

**Report of BMG Meeting/20
Toulouse, 15-17 June 2004**

List of participants

Mr. Michael Pichler	Austria
Mr. Herman Swinnen	Belgium
Mr. Wim Demol	Belgium
Mr. Patrick Simon	France
Mr. Jacques Anquetil	France
Mr. Bernd Richter	Germany
Mr. Willem Koetse	Netherlands
Mr. John Syer	Norway
Mr. Leonid Bezrouk	Russia
Mrs. Conception Callejas	Spain
Mr. James Randall	UK
Mr. Kevin Loy	UK (Rapporteur)
Mr. Laurentiu Brojboiu	Romania (Sec.)

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 & documentation
8. EUR SIGMET quality
9. Periodic tests of the issuance and reception of SIGMET messages for Volcanic Ash
10. CIDIN/OPMET transition to CIDIN/AFTN exchange
11. BMG work breakdown
12. METG
13. AOB

Agenda Item 2: Actions from previous meeting

It was revised the list of actions established at the end of BMG/19. From these, some of them had already been solved and consequently were erased from the list, some of them had related papers to be discussed during the meeting, and others were on going tasks.

Agenda Item 3: Next meeting confirmation

The BMG/21 meeting was confirmed for 19-21 October in Copenhagen.

A proposal has been made for 1-3 (alternatively 8-10) March 2005 in Madrid (confirmation expected).

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

IP 02 – ODAG Activity Report

The ODAG, following a meeting in Brussels, has come to the conclusions that will not update the catalogue until the FASID Table MET 2A becomes available, will continue working with SUG Annex 1 (ver 5.5 Jan 2003) and will focus on ensuring the consistency of the three databases.

The group was informed that a new databank will be set up in Dakar, and that approaches were made by ASECNA in order that the specifications for this database be developed in line with that of the European databanks.

Action: Kevin Loy will inform ICAO Paris and Montreal on the fact that the specifications and the ICD document have become a standard de facto, and propose them to be adopted as the official documents for the OPMET databanks.

WP 4 – OPMET DB Availability monitoring

It was presented an analyse of the availability progress as resulted from the last monitoring exercises. It was proposed and the meeting has agreed that a number of three days is necessary to correctly monitor data that are not produced every day.

Action: The monitoring period will be extended to three days and the EUR OPMET Data Monitoring Procedure shall be modified accordingly, to state a three days availability monitoring period.

When the action plan was presented, a number of bulletins originated from states in North Africa (Maroc, Algeria, Tunisia) were noticed not to be distributed by the responsible inter-regional gateway Toulouse, but by other states according to the old MOTNE distribution schema. The meeting concluded on the following actions:

Action 1: In a first stage, France shall identify these bulletins and address them according to the standard distribution list in Europe. Caution shall be taken not to disrupt any existing data flow.

Action 2: At the next METG meeting, there shall be discussions with the representatives from those states in METG and with ICAO in order to standardising the input from North Africa in the same way as from the other AFI states, via a single responsible AFI Gateway in the EUR region.

It was noted that SADISOPSG is also pursuing the matter of missing data and will circulate the correct addressing information in the information circulated to the Regional Offices according to SADISOPSG/8 Conclusion 9/8 (referenced in WP13).

WP 11 – Report of the RQM Monitoring

As resulting from the report, the number of the “heavy users” has decreased comparing to 2003 RQM monitoring, and as the databases can handle without problems the current load, no restrictive actions will be taken. Nevertheless, the users already identified to missuse or abuse the databanks shall be approached in order to solve the corresponding routing problem.

WP 10 – SIGMET Monitoring

Regarding the monitoring of SIGMETs originated from other region, it was highlighted that the ICAO Office Bangkok has produced for the ROBEX handbook a listing of all the SIGMETs that may be generated within that region. The meeting agreed that this document can be used to be compared against during the monitoring exercises.

Two type of actions were agreed:

Action 1: All the centres participating in the monitoring exercises shall first compare the SIGMET messages received during a reasonable period of time against the inventory mentioned. The list of the messages not received by each centre (but present in the inventory) shall be centralised by James Randall who will produce a final list to be forwarded to Dimitar Ivanov (ICAO Office Bangkok).

Action 2: On the basis of the above results, as differences are observed in the lists, the centres shall investigate and take the appropriate actions (materialised in action plans) for a correct routing of all the SIGMETs across the EUR region.

The next monitorings were scheduled for September 2004 and February 2005 (skip the December monitoring).

It was agreed that for the next monitoring exercise, all the SIGMET messages (originated from all the regions) received during the monitoring period shall be reported by the states.

Action 3: The informational letter to be sent to the states shall be modified accordingly by the SIGMET monitoring FP.

