Report of BMG Meeting/18
Langen, 21-23 October 2003

List of participants

Mr. Michael Pichler	Austria
Mr. Herman Swinnen	Belgium
Mr. Wim Demol	Belgium
Mr. Poul Larsen	Denmark
Mr. Patrick Simon	France
Mr. Bernd Richter	Germany
Cpt. Giuseppe Leonfort	Italy
Mr. Willem Koetse	Netherlands
Mr. John Syer	Norway
Mr. Kevin Loy	UK (Rapporteur)
Mr. Laurentiu Brojboiu	Romania (Sec)
Mr. Hans-Rudi Sonnabend	IATA

0.   Agenda

1.   Approval of the Agenda
2.   Dates/location of future meetings
3.   Summary of ICAO Meetings – Met related items
4.   EUR OPMET Update procedure and data monitoring and reporting.
5.   Addressing of EUR and non-EUR OPMET data
6.   Performance Indices
       Implement performance indices for OPMET data on SADIS, AFTN and in databanks and report results to METG, AFSG and SADISOPSG.
7.   Documentation of OPMET procedures
8.   Accommodation of long OPMET messages on AFTN
9.   EUR SIGMET quality
10.   Periodic tests of the issuance and reception of SIGMET messages for Volcanic Ash
11.   CIDIN/OPMET Application and AMHS
12.   Problem Handling Procedure
13.   AOB

3.   Summary of ICAO Meetings – Met related items

IP3: Summary of discussions of METG/13

- Regarding the EANPG Conclusion 45 – Dissemination of ASHTAMs & NOTAMs for volcanic ash on SADIS: the group was informed that the agreed TT indicator for these "bulletins" was **NW**

- Para. 5.4- inventory of the SIGMET messages: it was agreed by BMG that the inventory/count will be based on a 14-day monitoring that will take place in December this year. It was noted that the monitoring of the compliance with the SIGMET Guide can be done only with respect to the format of the messages (not the content).

Actions:

- Herman will centralise the data and produce the inventory that will be presented to BMG19

- Kevin will contact Bjorn Helroth in order to clarify what the requirements are for the report on the compliance

- Para. 5.8- SIGMET for volcanic ash test: It was agreed that the two VAACs London and Toulouse have to come up with a set of scenarios for the test and accordingly BMG will monitor the distribution of the SIGMET test messages.

WP15: **Follow-up of SADISOPSG/8**

It was noted that the updates to the SUG Annex 1 come in WordPerfect format, with tracking changes, which is difficult to handle in order to update the databases. There has been also a complaint as, with the latest update, there has been some aerodromes added which for sure do no observations or forecasts. On the other hand some aerodroms disappeared which do issue reports and forecasts. The group suggested that ICAO Montreal be notified and the "old" SUG ANNEX 1 should be used until this is solved.

Action: Kevin Loy shall contact Olli Turpeinen (ICAO Montreal) in order to suggest a more convenient format and to request a review of SUG Annex 1.

Amendments to the SUG Annex 2: BMG was invited to update only the ICAO indicators, not the names of the aerodromes in future editions of Annex 2.

Action: A disclaimer note to be included in SUG Annex 2 to recommend the consultation of ICAO Doc. 7910 for the names of the aerodromes.

Agenda Item 8 : **Accomodation of long messages on AFTN**

It was noted that an analysis was carried out in the UK regarding the long messages received from GTS or SADIS 2-way.

Actions: - the results of the above analysis will be presented to the next BMG meeting

- Herman will present to the next BMG a WP describing the problems that occurred regarding the segmentation of long messages

- Patrick will present to the next BMG an IP related to the "inteligent" segmentation (using RRx)

As it was agreed that was desirable to have implemented the same procedure for all the gateways (either IR or GTS/AFS and for the SADIS Gateway), efforts will be made in this respect.

Agenda Item 11 - CIDIN/OPMET Applications and AMHS

It was discussed that with CIDN/OPMET may be transmitted also binary data, while with CIDIN/AFTN there is only alphanumerical data permitted. As there is presently no possibility to send binary data with AMHS (will be possible with an enhanced version) there would be needed an extra Gateway for the CIDIN/OPMET traffic. As CIDIN/OPMET is more or less not used, centres having the possibility using CIDIN/OPMET are asked to investigate whether it is really needed or if it is enough to have "only" CIDIN/AFTN.

with the states (Austria, Belgium, Denmark and Germany) about their intentions regarding the continuing or ceasing the usage of this application and the benefits of a single gateway between AFTN and AMHS.

Action: The four states that use the CIDIN/OPMET application to obtain official views of the future of CIDIN/OPMET in relation to AMHS. The responses shall be presented to BMG19 and directed to the AFSG meeting in April.

