

REPORT OF THE BULLETIN MANAGEMENT GROUP

TWENTYTHIRD MEETING

(Bucharest, 14-16 June 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
Mr. Mike Williamson	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. ICAO Meeting summary of interest; AFSG, SADISOPSG
5. EUR OPMET Data Update procedure and data monitoring and reporting.
6. Addressing of EUR and Non-EUR OPMET data
7. Performance Indices
8. 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
 - d) ANP/FASID
9. AOB
 - a) Rationalisation of MOTNE centers
 - b) EUR BUFR Transition Task Force
 - c) TAF validity periods

Agenda Item 2: Actions from the previous meeting

The list of actions established at the end of BMG/22 was revised. The completed tasks were erased from the list.

Agenda Item 3: Next meeting confirmation

The BMG/24 meeting was confirmed for 8-10 November 2005 in Vienna.

It was proposed that the BMG/25 meeting be held on 14-16 March 2006 in De Bilt.

Agenda Item 4: ICAO Meetings summary of interest

An informal presentation was made about the information presented at the last AFSG meeting regarding the cessation of the CIDIN/AFTN usage in Europe.

IP 3 – Report of the SADISOPSG/10

The BMG was presented with the conclusion of the SADISOPSG to implement (not later than SADISOPSG/11) a database oriented Annex 1 to the SADIS User Guide, based on a proposal from the UK previously endorsed by the BMG.

It was noted that the latest version of the SADIS Annex 1 is from March 2005. The content of Annexes 2 and 3 are dated from April 2005.

At the meeting, IATA proposed a number of additions to SUG Annex 1. These modifications will be subject the standard procedure and will be circulated to states, via ICAO, Montreal for confirmation that the data requested can be produced.

Regarding the implementation by the SADIS Provider State of the SIGMET validation against the Amendment 73 format, the SADISOPSG concluded that this should be done as soon as the format is adopted on a large scale by the states. It was suggested that this may be the case in about one years time.

The BMG was suggested to investigate the availability of OPMET information for Almaty (UAAA) and concluded the following action:

Action BMG23-4-1: Michael Pichler will first check the system in Vienna for the availability of UAAA OPMET data and afterward ask PTEAST on this matter.

It was noted that SADISOPSG did not object to the proposal to use the monitoring results from the Netherlands for the calculation of SADIS PIs. Once confirmation that SADIS Monitoring from the Netherlands is acceptable these results should be used, for the updates of SUG Annexes 2 & 3 as well.

Agenda Item 5: EUR OPMET Data Update procedure and data monitoring and reporting

WP 2 – EUR OPMET Data Update procedure

The group was presented with the last version of the procedure. Small corrections were suggested for the MOTNE Centers contacts.

It was noted that all three FTP servers are now identical as structure and access.

WP 3 – EUR OPMET Data Monitoring Procedure

The group was presented with the last version of the monitoring procedure. The following corrections were agreed:

- exclude FA, NW from Non-Routine OPMET data enumeration
- exclude the list of the RMCs in para. 2
- include the Netherlands as monitoring the SADIS broadcast
- exclude the necessity for the states participating to the SIGMET testing to confirm their participation
- transform “shall” into “should” throughout the document
- update the SIGMET test information letter according to Amendment 73

Regarding the monitoring of the SIGMET messages from the other regions, it was agreed that MID and ASIA/PAC regions should be contacted, via the ICAO Secretariat, in order to suggest a similar monitoring procedure, and as long as these procedures are fairly mature, actions should be taken to synchronize the monitoring with these regions.

Action BMG23-5-1: Michael Pichler shall establish contact through Kevin Loy to carry out SIGMET testing with any other regions which have a mature and compatible SIGMET monitoring program.

It was noted that the UK does not register the FIR for non-scheduled data (except for WS).

Action BMG23-5-2: The UK shall modify their monitoring analysis software to produce FIR location indicators where required.

It was noted that German monitoring results do not comply to the specified output format.

Action BMG23-5-3: Germany shall modify their monitoring analysis software to produce the specified output format.

As there are only a few states which adopted the Amendment 73 with relation to the SIGMET format, for the moment the ATSU indicator (present on the first line after the AHL) will be registered. After the new format is largely adopted, the FIR indicator (present on the second line after the AHL) will be used instead.

WP 10 – RQM Monitoring

The group was presented with the results of the last RQM monitoring exercise, which extended over a three days period. The general results showed a slightly decrease in the improper use of the databanks.

As a basis for corrective actions, a list comprising the requested data shall be compiled. This list shall then be analysed to see if these data are not regularly distributed to the respective users – in which case the list of requirements shall be revised and proper routing ensured – or the timing of distribution is incorrect.

Action BMG23-5-4: ODAG prepare a list of the most requested data by the users EIDBYBYX and RCTPYZYX.

