Report of BMG Meeting/15
De Bilt, 3-5 September 2002

List of participants

Mr. Michael Pichler	Austria
Mr. Herman Swinnen	Belgium
Mr. Wim Demol	Belgium
Mr. Ole S. Andersen	Denmark
Mr. Poul Larsen	Denmark
Mr. Patrick Simon	France
Mr. Bernd Richter	Germany
Mr. Giuseppe Leonforte	Italy
Mr. Wil van Dijk	Netherlands
Mr. Willem Koetse	Netherlands
Mrs. Annemiek den Uijl	Netherlands
Mr. John Syer	Norway
Mrs. Conception Callejas	Spain
Mr. Kevin Loy	UK (Rapporteur)
Mr. Mike Williamson	UK
Mr. Laurentiu Brojboiu	Romania (Sec)
Mr. Hans-Rudi Sonnabend	IATA
Mr. Mamadou Traore	ICAO

1. Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda.
2. EUR OPMET Update procedure & data monitoring and reporting.
   - i) Provide updated EUR OPMET data/reports
   - ii) Publication of OPMET data
   - iii) Conduct standard monitoring, SADIS monitoring, including SIGMET tests
3. Performance Indices
4. Addressing of EUR and non-EUR OPMET data
5. OPMET Database request/reply standards
6. Documentation of OPMET procedures
7. Operational Problems
8. Met data coding format
9. AOB
10. Action list review (Work Packages & papers for METG)
11. Date and location of next meeting.

2. EUR OPMET Update procedure & data monitoring and reporting

WP16 The EUR OPMET UPDATE PROCEDURE

In appendix 1: it was noted that the user should not go directly to the responsible MOTNE centre, but to the national responsible authority, instead (as in Appendix 8). The paragraph I.5 shall be modified so it becomes: "Modification requests received from users, via the National aviation MET Authority or The Meteorological Service (as published in the AIP), by their Responsible MOTNE Centre, …". Also the flow diagrams in Appendix 1 and 8 shall be amended accordingly.

WP 15 The EUR OPMET UPDATE PROCEDURE – Activity Report

It was proposed that a new form of presenting progress should be adopted for reporting to METG, more concise and no longer than two pages, keeping as main purpose to familiarise with the

procedure and encourage states to comply with it. The extra details presented in the working paper shall not be discarded, but rather used in the BMG routine working.

Action: **Work Package 8**– Herman

An action plan shall be produced for the responsible states that introduced bulletins outside the update procedure, in order to analyse and make it compliant with the procedure.

WP 7 - EUR OPMET Data Monitoring Procedure

Changes to the reporting procedure within SIGMET test monitoring have been highlighted, regarding the possibilities to report the source a SIGMET message was received from.

WP 6 - SIGMET Monitoring

In the description of the monitoring procedure, shall be mentioned that 08-12 UTC is the time interval for which the received SIGMETs are to be reported.

It was mentioned that there are situations when states asked to receive only a specific set of bulletins, so there are SIGMETs that are not received by these states during the SIGMET monitoring. In order to address this situation, the label "Not required" shall be used by the corresponding states, whenever appropriate.

Action: Coordination is necessary between Herman and Michael to ensure consistency of both documents above.

WP 4 – Work Package 6 – SIGMET Monitoring Analysing

Action: - gradually erase actions from the tables, as they are solved

- establish time-limits for the corrective actions

WP 3 – EUR OPMET Databases Availability Monitoring

Two different tables resulted from the main "Availability Monitoring Table":

- one comprising all the location indicators where no data at all have been received from - this table could be used when the procedure of requesting MET data will be started
- one comprising all the location indicators for which the reports are not received in all three databases – this table was sent to the responsible MOTNE centres to investigate whether the bulletins containing these reports are correctly routed to all three databases.

Action: Giuseppe will check the possibility to provide all the data requested in SUG-Annex 1 from Italy, preferably recompiled in bulletins with the "ii" figures corresponding to regional distribution. If affirmative, the implementation will be made following the OPMET Update Procedure, by issuing the corresponding METNO for the next AIRAC date.

Denmark informed that the OPMET data from the Baltic states, except from Estonia, are not distributed via the responsible MOTNE centre (Copenhagen), but using different routing.

Action: At next METG meeting the issue will be presented, encouraging the Baltic states to follow the normal distribution procedure.

