

REPORT OF THE BULLETIN MANAGEMENT GROUP

TWENTYSECOND MEETING

(Madrid, 8-10 March 2005)

List of participants

Mr. Michael Pichler	Austria
Mr. Herman Swinnen	Belgium
Mr. Wim Demol	Belgium
Mr. Patrick Simon	France
Mr. Bernd Richter	Germany
Mrs. Annemiek den Uijl	Netherlands
Mr. John Syer	Norway
Mrs. Concepcion Callejas	Spain
Mr. Ildefonso Collado	Spain
Mr. James Randall	UK
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. Documentation
 - a) FTP Sites
 - b) EUR OPMET Data Management Handbook
 - i) MOTNE Centre responsibilities
 - ii) Validation standards
 - iii) Reject/repair standards
 - iv) Current v Future collection/distribution
 - c) Reference Database
8. Periodic tests of the issuance and reception of SIGMET messages
 - c)
9. EUR FASID Tables
10. AOB

Agenda Item 2: Actions from previous meeting

The list of actions established at the end of BMG/21 was revised. The completed tasks were erased from the list.

Agenda Item 3: Next meeting confirmation

The BMG/23 meeting was confirmed for 14-16 June 2005 in Bucharest.

It was proposed that BMG/24 be held in October/November in Vienna. The date should be confirmed during BMG/23.

A proposal was made for the earlier circulation of the WPs prior to the meeting. A week before the meeting was accepted as the minimum, so that for BMG/23 the papers should be submitted by 7th June.

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

WP 4 – METNO Notification of TAF validity period changes

The group was presented with proposals for the METNO message format, based on a number of different scenarios. Particular concern was expressed regarding the possibility of mixing validity periods within a bulletin. The proposal will be analysed and rediscussed at the next BMG meeting.

WP 5 – SIGMET Format following Amendment 73

A short inventory was presented reflecting the states that adopted or not the new SIGMET format (the introduction of the FIR indicator before the name in the second line). The members were encouraged to start using the new format. This recommendation should also be addressed to states via METG.

Action: The BMG rapporteur to recommend to the EUR representatives at METG the usage of the new SIGMET format.

It was noted that the OPMET Handbook SIGMET guide no longer agreed with Annex 3 and would need to be updated accordingly.

Action: The BMG rapporteur to notify METG of the need to update the SIGMET guide.

It was highlighted that the working paper for the Monitoring Procedure should be updated. Also, related to the monitoring dates, the group agreed that it is not necessary to monitor strictly based on the AIRAC dates. Instead, a more flexible schedule is preferable for the two monitoring exercises performed during the year. The next three monitoring exercises will be scheduled as follows:

- Non-routine: 1-14 September 2005; Scheduled: 1st Sept; SIGMETs: 1st Sept.
- Non-routine: 1-14 February 2006; routine: 1st Feb 2006; SIGMETs: 1st Feb.
- Non-routine: 1-14 September 2006; Scheduled: 1st Sept; SIGMETs: 1st Sept

Action : BMG Focal Point will make the necessary updates to the Monitoring Procedure.

It was accepted that the performance indices calculation be based on the same monitoring periods.

The procedure update shall include provisions that the monitoring results be gathered not later than two weeks after the end of the monitoring exercise.

It was proposed that action plans be derived after each monitoring exercise, comprising list of actions that need to be done to solve the deficiencies encountered. To demonstrate that the action plans are effective an exercise to compare two consecutive action plans will be undertaken. This should show that action plans are being worked on and data distribution is being continuously improved.

Action: France and The Netherlands will coordinate the work on this matter and present a first action plan and some results at BMG23, using the results of the February 2005 monitoring.

SADIS monitoring

It was noted that the monitoring results from UK and Netherlands should be identical, so in the future only the SADIS monitoring results from the Netherlands shall be used. Prior to that, a thorough comparison of the latest exercise results shall be made. In addition

the output fields (and format) of the Netherlands data shall be checked to ensure that the required information to produce the indices is present. The SADISOPSG shall be informed on this matter as well.

Action: The UK, Belgium and Netherlands to confirm that the Netherlands' SADIS monitoring results are adequate for generating performance indices.

