitoring coordination between the NATS switch (AFTN) and UKMO (GTS) will be performed.

4.6. Problems are detected for 65 bulletins. Differences are reported in Appendix 5 of the attachment.

4.7. The files of the monitoring model are presented in MS-Exel format (*.xls) online on the OPMET servers.

4.8. The results of the monitoring of the SIGMET-Test messages were presented. Three SIGMET test message transmissions were analysed A complete set of the results with the last exercise which will be on 20th September should be prepared for MOTNEG/5. The participation of States was not successful. The average is about 30 %, only the MOTNE centres and few other States were participating. A remainder letter for the test after MOTNEG/5 should be prepared by the EUR Regional Office to all States. The results are included to the report as Attachment G.

4.9. The MOTNEG/BULLMAN/02 document – EUR OPMET Data Monitoring Procedure was revised and agreed as Revision 0.4.

4.10. After the first periods of the monitoring since 1998 a streamlined time scale was discussed. In the “EUR OPMET Monitoring” document the new dates will be published.

- 4.11. In the near future the monitoring with related activities should be discussed. A model for the complete structure of data , catalogues and related actions should be developed.

5. EUR OPMET METNO Procedure - Status report, experience, review :

- 5.1. The introduction and the use of this procedure was successful. In the time since the start of the Update procedure 1118 entries were modified. A list of pending IATA request was presented.
- 5.2. The SADISOPSG requested a change of the existing procedure to introduce the possibility of request for SADIS via the SADISOPSG Secretary. Two proposals were presented . One based on the input of HQ Montreal and another with a detailed description of the interregional SADIS requirements and coordination. It was agreed that the HQ proposal will be presented at METG and MOTNEG for inclusion into the document. METG and MOTNEG should be provided with a proposal of the requested changes.
- 5.3. The contact and address list will be updated. It is expected that all MOTNE centres send eventually necessary changes to the focal point.
- 5.4. A list with the AIRAC dates up to 2004 will be included.
- 5.5. The EUR OPMET server addresses were updated. The information is now available at servers in Belgium, Switzerland and Austria. The complete addresses are listed in the document.
- 5.6. The field descriptions of the EUR OPMET catalogue in the Update document is changed in line with the adjustments of the data fields which were later discussed.

6. Documentation of OPMET tables / EUR and non-EUR :

- 6.1. For discussion and information the complete EUR OPMET data set (last version 12 August 1999) was presented. This version was made also available on the online server. The data set in hardcopy will be not included, because the latest version is each AIRAC date available.
- 6.2. To incorporate the SADISOPSG requirements and to achieve the possibility of automatic production of tables for the SADIS handbook new columns reflecting the Appendixes 1 and 3. These information presents the SADIS requirements stated by the SADISOPSG and the existing transmission of OPMET data via SADIS. An automatic production of this Annexes will be coordinated between the members of Belgium and

UK. This automatic production based on the monitoring processes will allow a more accurate and efficient generation.

- 6.3. Discussion at the previous agenda item made it necessary to introduce new columns for bulletins which have limited dissemination and/or restrictions for distribution (e.g. military, national).
- 6.4. A proposal for the explanation of distribution modes for routine and non-routine bulletins was presented. This table was discussed and with some modifications agreed. The entries will be used in the EUR OPMET tables for additional information. The table is enclosed as Attachment H.
- 6.5. Enhanced statistics of the EUR OPMET tables were presented. These tables show different views of the exchanged data. It was agreed that these tables will be produced each AIRAC date only electronically. A hardcopy version will be distributed once time per year for information of the SADISOPSG, METG and MOTNEG. The information is attached as Attachment I.
- 6.6. To provide an extract of the EUR OPMET data catalogue as Supplement for the EUR ANP ICAO Doc. 7855 no format or detailed specification from the ICAO Office is available. Also the production of MET tables 2A and 2B can be performed automatically with filters.

7. OPMET exchange coordination with other Regions :

- 7.1. The problem of the information flow with other Regions was discussed on the SADISOPSG meeting in May. Similar Groups or activities as in the EUR Region are not existing in other Regions. All activities will be only coordinated via the responsible Regional Office.
- 7.2. It was stated that the information about the activities – EUR OPMET Update procedure and catalogue tables should be provided for information to the other Regional Offices.
- 7.3. For the handling of interregional requirements a focal point should be defined in the other Regions for coordination of the exchange of OPMET data. For the necessary work to satisfy the SADIS requirement an official way via the SADISOPSG and MOTNEG should be established. The way should not delay the introduction of new requirements or changes. Fundamental steps should be triggered via an ICAO letter to other Regions.

8. Operational shortcomings :

- 8.1. The problem of rare Russian data is still existing. Especially data of new locations cannot be arranged.