WP 5 – The problem handling procedure

IATA stressed that the final status of handling a problem shall get to the initiator (the problem reporter) so that he receives feed-back about the solving/not solving the problem.

In the description of the procedure, it was considered necessary to have some examples to help clarify about the structural/incidental categorisation.

It was considered that on the reporting sheets no signature is necessary, as long as the documents will be handled and archived mostly in electronic format.

It was agreed that the procedure will not be presented to METG, as it is rather an internal procedure in the activity of the group, in order to perform the tasks that were assigned.

Action: A number of trials was considered necessary to test how the procedure works. For a representative result, people outside the working group that contributed to the procedure are to be involved in trials. Austria offered to act as the archiving manager. The Problem Handling Manager will be Kevin Loy. It was agreed on a number of three trials, in which the problem handlers will be: Pol (for instance for the problem with the improper routing of the data from the Baltic states), Bernd and a representative from a country in the Southern Europe (to be decided at a later time). The trials shall start at next monitoring period and the results will be presented to the next BMG meeting.

IP8 – OPMET Monitoring Tool Standardisation

Action: The states that use different monitoring tools shall send their specification to the UK (e-mail address: **james.randall@nats.co.uk**). The table presented at BMG 14 shall be completed mentioning Y/N for each of the capabilities presented.

3. Performance Indices

IP5 Performance indices

The SADIS OPMET Availability Index definition is to be changed to be in line with the ODAG OPMET DB Availability Index. If required data from a Station (ref. SUG Annex 1) during the monitoring period is received only as being NIL, that Station shall be evaluated as 'Not Available'.
Action:The new definition shall be applied on the generation of the SADIS OPMET Performance Indices.

This paper will be presented by Kevin Loy as a WP to METG12.

WP 19 – SADIS Performance Indices
The standard deviation method was appreciated as a very good technique to determine the thresholds and the regularity index.
Action: UK will produce a sample of a global set of thresholds and Regularity Index PI using the "standard deviation" method derrived from archived SADIS data provided by Nederlands.It will be compared against a previous sample the categorisation method using the same timeframe and the results presented at BMG/16.

4. Addressing of EUR and non-EUR OPMET data

WP11 Inter-Regional AFTN Addressing

A set of problems related to the inter-regional distribution of data were evidentiated. In order to address them, a rationalised addressing scheme was proposed based on the principle that any provider of data outside the EUR region shall transmit his data to only a single AFTN address in Europe, from which it will be distributed via the MOTNE centres to the users that requested it.

When the group analysed the plans individually, some problems were noted: for instance, the data from Pakistan come twice, once from Karachi via Singapore, and once via Beirut. Mamadou informed that despite the fact that Pakistan is in the MID region, because the communication link to Beirut is currently very slow the link to Singapore is used primarily. He informed also that the link to Lebanon will be upgraded by the end of this year, and he will notify the group when this upgrade will be in effect.

Patrick informed that suppressing the transmission of the bulletin FTPF21 to France could cause problems, as this is considered a national bulletin.

Action: Each plan shall be reviewed individually off-line, at the start of 2003, as the Inter-Office Memorandum will probably cause some modifications. The results will be discussed at BMG 16.

IP3 – Russian Data

IP6 – Inter-office Memorandum

Action: Vienna and Toulouse need to set-up the necessary addresses (LOZZMMID and LFZZMAFI, respectively)

A question was raised regarding WC, WV etc. as to whether this should follow similar collection/distribution to FV messages.

Action: UK to check records and advise.

Mamadou will check whether the table MET 1B contains ordinary SIGMETs (WS) as well as volcanic ash and tropical cyclone SIGMETs (WV and WC).

5. OPMET Database request/reply standards

WP13 – Standardisation of EUR OPMET Databases

Action: The two documents will be presented to METG:

- EUR OPMET DB Specifications
- EUR Regional ICD

Discussion with Bjorn off-line before the meeting on how to keep updated the documents (as an official task of the group) and how to inform the users where to access them (e.g. cited in state AIP) as well as how to inform about changes/updates. etc..... Also the issue of translating the documents into other languages.

WP17 - Report from ODAG

Add comment before Action. It will not be possible to fulfil the proposal to add currently unrequired reports, which are contained in bulletins carrying reports which are required, to the SUG1 or FASID.