WP 02 – Telecommunication centre of WMC/RTH Moscow

The group was presented in detail with the structure and functionality of the Russian Meteorological Telecommunication Network and how the aviation meteorological data exchange is structured.

The group reminded about the official letter that ICAO Paris has sent to states, that recommended the use for the compiling centres of location indicators listed in the Doc 7910. The representative of Russia has informed the group that at this moment, the RUMS indicator can not be changed, as the system configuration does not permit that.

Regarding the proposal for sending the informational letter two weeks in advance of the SIGMET monitoring date, the group agreed on the following action:

Action: The SIGMET monitoring FP shall send the informational letter two weeks prior to the test date.

Regarding the proposal that the WMC/RTH Moscow be considered a MOTNE centre: the group took note about the major improvements that have been made for an efficient processing, collection and distribution system in Moscow, but agreed that this is not to be considered at this level. Instead, an official proposal shall come from the Russian Civil Aviation Directorate to ICAO Paris (through METG).

WP 07 – PTEAST/5 Meeting

The group was presented with the information on the PTEAST/5 Meeting. Regarding the proposal for presenting the training method used per country, the group considered this is not part of the BMG work frame and should be dealt with at the appropriate level. A suggestion will be made to PTEAST rapporteur to address this request to the METG.

IP 01 – Toulouse AFI Gateway in the EUR region

The group was informed about the progress in the improvement of data exchange between the AFI and EUR regions. It was noted that:

- The AMBEX plan had not been updated yet, so that the address LFZZMAFI was not used for dissemination of data to EUR.
- Discussions took place between Toulouse IRG, ICAO Offices Paris and Dakar on the issue of METAR distribution to EUR and a detailed plan was submitted for examination in order to be considered for the next review of the AMBEX Plan.
- A first monitoring exercise has been performed (and another one is planned) for the SIGMET messages. The results will be communicated first to the AFI region in order to solve potential deficiencies.
- Work is being done with ASECNA to improve the links between Toulouse and Dakar, Niamey, Brazaville.

The group was informed also that a new AFS link was established between Johannesburg and Madrid (64 kbps, X25). The group considered that this link could improve the OPMET data exchange with that area.

Action: Kevin Loy will make a proposal through ICAO Paris to ICAO Dakar that the states in the South part of AFI region make a better use of the newly established AFS link between Johannesburg and Madrid in order to improve the OPMET data exchange between AFI and EUR regions.

Agenda Item 6 : Performance Indices

WP 12 – Performance Indices

The group was presented with a new method of calculation of the regularity index (in order to enable newly available aerodromes to be handled automatically). As the errors introduced by the original methodology for September and December 2003 were small, the group agreed that the indices for these months shall not be recalculated.

The results from a 14 days (1-14 March 2004) monitoring period on SADIS and EBBR AFTN were analysed, with the following conclusions:

- The availability results show that the SADIS indices are now very closely matched by AFTN ones, although slightly higher than the latest.

- The regularity indices show a small drop in 2004 but this is considered due to the new methodology of calculation. Taking this into account, the regularity indices appear relatively stable for the whole period.
- The results will permit more reasonable conclusions, as year-on-year data become available. Nevertheless, both regularity and availability indices show significant improvements for March 2004 in comparison with March 2003, for instance.

Agenda Item 7 : The BMG FTP sites & documentation

WP 05 – FTP Servers

The group was presented with the latest structure of the three FTP Servers. The content and the structure, as well as the schematic diagram were much appreciated. A number of proposals have been made:

- The Excel sheet which is to be completed with the SIGMET monitoring results has to be made available on the public side of the servers
- Completed Work Packages shall be presented in a different colour on the diagram
- The servers shall permit uploading in the public section, in order that documents be exchanged easier (e.g. the monitoring results, which sometimes are huge and difficult to be transferred by e-mail)
- A final review shall be made to all the documents (or public versions of documents) to be published in the public area before actually publishing them, to ensure restricted information is filtered.

WP 14 – Reference Data Management

Bearing in mind the need for an easy management of the OPMET data, the group was presented with a proposal for two documents derived from a master database: a list of all the SIGMET messages generated in the EUR Region, and SUG Annex 1. The results proved that the information could easily be made available from a master database that is suitable both for input into automatic system and presentation to the users. The group agreed to the following actions:

Action 1: Mike Williamson, James Randall and Herman Swinnen work together to develop a database for the easy administration of the OPMET information, as well as the front-end application for it, in order to be forwarded to ICAO Montreal.

Action 2: Taking into account the necessity for an easier updating of the information on a regular basis (which is not the case with the FASID Tables, which are usually subject to review by all the states within the region before updating), the lists containing non-routine information shall be kept as Annexes to the EUR OPMET Management Handbook (SIGMET list, AIRMET list, GAMET list, etc) and be updated whenever necessary by decision of the BMG.

