

**Report of BMG Meeting/19
Oslo, 03-05 February 2004**

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
Mr. John Syer	Norway
Mr. Mike Williamson	UK
Mr. Kevin Loy	UK (Rapporteur)
Mr. Laurentiu Brojboiu	Romania (Sec.)
Mr. Hans-Rudi Sonnabend	IATA

0. Agenda

1. Approval of the Agenda
2. Actions from previous meeting
3. Dates/location of future meetings
4. EUR OPMET Data Update procedure and data monitoring and reporting.
5. Addressing of EUR and non-EUR OPMET data
6. Performance Indices
7. FTP Sites
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. EUR ANP/FAIS review of MET areas
13. Transition to BUFR
14. SADISOPSG
15. AOB

Agenda Item 2: Actions from previous meeting

It was revised the list of actions established at the end of BMG/18. From these, some of them were on-going tasks, some were scheduled to be finished by the next meeting and some were already solved and papers related to these were to be presented during the meeting.

Agenda Item 3: Next meeting confirmation

The BMG/20 meeting was confirmed for 15-17 June in Toulouse.

A proposal was made for the BMG/21 meeting to be held in October 2004 in Copenhagen.

Agenda Item 4 : EUR OPMET Data Update procedure and data monitoring and reporting

WP 2 – DB Availability monitoring comparison

Austria presented a paper which evidentiates a better availability when this is calculated against the AOP Tables than against the SUG Annex 1.

WP 14 – EUR OPMET Data Update Procedure – Activity Report

It was presented the activity report since last meeting. It was noted the big amount of reports from NAM area that were added, but was pointed that is difficult to work only with the results without having the tables on which these are based.

Action 1: It was agreed by the meeting that the paper that will be presented to SADISOPSG shall be derived from the Activity Report and will present the results in a more concise manner, comprising only the aspects of interest. Particular stress will be put to evidentiate how many changes followed the procedure and how many did not.

Action 2: Vienna will cease recompilation of any SIGMET bulletin and will distribute the original bulletin instead.

Action 3: The corresponding files on the FTP servers will be updated.

WP 12 – EUR OPMET Data Update Procedure

The list of the MOTNE Centres contacts was corrected. Also the former list of National Centres was renamed to “List of Additional Centres Contacts”.

Action 4: Regarding the FTP servers, it was mentioned that an informal note shall be sent to the Swiss Met Institute to inform about the changes in the structure of the BMG FTP Servers. The note shall express gratitude for the service provided by now and inform also that the Swiss FTP Server will be no longer listed in the EUR OPMET Data Update Procedure.

IP 07 – BMG OPMET Catalogues

Action 1: It was agreed that the tables shall be made available in ASCII format as well, for working purposes. However, a disclaimer note shall inform that the official version of the tables is the PDF version.

Action 2: The ODAG members shall agree the structure of the FTP servers, where the catalogues shall be located.

WP 4 – SIGMET Monitoring

Austria presented the observations gathered from the states with regard to the modification of the procedure. One particular observation had come from one state who informed that their system can not handle multiple SIGMETs for one FIR. The group took into account this problem. However, it was agreed to inform the corresponding state that keeping only the latest SIGMET for one FIR is not fully Annex 3 compliant, and advise to take corrective actions. Also a note to all the states shall be issued through METG. Following the discussions there were approved the following modifications to the procedure:

- the test message shall include the FIR name (e.g. “WIEN FIR TEST SIGMET PLEASE DISREGARD=”)
- the SIGMET test message shall be sent still at 10:00 UTC and it’s validity period will be from 11:00 to 11:05 (i.e. YY1100/YY1105)
- in case a current SIGMET is valid for the time of the test, this will be retransmitted immediately after the test SIGMET, with the next consecutive sequence number and it’s validity starting this time at 1000 while the AHL will have BBB=CCA
- as post monitoring action, in case that a state is not receiving the necessary data, it will be it’s responsibility to initiate investigations with the responsible or corresponding MOTNE centre(s) to correct the routing of the messages.