<this makes the comment in the Action: The proposal... make sense>

Action: Work to be done to make the DBs compliant to standards and consistent with each other.

The proposal regarding the inclusion of new reports shall be further discussed within ODAG and brought back to BMG 16.

IP7 – DB Requests by EUROCONTROL

Action: Brussels will ensure the regular compilation and distribution of OPMET data routinely needed by EUROCONTROL (will reduce to less than 25% the requests from DB).

6. Documentation of OPMET procedures

WP8 – Structure of the BMG-FTP Server

It was agreed that Austria would provide the main server and that both Toulouse and Brussels agreed to commit to develop and provide the same structure as defined in the working paper which will be expanded and represented to BMG16.

There have been made a set of proposals:

- For the public area, shall be presented a liability and disclaimer note
- "Database specifications" be moved into the Restricted Information
- The same for the "Monitoring procedure"
- Distribution Determination for OPMET Data: to remain, but the AFTN addresses to be removed
- Within documents shall be included links to other related documents on the FTP server

- A "Miscellaneous" folder be present. It will need a method of validation of what to put here.

  The list of the centres that currently have installed video-conference systems can be inserted here.

- Security of the data on server shall be ensured (read-only access to every user except administrators, checksums presented, etc)
- After testing, it will be included a link to the FTP servers in the ICAO homepage.

Action: Development of the structure presented in the WP, including above proposals.

Michael will make enquiries to ensure appropriate security measures.

7. Operational Problems

WP9 – Priority indicator

In the short term until states are compliant, EKCH will manage restoration following outages.

Actions: Austria will start making the modifications of priorities and will notify when the correct status is achieved.

France and Spain informed that also can not use different priorities for normal TAFs and AMD TAFs. Both states will file a difference to Annex 10 Vol II with ICAO.

WP 18 - Duplicate WMO Headers to SIGMETs

Actions: France informed that will start making the necessary modifications after the summer season.
In the SIGMET Test description letter shall be detailed explicit the procedure to be followed by MWO's that issue SIGMETs for more than one FIR.

At METG12, an IP shall be presented highlighting that the group noted (with the occasion of SIGMET test) that using the same AHL for different SIGMET messages is contrary to WMO 386 and also represents a potential risk of losing data due to duplication checking at MOTNE Centres/ DBs. States shall be encouraged that in cases where two or more SIGMETs are to be issued at the same time (either for different FIRs, or for different phenomena) to comply to WMO 386 and use different AHL, either by using different "ii" indicators for each FIR they will use SIGMETs, or using different day-time groups YYGGgg, for each SIGMET message issued.

IP2 – Incorrect OPMET Formats

Action: Austria will continue monitoring for incorrect data and will present the results to next BMG meeting.

8. MET Coding

WP2 and WP14 – Proposed Changes to Bulletin Formats ant to WMO Manual on Codes

Both WPs have been discussed together and the following were agreed by the meeting:

- COR messages

  Discussions took place about the format of a compiled bulletin that contains a COR report received before the compiling time. It was agreed by the group that the content of the report shall not be modified, and the COR element should not be stripped. Two alternatives were presented for the format of a compiled bulletin that contains one COR report:

  - no BBB in the abbreviated header line

  - CCx group in the abbreviated header line

  Both alternatives (with arguments) shall be submitted for discussion at METG.

- TAF AMD and COR

It was discussed if AMD and COR are both appropriate for TAF messages. The issue will be forwarded to METG for advise.

- NIL Reports

  The date/time group should not be included in NIL reports.

- NIL Bulletins

  It was agreed that the preferred format is with all reports NIL rather than including a single NIL keyword in a bulletin.

Actions: Discussions will take place off-line to find the proper way to have this modifications forwarded for adoption by ICAO and WMO.

WP12 – Modification of the Regulations with respect to the TAF Code

The group stated that at this time can not be evaluated the impact that the use of a RMK section within TAF reports will have to communications systems. As this is not compliant to current regulations, there were opinions that this could affect also some communication systems and/or end-user systems.

Actions: The group will wait until requested by METG to investigate impact on systems.

IP1- Future plans for the implementation of CREX

The issue was raised to make BMG members aware of the envisaged changes and encourage them to make inquiries to find out as much as possible about this issue, in order to evaluate the impact it will have on existing systems.