Agenda Item 12 – WP12: PHP Test Report

There were discussed the results of the four exercises held on the first week of September. It were raised the following:

- the workload of the PHM

- the problems that remain unsolved shall be presented to BMG

- a problem reported can lead to other nested problems, so the procedure shall allow for treating them as well

- there is a gap in the procedure as the PHM can not estimate everytime if a problem is either structural or incidental, until he asks the responsible person (for instance, the person involved with the monitoring of the corresponding bulletins)

- the amount of messages exchanged shall be reduced (eliminate bureaucracy) and the use of forms shall ease the work

- the document should be made more readable

Action: the subgroup shall coordinate by correspondence and review the procedure. As a results of the refinement, the new procedure shall go to test again.

Agenda Item 4- WP2: Availability monitoring

There were presented the results of the last five monitoring exercises. The BMG members analysed a table comprising those aerodromes for which no reports have been received at all and a number of them where identified as closed or non-reporting. It was then concluded not to start the data request procedure before finding out the status for each individual case (obtain indication if the respective aerodromes do produce data).

There were also noted discrepancies as a result of using different versions of the SUG Annex 1. Therefore, was concluded that the future analysis shall be made against the latest SUG Annex 1 and the version used shall be refferred in the resulting report. Also, a new column shall be added to the table indicating whether the aerodromes are included in the AOP or not.

Actions: - To submit to ICAO Montreal a definitive paper regarding these missing data, in order to officially question the states about the status of the respective aerodromes.

- To investigate why particular data are available in one databank and not in the others and plan for corrective actions in order to synchronise all European databanks.

WP 05 : SIGMET Monitoring

It was noted the considerable increase in the participation to the last SIGMET monitoring exercise, especially due to the huge amount of test messages received from the Russian area, as a result of the good collaboration with Mrs. Valentina Laletina and Mr. Leonid Bezrouk.

WP 10: SIGMET Monitoring and the SADIS Gateway

During the last monitoring exercise, a significant number of test messages were received by the SADIS Gateway after their end of validity time. As these messages were subject to validation, they have been queued and finally manually deleted by the operator (as the last solution to deal with such an amount of data). In order to avoid such cases in the future, it was proposed to extend the validity period of the SIGMET test messages.

Other proposals have been taken into account as well, and it was agreed to adjust the procedure as follows:

- the validity period of the test message shall be modified to YY1100/YY1105 and the message will be transmitted still at 1000 UTC,

- the name of the FIR be included in the text of the message (example Viena FIR Test SIGMET please disregard)

- a current SIGMET previously issued which is still valid at 1000 shall not be repeated after the issuing of the test SIGMET (as the test message will not over-ride the current one).

- The participants to the test that receive data both from SADIS and AFTN will be asked to report only the data received from the terrestrial links.

Actions: - Michael will circulate a letter to the states presenting the changes to the procedure that will be used starting next year

- Patrick will arrange for a test of the new format with the occasion of the next monitoring in December (only for WSFR32 LFPW, LFBD Bordeaux FIR).

- Giuseppe will make inquiries to the responsible authorities to implement the new bulletin addressing of the SIGMET Messages (WSIY31 LIIB for LIMM, 32 for LIRR, 33 for LIBB).

WP 03: Proposals for the SIGMET Monitoring

It was noted that for the last monitoring exercise, the Excel table did not include all the SIGMET issued, and as a result many centres did not monitor them. Also, where noted some errors for some bulletins assigned to different countries in the Excel table. For the future monitoring exercises, the Excel table is already updated and will be distributed to the participants.

As a consequence of the monitoring exercise, all routing deficiencies will be picked-up in Action Plans for each corresponding MOTNE Centers.

It was pointed that the sending-out of the results of the test was not possible to be done earlier due to the late receiving of the monitoring results from some of the states.

With regard to the change of the bulletin formats for the Uzbekistan airports, it was noted that this change will follow the update procedure for the next AIRAC date (30 oct 2003) and will be announced by a corresponding METNO messages to all centres.

IP 01: Norwegian SIGMETs

The group was informed about the changes induced by the merging of the four Norwegian FIRs into Norway FIR and the corresponding changes to the AHL of the SIGMET messages starting from 27th November.

WP 4: SIGMET – Format errors

After the presentation of cases where SIGMET messages do not adhere to the standard format, there were concluded the following:

Actions: - 2..1.6- Giuseppe Leonfort will make arrangements to avoid duplication of WVIY31 by ceasing the dissemination of WVIY31 LIMM

- 2.2, 2.3: Michael Pichler will contact the corresponding regional ICAO Offices (Dimitar Ivanov and Mamadou Traore)

- 2.5 Kevin Loy will contact Canada to explain how the format they use is not conformant to Annex 3

- 2.6 Kevin Loy will inform Bjorn Hellroth to address the request for compliance to the U.S.

IP 03 – Draft EUR SIGMET Guide

Para. 3.1.4 – It was proposed to modify the text and append: if a new SIGMET is necessary, then the existing SIGMET must be canceled first using the procedure described in 3.4.5

Para. 3.4.1.4 - It was agreed that the CCx indicator is to be used with SIGMETs that have been issued with typographical errors and/or any other non-meteorological errors. The COR SIGMET will have the same AHL as the original one plus the CCx indicator, and will have the same sequence number as the original SIGMET.