Agenda Item 5: Addressing of EUR and Non-EUR OPMET data

11-13 April Dakar 2005 – AFI METG meeting. France will be present and make sure that the requirements sent to the AFI region have been taken into account in the new version of the AMBEX plan.

Action: An inventory of the data received from AMBEX region will be presented by France to BMG/24, after the adoption of the new version of the AMBEX plan.

Agenda Item 7: Documentation

FTP sites.

The references to the FTP sites are included in the EUR OPMET Update Procedure.

The three FTP servers (Brussels, Toulouse and Vienna) are now synchronised and practically constitute mirrors one to each other.

Problems that were encountered should be investigated at the level of the security settings for the systems used (both by the providers and the users of the FTP services).

It was suggested that the same username/password be used for access of all three servers.

Action : The possibility for uniform access to the FTP servers will be investigated and if possible implemented by the three FTP servers administrators.

IP 01 – Activity report of the ODAG group

The group was informed that the Brussels databank has already implemented the new reply format, according to Amendment 73 to Annex 3. Vienna and Toulouse will implement the new format as well as other operational changes by November 2005.

In order to obtain advise on the storage/retrieval aspects of VA and TC advisories, ASIA/PAC region was contacted (as this region is believed to have made progress in this field).

Action: The ODAG group will produce a feasibility study on this matter and will present that to BMG23 and METG.

The group will perform one database availability monitoring and one request monitoring, the results of which will be presented to BMG/23 and METG/15.

EUR OPMET Data Management Handbook

- "Should" be used instead of "shall" throughout the document
- 4.1.5.1 bulleted enumeration of the IROGs
- 7.4.2 the last example, insert AMD, i.e. "TAF AMD VTBD ..."
- The VA SIGMET test manager (different from SIGMET test manager)
- 10.1.8: the BMG rapporteur will supervise the updates of the handbook
- 10.1.9: the issue of the PHP will be addressed by a flimsy prepared by the end of the meeting and presented under AOB.
- Clear indication that in case of a recompilation, the CCCC of the recompiling centre shall be used.

- Chap. 11: in the “general principles” section, provisions be made that corrections are to be made only in the case that there is no doubt about their correctness; also recommendation shall be made that the corrections shall be made as close to the origin as possible.
- In para 11.3.2.3, the example for date inconsistent with AHL shall be replaced with an obvious one. Counter examples included as well.
- For mixed FC and FT in the same bulletin, the group agreed that these bulletins should be exempted from validation and be circulated as such. The end systems will have to deal with these anomalies in this case.

EUR OPMET Update procedure

Action : the PHP “team” will perform a new test and present the results to BMG 23

Action: Request ICAO that the PHP document shall be made available on the ICAO Paris official website. Reference to this shall be made in the document itself. The document should be an edited version of the version available to the BMG members. Publication should not take place until the latest procedure has been endorsed by the BMG.

WP 2 - Automation of SUG Annex 1 Maintenance

The group made comments on the proposal for the automation of SUG Annex 1 maintenance. A number of modifications have been suggested:

- Inclusion of the “Remarks” field
- The State_code field to have a 3 characters limit (instead of two)
- Chapter 4.4.2 completely removed
- Explanation of what “valid ICAO location indicator” means in the context

It was noted that some aerodromes within SUG Annex 1 have no data requirements. Aerodromes with no data requirements should not form part of a requirements document and therefore it should be proposed to SADISOPSG that these aerodromes are removed from SUG Annex 1

Action: Propose to SADISOPSG/10 that aerodromes for which there are no data requirements are removed from SUG Annex 1.

Finally, taking into account the above changes, the group endorsed the proposal for submission to SADISOPSG.

Agenda Item 8 - Periodic tests of the issuance and reception of SIGMET messages

WP 9 – ASIA/PAC WC monitoring

The group was presented with the results of the WC messages from the ASIA/PAC region monitored in the EUR region (18 Feb 2005).

These results will be compared with the ones received from the ASIA/PAC region.

WP 10 - SIGMET Monitoring

Malta – contact point searched via KNMI. In case that it do not want to participate, Malta will be removed from the table.

The group was informed about Italy intention to modify the WS and WV headings in order to have different AAii for different FIRs. This would be done via the METNO procedure.