9. AOB

WP10 – AIRMET/GAMET on SADIS

The proposed timescale for the following actions was considered achievable:

Actions: The UK will update the sample table of the UK production (including the CCCC to better define the AHL), and forward it to MOTNE Centres to enable them to gather the information about production of GAMET/AIRMET in its own state and area of responsibility (header used, time of issue, number of messages/day, the date when these messages are ready to be transmitted for broadcast). This information will be transmitted to Kevin Loy.

UK will inform states before starting the broadcast.

It will be brought up at METG if these data are to be distributed to centres via AFTN.

IP4 – Video Conference System

The members of BMG were informed about the trial that was conducted by Austria and Denmark.

It was noted that video-conference systems are available now to Austria, Denmark, France and UK, and it is the current intention of Norway to install this facility.

Action: Members who already have or will have implemented this facility shall provide to Austria the details of system, dial numbers etc. for insertion onto Restricted Miscellaneous FTP area.

Israeli data – transmission shall be made through MOTNE Centre Vienna.

Action: discussion will take place with Ben Gurion Met Office in order to suppress transmission to Rome.

10. Date and location of next meeting.

13-15 January – London.

List of actions

Agenda Item	Action item	Responsible	Target date
2	Present to METG12 the EUR OPMET Data Update Procedure and Activity Report	K Loy	METG12
2	Produce the EUR OPMET Data Update Procedure and Activity Report for the METG	H Swinnen	Before METG12
2	Synchronisation of "Data Update Procedure" and "Sigmet Monitoring" documents	M Pichler H Swinnen	Before METG12
2	Provide data requested in SUG Annex 1 from Italy in bulletins corresponding to regional distribution	G Leonforte	BMG16
2	Request to follow the normal distribution procedures from Baltic States	K Loy	METG12
2	Perform trials on Problem Handling Procedure	P Larsen B Richter G Leonforte	BMG16
2	Provide description of monitoring tools used	MOTNE centers that perform monitoring	BMG16
3	Produce a global set of PI using standard deviation and categorisation methods	M Williamson H Swinnen	BMG16
4	Review of individual plans for inter-regional addressing	K Loy M Williamson P Simon M Pichler	BMG16
4	Set-up the necessary AFTN addresses for inter-regional distribution	P Simon M Pichler	March
5	Present to METG12 the documents EUR OPMET DB Spec. and EUR Regional ICD	K Loy	METG12
5	Ensure OPMET Databases are consistent and compliant to standards	OPMET DBs	On-going
5	Regular distribution of OPMET data to EUROCONTROL	H Swinnen W Demol	BMG16
6	Development of BMG FTP Servers	M Pichler P Simon H Swinnen	BMG16
7	Austria to correct the priority usage	M Pichler	
7	Modify AHL for different FIRs	P Simon	BMG16
7	IP presented to METG12 related to the risk of using same AHL for different FIRs	K Loy	METG12
7	Monitoring of incorrect messages	M Pichler	BMG16
8	Finalisation of proposed changes to bulletin formats and Manual on Codes	M Williamson W Van Dijk	Before METG12
8	Presentation to METG12 of proposed changes to bulletin formats and Manual on Codes	K Loy	METG12
9	Obtain information on production of GAMET/AIRMET	MOTNE Centres	03/10/2002

Work Packages	Brief description	Responsible	Target date
WPg1	Ops Handbook	Focal Point	Complete
WPg2	AOP Aerodrome and Country nomenclature SADIS OPMET Performance Indices	R Orrell M Williamson J Randall H Swinnen	Complete BMG16
WPg3	Problem report procedure	W Van Dijk and group	BMG14
WPg4	Rationalisation of Inter-Regional Addressing	J Randall, S Dingle	BMG14
WPg5	Monitoring OPMET distribution problems in EUR Region To produce work package for each MOTNEG centre highlighting problems post monitoring.	BMG FP	Post monitoring period 12-23/09
WPg6	To produce work package for each MOTNEG centre highlighting problems post monitoring	SIGMET FP	Post monitoring period 4/2
WPg7	To produce work package for each MOTNEG centre highlighting problems post monitoring	Individual ODAGs	Post monitoring period 4/2
WPg8	Baseline the BMG OPMET DB working tables	H Swinnen	BMG16
WPg9	Standardisation of the BMG monitoring tools: requirements & specifications.	J Randall H Swinnen	BMG16