Action : Austria will make the above modifications to the informal letter and distribute it to the states in due time for the next scheduled SIGMET monitoring (01.03.2004). The instructions shall contain also explanatory notes on the use of the SIGMET numbering, the (n) group.

IP 3 – SIGMET Inter-Regional Distribution

The meeting was informed about the actions taken in order to ensure the broadcast on SADIS of all the SIGMETs from the ASIA/PAC Region.

Action : Kevin Loy will contact the Rapporteur of the corresponding BMG from the MID Region in order to obtain similar information.

Agenda Item 5 : Addressing of EUR and non-EUR OPMET Data

WP 11 – AMBEX Plan & EUR Requirements

It was proposed the following Action Plan:

Action 1: Monitor the distribution of OPMET data from the AFI Region to EUR using only the designated address (LFZZMAFI) and communicate the improvements through ICAO Office Paris (until end of March).

Action 2: Ask for advise from Bjorn Hellroth on the issue of updating the AMBEX plan to include the METAR distribution to EUR Region .

Action 3: The EUR I/R Gateway for AFI will require the necessary FT data first directly to the AFTN addresses listed in the AMBEX plan, and if not solved, through the Focal Point, following the EUR request procedure (March).

Action 4: At the next BMG meeting will be discussed the procedure to get the required data (not in the AMBEX plan but listed in the AFI AOP).

Action 5: France will perform a long period monitoring of all SIGMET messages received from AFI Region and initiate their announcement via the METNO procedure (mid April).

From the tables (and the whole Action Plan) shall be removed Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco.

Agenda Item 9 : EUR SIGMET Quality

WP 3 – SIGMET Monitoring (Format errors)

It was presented a listing of some test messages containing format errors which were received during the last SIGMET monitoring.

Action : M. Pichler will submit this information to Mr. L. Bezrouk and Mrs. V. Laletina, in order to take the appropriate actions for the next monitoring.

WP 8 – SIGMET ATSUs

The paper stressed the importance of the correct use of the ATSU indicator in a SIGMET message. It was presented also the Draft FASID Table Met 1B, and a proposal was made that, in order to improve the proper routing of these messages, a new column with the SIGMET corresponding bulletin headers should be appended to this table.

Action 1: The states shall inform, through their METG representative, on the inaccuracy in the table.

Action 2: Mike Williamson will produce a Flimsy containing a Draft FASID Table MET 1B (including the SIGMET headers column) and present it to SADISOPSG.

Action 3: Michael Williamson will inform also Russia and Israel about the intended change of the FASID Tables and the need to announce their modifications to ICAO Paris (Bjorn Hellroth).

IP 08 – SIGMET and Advisory Bulletins Inventory

It was presented an inventory of these messages based on the monitoring in December 2003.

Action 1: The inventory shall be filtered to contain the data available from the EUR Region only.

Action 2: In order to meet the METG requirement for an inventory of the compliance of the SIGMET messages format issued in Europe, a monitoring will be performed during 12 Feb – 12 March 2004. The analysis will focus on the compliance of the AHL and the second line, and only the following parameters will be checked:

- The bulletin header (TTAAii CCCC YYGGgg BBB)
- The ATSU indicator
- The "SIGMET" keyword
- The sequence number (n)
- The "VALID" keyword
- The period of validity

The results shall be presented (in a tabular form) to the next BMG meeting. The states involved in the monitoring are Austria, France and Romania.

Agenda Item 6 : Performance indices

WP 6 – Performance indices

The paper presented the latest set of indices generated during December 2003 (both for the SUG An 1 aerodromes and AOP).

Action: A paper describing the missing data will be produced for the next SADISOPSG and BMG meetings.

The meeting agreed that the future versions of the paper should include also a more detailed view of the Action Plans.

Agenda Item 7 : The BMG FTP sites

Action 1: It was agreed that, after the meeting in Brussels (of the ODAG members), the three servers will be synchronised.