IP 02 – Activity report of the ODAG group

The ODAG presented the proposal to be presented at METG/15 related to the storage and retrieval of FV/FK messages into/from the databanks:

- a life-time of 9 hours for these messages into the databases
- a new message will overwrite the previous one with the same TTAAii
- the request will use a dummy indicator and will be of the form: "RQM/FVXXXX=" and the response will comprise all the valid messages at the moment of the request.

WP 09 – OPMET DB Availability Monitoring

The ODAG presented the results of the last monitoring, which showed a general improvement since the beginning of the monitoring. The derived action plan has been discussed thoroughly, and particular actions have been concluded for each specific case.

Although decreasing, the number of stations for which no data have been received was listed as an attachment to this paper. It was suggested to be checked against the latest

SUG Annex 1 and FASID Tables, as many of these were noticed as no longer requested. For the remaining stations the concrete actions shall be applied.

WP 11 – EUR OPMET Data Update Procedure – Activity Report

The Activity Report was presented to the BMG. There have been discussions on the issue of base-lining the OPMET data. The list of the METNO non-compliant data was analyzed and it was appreciated that much of these data are coming from other environment (e.g. GTS) , on which BMG is not responsible and has no control.

In order to identify from this list what is actually required and needs addressing for compliance (to ensure proper routing of data) and what is not required (for instance, data circulated on bi-lateral agreement or military data), the table should be checked against FASID Tables and structured per responsible MOTNE centers.

Action BMG23-5-5: The list of non-compliant data shall be structured per RMCs and distributed to the BMG members or made available on the FTP servers.

Action BMG23-5-6: The MOTNE centers shall increase the efforts in investigating the list of non-compliant data. Based on the results, the data should be brought in line with the procedure. Data which can not be processed shall be reviewed by the BMG and possibly ceased.

The report to the METG shall be slimmer and will consist of a front page, explanations and an attachment.

Agenda Item 6: Addressing of EUR and Non-EUR OPMET data

WP 4 – Action Plan Improving OPMET data

The group was informed on the stage of the corrective actions undertaken by states until now. Following the discussions, it was agreed that the Work Package 8 and the Distribution Determination Package need to be revised, based on the September 2005 monitoring. It will be necessary an agreement on what tables should be used, and the concise results should be presented annually to the METG.

WP 7 – EUR SIGMET Header Listing

ICAO Paris intends to include in the latest issue of the EUR SIGMET Guide a listing of all messages issued in Europe. The UK presented a draft proposal of such a listing. In order to refine it, additional data should be taken into account and corrections are expected from the states.

Action BMG23-6-1: Mike Williamson will merge the data received from Herman Swinnen (March 2005 monitoring results) and Patrick Simon (VA SIGMET headers into one listing which will be circulated to the BMG members for refinement. The final version will then be presented at METG/15, stating clearly that the listing will not be complete or authoritative. The inventory will be kept up to date by the BMG with future amendments.

WP 8 – VA Distribution

The BMG was presented the results of the VA SIGMET distribution test (March 2005). It was discussed the responsibility for including all the necessary AFTN destination addresses. The group agreed that each MWO shall send the WV messages to it's RMC only, where the appropriate addressing shall be made. The routing shall use the MOTNE distribution (the same as for WS) and it will be the responsibility of each state to further route the received messages to every ACC or other users.

Action BMG23-6-2: The UK and France will come up with a proposal for the actions for implementation of the VA SIGMET distribution scheme. This proposal will be circulated to the group and presented at METG/15. The EUR OPMET Data Management

Handbook, the EUR SIGMET Guide and the FASID documents should be aligned to provide this information.

IP 4 – PTEAST/6

The BMG was informed about the paper that was presented to the last PT/EAST Meeting and which described the SIGMET monitoring exercises.

It was discussed that, during a short outage period, the MOTNE centre Toulouse had to temporarily undertake the Madrid Centre responsibilities. On this occasion, after configuring the system according to the Distribution Determination, the Toulouse centre received a notice from the Rome MOTNE Centre asking that the data be sent to a different AFTN address instead.

Action BMG23-6-3: Kevin Loy will contact MOTNE centre Rome to obtain clarification on what AFTN address should be used to distribute the OPMET data to Italy. If necessary, the corresponding documents will be updated accordingly.

Agenda Item 7: Performance Indices

No monitoring period since last meeting.

Agenda Item 8: The BMG Documentation

a. FTP Sites

It was noted that all three servers are now identical as structure and access.

b. EUR OPMET Handbook

The draft version was revised by the group and completed with examples on the bulletin validation procedures. It was agreed that the handbook will be attached to a presentation paper and submitted to the next METG meeting. The methods of amending the handbook will be agreed internally by the BMG.