- 8.2. Also some data of new aerodromes are requested from which no entries in Doc. 7910 is available. If information about such location comes up in one or the other centre, the focal point should be informed to distribute this in one of the news-mail.
- 8.3. IATA pointed out that from S-AFI a better service is expected. No details were provided.
- 8.4. Problems with some IY-SIGMETs were detected. Two different SIGMETs with the same YYGGgg (DTG) are sometimes issued. One belongs to standard criteria, the other warns about SST conditions. Such handling initiates problems for dissemination and storage.
- 8.5. Some OPMET data which are transmitted from EUR to MID will be retransmitted from OEJD to EUR and starts double transmission.
- 8.6. UK is investigating ISCS data introduction to SADIS especially SAM – data and Mexico data.

9. Y2k Contingency in the EUR OPMET Exchange framework :

- 9.1. Contingency information from ICAO , WMO/GTS and the EUR AFS Y2k Contingency Plan was presented to the group. The OPMET part is integrated into the AFS Plan and depends mostly on the availability of the AFS in EUR.
- 9.2. Contingency depends especially in OPMET exchange on the exchange of information of the existing situation. Problems can be expected if interregional gateways will fail and no WMO/GTS connectivity is available.
- 9.3. The contingency is working on three levels :
 - inter regional
 - intra regional
 - national
- 9.4. To allow an efficient information view of the complete EUR area it was discussed that a similar reporting system as planned in the GTS can provide acceptable results. The Y2k-monitoring should provide information on dedicated times via AFS to EB and parallel via GTS to EG as EUR OPMET coordination centres. The information message should also be circulated to all other MOTNE-Centres.
- 9.5. The necessary information consists of data about the OPMET centre itself, the used links and the responsible data – EUR and non-EUR. Only problems should be reported. The data should be controlled one time per hour (SA-data). Non-EUR data are mostly FT-data and can only monitored if received.
- 9.6. Each MOTNE/OPMET centre should report in its area of responsibility. For this purpose

the existing tables will be updated and coordinated especially regarding the interregional gateway areas.

- 9.7. The reporting scheme should be integrated into the national structure (National Y2k COC) this point will report to the EC Y2k .
- 9.8. The message will be distributed as WMO addressed message - BBAA31 EGRR YYGGgg and as MOTNEG SVC NOXX31 CCCC YYGggg.
- 9.9. The text of theses messages is split into four parts :
- a.) OPMET centre
 - b.) OPMET links
 - c.) OPMET data
 - d.) Remarks
- 9.9. An updated list of all contact points in the area of responsibility and also the inventory of the ADM and COM part of the OPMET inventory should be updated. The information should be provided to EG and EB.
- 9.10. A paper for inclusion into the AFS Y2k Contingency Plan and for presentation at MOTNEG/5 will be prepared by UK.
- 9.11. UK informed the group that all SADIS infrastructure is Y2k complaint. It was noted that the reception facilities are under control of the user.

10. Preparation of information for presentation at the next METG and MOTNEG meetings :

- 10.1. The group discussed in the last two meetings some important items referring to the EUR OPMET exchange and the coordination with other groups.
- 10.2. Actions for METG/9 :
- i) WP for definition of WT-bulletins as OPMET data (Netherlands)
 - ii) Integration of SADIS Annexes 1 and 3 into the BMG tables (Belgium)
 - iii) Follow up actions for the EUR OPMET Update procedure in relation of the SADISOPSG (Austria)
 - iv) Report of the status and actions of the BMG Update Procedure (Belgium)
 - v) Presentation of the BMG tables (Belgium)
 - vi) Short Summary of the BMG activities since last METG (Austria)
- 10.3. Actions for MOTNEG/5 :
- i) Summary of the work of the BMG since MOTNEG/4 (Austria)

- ii) Presentation of the revised MOTNEG/OPMET documents (Belgium):
 - a) EUR OPMET Data Update Procedure – MOTNEG/BULLMAN/01
 - b) EUR OPMET Data Monitoring Procedure – MOTNEG/BULMAN/02
- iii) Presentation of the WUR OPMET tables (Belgium)
- iv) Presentation of the EUR OPMET Monitoring results (Belgium)
- v) Analyses of the SIGMET test message transmission (Austria)
- vi) Implementation of the EU indicator (UK)
- vii) Y2k OPMET monitoring (UK)
- viii) Y2k AFS/OPMET contingency (UK)

11. Any other business :

- 11.1. Information about the SADIS financial contribution by user States referring the SCRAG voluntary scheme was presented by Netherlands. Netherlands also informed the group that during financial reasons the OPMET service is only depending on SADIS and no AFTN connection will be operated.
- 11.2. In coordination between Belgium and Austria a structure for online work of the documents and tables are arranged. The structure is enclosed as attachment I.
- 11.3. The next meeting is planned after the EANPG meeting in beginning 2000. A proposal is made for February 2000. At this time the first meeting of the EU – Subgroup can hold its first meeting at one additional day.

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