Action 2: The BMG 19 papers will be made available in one week on the FTP server

The meeting was announced that the latest version of the monitoring tool is already available on all three FTP servers.

Agenda Item 10 : Periodic tests of the issuance and reception of SIGMET messages for Volcanic Ash

It was mentioned that a test monitoring exercise will be carried-on in May. The VAACs will issue two VAA messages (one for Iceland and one for the Etna volcano) and also the MWOs for the affected FIRs shall issue the corresponding volcanic ash SIGMETs (WV). BMG was requested to give advise on the dates for the test, the format of the test messages and also to monitor and provide results of the monitoring on messages distribution.

Action: Mike Williamson and Patrick Simon will co-ordinate with Nigel Gate and Denis Lambergeant for the proper planning and deployment of the test exercise.

Agenda Item 12 : EUR ANP/FASID review

WP 9 – EUR ANP FASID Tables and SUG Annex 1

The meeting was informed about some problems with the SUG Annex 1 content (starting with version 5.6 – October 2003).

Action 1: Clarification shall be requested from ICAO Paris and Montreal on what is the process of updating SUG An 1. As presented in the WP9, it seems that there is no verification on the availability of data before the inclusion in the Annex 1.

Action 2: The databases catalogues will be produced once a year, in line with a frozen version of SUG Annex 1.

The paper presented also a proposal on behalf of Netherlands to modify the format of the MET 1A table to append extra columns to indicate the METAR/SPECI availability, provisions for AUTO METAR indication and a “Remarks” column for specifying the operation hours. The meeting agreed for the indication of METAR/SPECI availability but considered that the indication of AUTO is not of operational significance from communications point of view.

Action 3: To ask METG to propose to EANPG a METAR/SPECI extra column to be added to the Table MET 1A.

WP 10 – EUR ANP FASID Tables

Action 1: Mike Williamson will contact Bjorn Hellroth in order to clarify the terms “the service to be provided” and “the required service”.

Action 2: The following modifications were agreed to the text of PART VI – Meteorology of EUR ANP:

- In addition to para. 5: “If the service is not provided on an 24-hour basis for an aerodrome in the Table MET 2A, that should be indicated in the “Remarks” column in that table.”
- Para. 33 shall be modified: “... from aerodromes included in the table FASID MET 2B should be disseminated through the EUR Distribution System, MOTNE, which will ensure distribution to the EUR OPMET Databanks, the up-link stations of SADIS and ISCS and also to the EUR states.”
- In FASID document, the Note after para. 5, second sentence shall be modified: “BMG is a subgroup of METG and manages”

Action 3: Corrections/amendments to the tables will be centralised by Kevin Loy and a consolidated list shall be presented to ICAO Paris (Bjorn Hellroth).

Action 4: In the table MET 1B, corrections to the column 5 (SIGMET headers) shall be centralised by Mike Williamson.

Action 5: Kevin Loy will prepare a WP to be presented to IVW by Hans-Rudi Sonnabend. The paper shall inform about the necessary changes for routing the FV messages to the I/R gateways (and not to LOZZMMSS, as it is now).

Action 6: A proposal will be forwarded to ICAO Paris for modifying the table MET 2A in order to split the grouping of two ICAO regions (e.g. ASIA/PAC).

Agenda Item 8: Accommodation of long OPMET messages on AFTN

Three papers (WP13, IP2, IP6) were presented to inform the members how UK, France and Belgium handle the long messages circulated on AFTN. It was agreed by the group that the bulletin re-compilation offers the best solution in terms of minimising the risk of data loss. This is valid only for routine data. In the case of non-routine data: the VAA can have long lengths, but it was noted that the VAACs can be informed about the potential risk of data corruption in case of exceeding the AFTN 1800 characters limit, so that proper segmentation can be applied when issuing advisories.

Also, for the case of the database replies, the warning on the possible corruption of long messages will be included in the Database Access Procedures.