WP 12 – VA Test SIGMETs (Feb 2005)

There were presented the results of the WV monitoring test carried on the 9th Feb.

Some problems were encountered for the distribution of the VAAC, as currently no official list clearly defines the AFTN addresses of the MWO but the location indicator (FASID Table 3B) or

very partial (VA Handbook). A suggestion was made that the FASID Table 3B be updated such to include the AFTN address to be used for each MWO.

Spain issued IP3 listing WV-SIGMETs and format errors monitored at LEMM during the 09/02/2005 VAAC volcanic ash procedure test.

Action: France will prepare a proposal for the update of this Table to be presented to AFSG (April)(if possible), and METG.

For the future tests, the format of the test messages as well as the results will be in line with the ones used for the WS monitoring.

Action: The MOTNE centres are invited to investigate and gather from their area of responsibility the AHL that are going to be used for the VA SIGMETs and communicate them to Patrick. For the validation of the AHLs, only the confirmed ones should be taken into account – either confirmed via the response to the state letter or via the MOTNE centres.

It was brought up the suggestion that also for the WV bulletins to use different AAii for different FIRs.

Action: Herman will compile a list of identical WV headers used for multiple FIRs that were encountered during the test.

For future actions, there is an intention to coordinate first another routing test, followed by a realistic one if the first one produces good results. It should also be possible to organise some tests in specific areas. The exact dates of these tests will be decided after the receiving of the confirmation from the states on the AHLs used.

Action: France will prepare a paper for the next BMG meeting summarising the following steps.

It was also noted that prior to the test, attention should be also paid to the distribution of the VAA itself. Indication on this matter will be available from the results of the normal WS/FV monitoring completed by this time.

Agenda Item 9 – EUR FASID Tables

WP 3 - Modification of EUR ANP FASID Table MET 1-A

It was noted that the METG secretariat was reluctant to modify an established table especially as the proposed additions to the table were beyond that of a statement of requirements.

Several comments were made in the METG about the proposed additions to the table. In particular

- There should be no discrimination made between AUTO and manual METAR/SPECI. A METAR is a METAR whether it has been generated automatically or not;
- There should be no differentiation between the operational and non-operational hours of the aerodrome as data provision outside of non-operational hours (subject to any regulatory requirements) is a matter for the individual aerodrome and cannot be mandated.

Informal discussion with the METG representatives of the states on this matter. Coordination by Annemiek. Proposal to be presented to the next BMG meeting.

Agenda Item 6 – Performance Indices

WP 13 – Performance Indices

The group was presented with the content of the Performance Indices document. After discussion, the group endorsed it for submission to the SADISOPSG. Some differences are still existing between the AFTN and SADIS distribution: the action plans (cd Agenda item 4) should improve the distribution.

Agenda Item 10 – Any other business

WP 14 – TAF during the period aerodromes are closed

The BMG members are invited to seek legal advise on the aspects of using different TAF validity periods within the same bulletin. Kevin's advise is expected as well.

IP10 – BUFR Activity

The group was informed about the EANPG conclusions derived from the report that was presented by the EUR BUFR Transition Assessment Group. Based on the fact that it is expected that METG be tasked by COG to organise the transition while AFSG be tasked to enable the step of transition, it was considered that the national representatives to these groups should be fully briefed on the issues.

IP2 – CIDIN/OPMET cessation

The group was presented with the decision on the termination of CIDIN/OPMET operation and the usage of AFTN/CIDIN solely instead, starting from January 2005.

WP6 – Report to SADISOPSG/10

The paper was received and endorsed by the group. No additional issues for SADISOPSG/10 were raised.

The BMG focal point agreed to provide the BMG Activity report by 21/3/2005 and requested sight of the edited version to be presented to SADISOPSG.

The EHDB (De Bilt, The Netherlands) and LSSW (Zurich, Switzerland) Centres intend to cease functioning as a MOTNE Centre. The consequences, more particular to EBBR (Brussels, Belgium) and EDZO (Offenbach, Germany) need further discussion at the METG15 meeting and the next BMG meeting. Also, the functioning of DAAA (Algiers, Algeria) as a MOTNE Centre has to be reviewed.