WP 06 – EUR OPMET Data Management Handbook

The group was presented a draft version of the Handbook. Small corrections were suggested and it was appreciated that still has to be worked for the correct definition of the system, its structure and constituent elements. Much of this will be achieved along with the completion of the WPckg 10 – Definition of MOTNE Centres.

The group concluded that a reasonable draft version shall be ready before, and presented to the next METG meeting. For this was agreed the following action:

Action: All the BMG members shall send by 30th July their suggestions and comments regarding the Handbook structure and content, via e-mail to Michael Pichler, who will coordinate the elaboration of the draft version. This draft version will be circulated to all the BMG members for review in the first week of August, and after that submitted as a WP for METG.

It was noted that, when presented to METG, the draft version shall be correctly described at this stage as a draft, and that more attention shall be paid to the structure of the document and less to the content details.

Flimsy 1 – Documentation and monitoring program

The group agreed on the proposed programme of documentation updates, monitoring periods, distribution documentation and BMG meetings. The result is summarised in the Attachment 1 to this Report.

Action: Kevin Loy will inform ICAO Offices in Paris and Montreal about the above schedule and in September will submit it for endorsement by METG.

Agenda Item 10: CIDIN/OPMET Transition to CIDIN/AFTN

The rapporteur of the group informed that an announcement was made during the last AFSG Meeting regarding the completion of the transition by February 2005. For this, the states that use at present CIDIN/OPMET were asked about the details of the planned transition.

Action: Austria, Belgium, Denmark and Germany representatives obtain from their management details about the timescale of the transition from CIDIN/OPMET to CIDIN/AFTN and present this official view to BMG/21.

Agenda Item 8 : EUR SIGMET Quality

IP 3 – UK SIGMET validation

It was presented a listing of the most common errors which caused rejection at the UK MET Switch over the monitoring period 16.02-15.03.

WP 08 – SIGMET Quality monitoring

A summary of a SIGMET quality monitoring performed between 12.03-12.03.2004 was presented, together with a statistic classification of the errors types and examples of the most common errors.

From both the above papers, the following actions have been concluded:

Action 1: Leonid Bezrouk will try to contact the responsible persons in the states that were noticed to issue SIGMETs in Russian or with deviations from the standard format, while Patrick Simon will investigate the possible errors in the processing software that can lead to incorrect validity period of messages.

Action 2: A paper shall be presented at the next METG meeting, consisting of:

- a complete inventory of the SIGMET messages received within the EUR region (to be prepared by Herman Swinnen)
- a listing (to be prepared by Michael Pichler) of the most frequent structural deviations from the standard format (as in Annex 3) of SIGMET messages received within EUR, categorised by region.

Action 3: For the long term the following were agreed:

- In the EUR OPMET Data Handbook shall be listed the validation/correction procedures performed by the centres.
- On a regular basis (once a year) the inventory of the structural deviations from SIGMET format shall be submitted to the METG meeting, structured by regions, in order to be addressed to the corresponding ICAO offices for taking the appropriate actions within their region. This action needs to be approved by METG, for which will be proposed first to the next METG meeting (September 2004).

Agenda Item 13 - AOB

IP 04 – BUFR Assessment

The group was provided with information on the activities of the BUFR Transition Assessment Task Force. The BMG members shall address their questions as follows: Any questions relating to tasks A1 (Assessment of impact of BUFR on the provision of meteorological sensor equipment involved in the production of METARs), A2 (Assessment of the impact of BUFR on the production of TAFs) or A5 (Assessment of the impact of BUFR on Airline Information Systems and 3rd Party Briefing Systems) should be directed to Patrick Simon, Bernd Richter and Hans-Rudi Sonnabend. Any other questions on BUFR transition should be directed to Mike Williamson.

It was also noted that the Russian Federation agreed to pass comments on BUFR Translation through the Ukrainian member of the BUFR Transition Task Force, Yurii Sadychyko (ysadychko@uksatse.ukrtel.net).

IP ... - Modifications to Traditional Alphanumeric Codes

A number of questions were raised by The Netherlands asking clarification on different aspects related to the bulletin formats. Following the discussions that had taken place, the group concluded the following:

- With regard to the use of the BBB indicator in the AHL, it was considered that WMO 386 document provides sufficient information that the BBB indicator should be used by a compiling centre, and only if a bulletin containing report(s) which is (are) to be corrected or amended has already been compiled and distributed, in which case a new bulletin containing only the corrected/amended reports will be compiled and distributed having BBB appended to the original AHL.
- with regard to the TAF Cancellation issue, the group generally felt that the guidelines for applying these procedures are not clear and leave room for interpretation, particularly for the case of database processing of these messages. It was agreed that the three states that support databanks in Europe shall come to a common view on how this modification affects the databanks and after that each state shall submit its response to the state letter on the issue. In addition, BMG (through its rapporteur) will contact ICAO Paris in order to inform about the general opinion of the three states that provide database infrastructure in EUR region about the processing of TAF cancellation procedures (and providing details about their concerns on this issue).