Agenda Item 11 - CIDIN/OPMET Applications and AMHS

The four states that use at present the CIDIN/OPMET application (Austria, Belgium, Denmark and Germany) agreed to not cease for the moment using it. Nevertheless, it was also agreed that there is no need for developing a gateway between CIDIN/OPMET and AMHS.

Regarding the migration from CIDIN/OPMET to CIDIN/AFTN, it was noted that it is up to the states to plan and apply it. It was proposed the date of 31st January 2005 to cease using the CIDIN/OPMET application.

Action: Kevin Loy will inform the AFSG on the decisions regarding the CIDIN/OPMET application.

Agenda Item 13 – WP5: BUFR Transition

The group was informed about the creation of a Task Force that was assigned to examine the implementation of migration to BUFR codes. This Task Force will initiate gathering information from the states about their plans to migrate to BUFR and assessment of the impact that such a migration would have.

Agenda Item 4- WP15: EUR OPMET Monitoring Procedure

There was noted again the necessity to update the procedure to synchronise it with the changes made to the SIGMET monitoring procedure.

The group took note about the commitment of Netherlands for the SADIS monitoring and appreciated their efforts in this respect.

Regarding the future monitoring activity, it was generally agreed by the group that, after a period when the big amount of new bulletins recently introduced (especially from Russia) will be properly monitored, the frequency of the monitoring exercises shall be decreased and the group shall instead concentrate the efforts towards addressing the problems encountered, by generating and applying the necessary action plans.

Any other business

- Denmark announced the intention to cease using any other address than EKZZMOMO for receiving the OPMET data. The group proposed that prior to this change, Copenhagen shall produce and distribute to the states a list of all the bulletins it receives at this time for any different AFTN address, grouped according to the region where originated, in order to be analysed by the IR Gateways.

List of actions

Agenda Item	Action item	Responsible	Target date
4	EUR Update Procedure –Activity report– paper for SADISOPSG	H Swinnen	SADISOPSG
4	Ceasing SIGMET recompilation in Vienna	M Pichler	Feb 2004
4	BMG Catalogues in ASCII Format on the FTP servers	H Swinnen	BMG/20
4	Modify and distribute the SIGMET test informational letter	M Pichler	Before 1 March
4	Contact BMG from the MID region to obtain info about the SIGMETs in that region (for the SADIS broadcast)	K Loy	BMG/20
5	Monitor the distribution of OPMET data from AFI to EUR	P Simon	End of March
5	Contact ICAO Paris on updating the AMBEX plan to include METAR distribution to EUR	K Loy	BMG/20
5	Request necessary FT data from AFI region	P Simon	BMG/20
5	Long period monitor of the SIGMETs from AFI	P Simon	15 April
9	Inform Russia about format errors of SIGMET test msgs	M Pichler	Before 1 March
9	Inform about errors in table Met 1B	All states	SADISOPSG
9	Present SADISOPSG the proposed changes to Table MET 1B (including headers column)	M Williamson	SADISOPSG
9	Produce the inventory of SIGMETs available in EUR	H Swinnen	
9	Perform SIGMET compliance test	M Pichler P Simon L Brojboiu	BMG/20
6	Description of missing data as resulted from PI calculation	H Swinnen	SADISOPSG BMG/20
7	Make available on the FTP servers the last version of the documents.	H Swinnen	March
7	Synchronisation of the three FTP Servers	M Pichler H Swinnen P Simon	ODAG meeting
10	Coordinate the VA SIGMET test	P Simon M Williamson	
12	Contact ICAO Offices on the issue of SUG Annex 1 update (errors noticed)	M Williamson	March
12	Proposal to METG for METAR/SPECI extra column to table MET 1A	K Loy	METG/14
12	Present the modifications to FASID text/Tables to ICAO Paris	K Loy	BMG/20
12	Prepare a paper for FV routing to Europe	K Loy	Next IVW meeting
11	Inform AFSG about the decision on CIDIN/OPMET	K Loy	AFSG
AOB	Prepare a list of the messages distributed to EKCH to other AFTN address	P Ole Larsen	BMG/20