Actions: - The proposals for amendment will be forwarded to ICAO (Bjorn Helroth) and also propose to ICAO to resolve the issue of the global alignment of the Regional SIGMET Guides.

- France will contact ICAO to seek clarification for the case of issuing SIGMETs for UIR only

WP 06 – WV and WC messages renaming

The group agreed that the renaming of bulletins shall be stoped and the messages be directly routed instead, just the same as with the other routine and non-routine data.

Action: - A Work Package is required (Kevin Loy and Michael Pichler) to identify the original headers and the necessary actions for the correct routing of these data: for the non-European regions, will provide where to send data to Europe and then within Europe how the data will be distributed to all

centres and SADIS; the output from Europe is sent according to the FASID tables for the other regions and directly to Washington for the ISCS broadcast.

WP 14 – MET Data Problems

There were presented a number of problems with incorrect messages observed by the UK. At present, investigations are made on how to automatically address some of the problems. This will lead to ammendments to the SADIS Gateway Handbook.

Action: - Netherlands will make the necessary arrangements and will participate to the monitoring exercises (for the SADIS reception monitoring).

Agenda Item 6 – Performance Indices

WP 09 – Performance indices

Differences were noted between the availability on SADIS and AFTN (in some situations, the EBBR AFTN index is greater than SADIS).

Action: A list will be worked-out comprising what is available in the databanks and not on SADIS (and vice-versa)

The monitoring exercises period shall be extended from 10 to 14 days, in order to align the results.

WP 11 – Performance indices development strategy

The group agreed on the following:

- The method of indices calculation shall be freezed.
- There shall be produced two sets of PIs : one only for the airports listed in the AOP tables and one for all airports in SUG Annex 1.
- UK will send the regularity indices calculations to Herman Swinnen

Agenda Item 5 – Documentation of OPMET Procedures

WP 07 – BMG Analyser specification

After endorsement by the meeting, the final version of the monitoring tool will be made available on the FTP sites.

EUR OPMET Handbook

It was proposed that the Handbook be structured into two sections: public and BMG (related to the specific activities: focal point definitions, procedures, etc).

Action: Michael Pichler takes the lead to structure the Handbook accordingly.

The FTP Servers

The structure of the three servers is already set-up. Their synchronisation is envisaged at latest BMG 19.

The report from METG/13 will be made available on the servers as well.

Any other bussiness

- Belgium will start producing AIRMET messages from 27 November (will follow the METNO procedure).
- Romania will adhere to the format of the reports with prefixes included from 1st December.
- For the future meetings, after the approval of the agenda there shall be reviewed the conclusions and actions from the last meeting.

- It was proposed that for the next meeting, the BMG members to revise the workload within the group (what, how, how long it takes, who is actually doing what) in order to increase the efficiency of the work.
- The next BMG Meeting (19) will be held between 3-5 February 2004 in Oslo. BMG 20 will take place between 15-17 June 2004 (Toulouse).

List of actions

Agenda Item	Action item	Responsible	Target date
3	Produce an inventory/count of the SIGMET messages based on a 14-day monitoring in December	H Swinnen	BMG19
3	Obtain clarification from ICAO regarding the report on the compliance of SIGMET messages	K Loy	Before December monitoring
3	Include disclaimer note in SUG Annex 2 on aerodrome naming	M Pichler H Swinnen	
8	Present procedure used for segmentation of long messages circulated on AFTN	K Loy P Simon H Swinnen	BMG19
11	Request official views from national authorities on the future of CIDIN/OPMET application	P Larsen B Richter M Pichler H Swinnen	BMG19
12	Refine the Problem Handling Procedure	PHP Subgroup	BMG19
4	Investigate reasons for missing data in databanks	ODAG	BMG19
4	Submit the report of missing data to ICAO in order to obtain the status of respective aerodromes	M Pichler	BMG19
4	Inform states about the refinement of the SIGMET monitoring procedure	M Pichler	
4	Test of the new SIGMET test format	P Simon M Pichler	December
4	Make arrangements for different bulletin naming of the Italian SIGMETs	G Leonfort	
4	Produce Action Plans for each centre to solve the SIGMET routing deficiencies	M Pichler	On going
4	Update and distribute the Excel table used for SIGMET Monitoring	M Pichler	
4	Make arrangements to supress duplication of WVIY31	G Leonfort	
4	Contact ICAO Regional Offices to notify about deviations from the standard format of SIGMET messages	M Pichler K Loy	
9	Submit to ICAO the proposal for amendments of EUR SIGMET Guide	K Loy	
9	Obtain clarification from ICAO on issuance of SIGMET for UIR	P Simon	
9	Work Package for WV and WC dissemination in Europe	M Pichler K Loy	
	Participation in SADIS reception monitoring	W Koetse	On going
6	Performance Indices calculation	H Swinnen J Randall	BMG19
5	Make available on the FTP servers the last version of the monitoring tool	H Swinnen	December
5	Restructure the EUR OPMET Handbook	M Pichler	
5	Synchronisation of the three FTP Servers	M Pichler H Swinnen P Simon	BMG19