Agenda Item 9- Periodic tests of the issuance and reception of SIGMET messages for VA*WP 03 – Volcanic Ash SIGMET Test**WP 09 – VA SIGMET Test in the EUR Region*

The papers described the results recorded after the first exercise on 24th May 2004. The following problems were noticed:

- there is not available a list of all the WV produced in the EUR region
- some states issued conventional SIGMETs (WS) containing VA information, instead of VA SIGMETs (WV)
- some of the messages were mis-addressed or mis-routed.

Action 1: A proposal shall be made at METG that the VAACs shall produce and distribute a report on the probability of the occurrence of a VA cloud spreading over the region. On the basis of this report, METG will promote the VA SIGMET procedure to the states. Furthermore, a list of VA SIGMET headings in EUR region will be possible to be defined; this list will be used to accordingly update the FASID Tables as well as the routing tables of the MMS at the centres.

Action 2: Patrick Simon will make investigations to find out if there is any regulation on the use of AA indicator in the AHL of the FV and WV bulletins.

Action 3: Michael Pichler will contact Prague in order to investigate if the WV messages are correctly routed to Moscow.

Agenda Item ...- EUR Problem Handling Procedure*WP15 - BMG EUR Problem Handling Procedure*

BMG members were presented with the basic modifications to the procedure, as agreed by the subgroup that had been tasked to develop it. The general structure of the document was agreed, and will be revised and presented to BMG 21, together with a test scenario (involving a reduced participation) to be sustained after revision.

Agenda Item 12 - METG

Papers to be presented to the next METG Meeting

- Sigmet quality inventory
- VA Report
- Proposed programme for documentation update
- Draft EUR OPMET Data Management Handbook
- Performance Indices

- List of actions

Agenda Item	Action item	Responsible	Target date
4	Ceasing SIGMET recompilation in Vienna	M Pichler	BMG/21
4	BMG Catalogues in ASCII Format on the FTP servers	H Swinnen	BMG/21
4	Modify the informational letter to Request for monitoring of all SIGMET messages	M Pichler	2 wks before Sept. 2004 monitoring
8	Inform about errors in table Met 1B	All states	SADISOPSG
7	Present SADISOPSG the proposed changes to Table MET 1B (including headers column)	M Williamson	SADISOPSG
7	Proposal to METG for METAR/SPECI extra column to table MET 1A	K Loy	METG/14
4	Propose ICAO Paris and Montreal to adopt the ICD and specifications as the official documents of OPMET DBs	K Loy	
4	Extend the availability monitoring to three days	States participating in monitoring	Monitoring dates
4	Re-addressing of bulletins from N Africa by IRG Toulouse	P Simon	
4	Discussion with AFI states representatives to standardise the input of data through a single gateway (Toulouse)	K Loy	METG/14
4	Monitor SIGMET from ASIA/PAC Region	States participating in monitoring	Monitoring dates
4	Prepare a list of SIGMETs from ASIA/PAC not recvd in EUR	J Randall	
4	Correct routing deficiencies of non-EUR SIGMET distribution	MOTNE centres	
4	Recommend S AFI states make use of the newly established Johannesburg-Madrid link	K Loy	
7	Develop a database for OPMET info administration	M Williamson J Randall H Swinnen	
7	Non-routine information list be kept and updated as Annexes to EUR OPMET Handbook		On-going
7	Make comments/suggestions to EUR OPMET Handbook Draft	BMG Members	30 th July
7	Draft EUR OPMET Handbook presented to METG	M Pichler	METG/14
10	Inform about official timescale of transition from CIDIN/OPMET to CIDIN/AFTN	Austria Belgium Denmark Germany	BMG/21
8	Contact representatives from states where SIGMETs are issued in Russian	L Bezrouk	
8	Produce the inventory of SIGMETs available in EUR	H Swinnen	METG/14
8	Prepare a listing of most frequent structural deviations from SIGMET format	M Pichler	METG/14
8	Include in EUR OPMET Handbook the validation/correction procedures performed by centres	M Pichler	
8	Proposal that inventory of structural deviations be presented to every METG meeting	K Loy	METG/14
9	Proposal to METG that VAACs produce a report on the probability of VA cloud spreading in EUR Region	K Loy	METG/14

9	Investigate provisions on the use of AA in FV and WV bulletins AHL.	P Simon	BMG/21
9	Investigate if WV messages are correctly routed by Prague to Moscow	M Pichler	BMG/21