On behalf of the BMG FP, The U.K. will ask the SADIS Providers for advice whether to generate the SUG Annexes 2 & 3 on SUG Annex 1 AOP listed aerodromes only, or also to include the Non-AOP aerodromes.

List of actions

Ag.Item/ BMG	Action item	Responsible	Target date
4/20	Propose ICAO Paris and Montreal to adopt the ICD and specifications as the official documents of OPMET DBs	K Loy	
7/20	Develop a database for OPMET info administration	M Williamson J Randall H Swinnen	On-going
7/20	Non-routine information list be kept and updated as Annexes to EUR OPMET Handbook		On-going
3/21	Compilation of a list of AA indicators to be used in Europe for the WV bulletin. Circulation to states.	P Simon	BMG/22 Not done
6/21	Compilation of an inventory of non-scheduled data received from other regions	P Simon	BMG/22
6/21	Submit to Singapore a list of SIGMETs never received in EUR region	K Loy	BMG/22
6/21	Non-EUR SIGMET addressing review	UK Netherlands	BMG/22
6/21	Contact Singapore on VAA/TCA storage in DBs	ODAG	BMG/22 On-going
6/21	Extract the Monitoring Tool Specification from the Monitoring Procedure. Update monitoring dates.	H Swinnen	BMG/22
6/21	Compile a list of WV/WC bulletins received	France UK	Part. Completed
6/21	Investigate with ICAO Cairo on incorrect data addressing to EUR region	K Loy	BMG/22 On-going
6/21	Prepare a plan for MOTNE Centre Zurich cessation	Germany	BMG/22 Not completed
6/21	Apply the plan for MOTNE Centres Zurich and Amsterdam cessation	Belgium Germany Netherlands Switzerland	After BMG/22
6/21	Provide ICAO Paris with necessary info for preparing an official addressing to Algeria and Tunisia for re-addressing of OPMET info via Toulouse	P Simon	BMG/22 To be done
12/21	Inventory of validity period non-compliant bulletins in EUR and recompiled outside state of origin	K Loy	BMG/22 To be presented to BMG23
4/22	SIGMET second line format (Amendment 73) – recommendation for adoption by states	K Loy	METG
5/22	Inventory of data from AMBEX region	P Simon	BMG/23
4/22	Update the monitoring procedure (monitoring dates, schedule)	H Swinnen	BMG/23
5/22	Co-ordination of action plans derived from last two monitoring exercises	P Simon A den Uijl H Swinnen	BMG/23
5/22	Request confirmation on the use of Netherlands SADIS monitoring results for PIs	J Randall	SADISOPSG/10
7/22	Uniform access credentials for the FTP sites	M Pichler H Swinnen P Simon	BMG/23
5/22	Produce a feasibility study on the storage/reply of FV/FK	ODAG	BMG/23
4/22	Perform DB availability and request monitoring	ODAG	BMG/23

7/22	Update the EUR OPMET Data Management Handbook	M Pichler M Williamson	BMG/23
4/22	Operate modifications to Automatic SUG An1 Update Procedure	J Randall	15 th March
8/22	Comparison of the ASIA/PAC WC monitoring results	M Pichler	BMG/23
8/22	Seek contact from Malta about involving in SIGMET test	A den Uijl	Next SIGMET monitoring
8/22	Coordinate SIGMET headers to be made METNO compliant	H Swinnen M Pichler	BMG/23
8/22	Proposal for FASID Table 3B update (list of the AFTN addresses to be used for MWOs)	P Simon	AFSG/METG
8/22	Obtain confirmation of AHL used for WV messages	MOTNE centers	BMG/23
8/22	Produce an inventory list of WV bulletins with same AAii for different FIRs	H Swinnen	BMG/23
8/22	Prepare a paper with proposal for next steps to monitor WV	P Simon	BMG/23
10/22	Proposal for the amendment of Table MET 1A	A den Uijl	BMG/23
6/22	Provide the PIs for the FTP sites	J Randall	BMG/23
10/22	Confirmation on mixing TAFs with different validity periods	K Loy	BMG/23
7/22	BMG papers provided to the FTP sites	J Randall	Asap
22	BMG Activity report for SADISOPSG	H Swinnen	21 ST March