Action BMG23-8-1: The version 1.0 of the EUR OPMET Handbook will be submitted for endorsement to METG/15.

d. FASID Tables

WP 5 – Modification to the structure of the FASID Table MET 1a

The BMG was asked by the METG to evaluate a proposal for the amendment of the FASID Table MET 1A. After discussing in detail the proposal, the group agreed on the following conclusions:

- for the inclusion of a new column “FIR/UIR indicator”: there is no added benefit to the OPMET exchange, although it can have possible merit for other areas.
- splitting into two columns “SA” and “SP”: could be of some interest, but is not consistent with the table MET 2A and with the basic ANP requirements that state that for airports issuing half hourly METARs (= mandatory for all "AS" and "RS" airports) , SPECIs are not required.
- Append a new column “Remarks”: This may have some benefit in other areas but will not affect OPMET exchange significantly.

The group discussed also the need for the group “AFTN routing areas of destination”, which was considered superfluous, as the Annex 3 states that METARs are requested worldwide.

Action BMG23-8-2: Kevin Loy will prepare a draft which will be circulated to the BMG members for confirmation. The response on the proposal for Table MET 1A modification will be presented to METG/15.

Agenda Item 9: Any other business

IP 01 – BUFR Transition

The group was informed on the latest progress made for the BUFR transition.

Rationalisation of MOTNE Centers

The group discussed the definition of a MOTNE centre, and its functions and responsibilities. This definition was included in the EUR OPMET Handbook, which will be submitted for endorsement by METG/15. After submission, the problem of rationalisation of MOTNE centers will be re-analyzed.

The group was informed that the ICAO Secretariat was asked about the cessation of Algiers as a MOTNE Centre and the reply confirmed that there is no particular opposition on that.

TAF Validity Period Changes

The group was informed that Sweden is going to change to the new TAF validity hours. The members confirmed that no recompilation of the Swedish bulletins take place in their respective countries.

Regarding the announcement of the TAF validity period changes via a METNO message, the group agreed that the format 1 presented in BMG/22-WP4 should be adopted, included in the EUR OPMET Update Procedure and submitted to METG/15. This format can be refined in the future, if needed.

Belgium informed the BMG that from July 2005 will start producing GAMETs, and this will be announced according to the procedure for the next AIRAC date.

The report of this BMG meetings will be circulated to the members for comment by the end of June. Comments must be received by July 9th. The final version will be approved by the Rapporteur by July 29th and will be made available on the FTP servers.

A proposal was made for the earlier circulation of the WPs, two weeks prior to the BMG meeting. It was stated that if a paper was unavailable for the deadline, 21st October, then the Rapporteur should be informed of the intention to submit a paper so that the meeting can be planned properly

Summary of papers presented to METG/15

- a. Performance Indices
- b. EUR OPMET Handbook – Michael Pichler to prepare a cover page for the handbook which will be presented as version 1.0
- c. FASID Table modification response – Kevin Loy will prepare the response
- d. VA SIGMET distribution – Mike Williamson
- e. TAF validity changes announcement – Kevin Loy
- f. VA Testing – Patrick Simon
- g. Activity Report – with PIs and EUR OPMET Data Update Procedure as attachments
- h. Storage of FV & FK bulletins in the databanks – Wim Demol will prepare a paper
- i. SIGMET header list – Mike Williamson will prepare a listing.

All papers should be circulated to BMG members by 29th of July. Any comments should be made within 3 weeks allowing the rapporteur to endorse the final versions before they are submitted to the METG.

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 bulletins. 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	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	MOTNE Centers rationalisation	BMG	BMG/24
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 + EUR SIGMET Guide Amendment	K Loy	METG
5/22	Inventory of data from the AMBEX region	P Simon	BMG/24-25
4/22	Perform DB availability and request monitoring	ODAG	BMG/23
8/22	Comparison of the ASIA/PAC WC monitoring results	M Pichler	BMG/24
8/22	Coordinate SIGMET headers to be made METNO compliant	H Swinnen M Pichler	BMG/24
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/24
8/22	Produce an inventory list of WV bulletins with same AAii for different FIRs	H Swinnen	BMG/24
8/22	Prepare a paper with proposal for next steps to monitor WV	P Simon	BMG/24
10/22	Confirmation on mixing TAFs with different validity periods	K Loy	BMG/23 Discussions

BMG23-4-1	Investigate UAAA (Almaty) availability	M. Pichler	BMG/24
BMG-23-5-1	Contact shall be established through ICAO to carry out SIGMET testing with any other regions which have a mature and compatible SIGMET monitoring program.		
BMG-23-5-2	The UK shall modify their monitoring analysis software to produce FIR location indicators where required.	J Randall	Prior to Sept 05 Monitoring
BMG-23-5-4	Germany shall modify their monitoring analysis software to produce the specified output format	B Richter	Prior to Sept 05 Monitoring
BMG23-5-4	Prepare a listing of data requested from DBs	ODAG	BMG/24
BMG23-5-5	Structure the listing of METNO non-compliant data	H. Swinnen	BMG/14
BMG23-5-6	Investigate the METNO non-compliant data	MOTNE centres	After BMG/24
BMG23-6-1	Produce a listing of SIGMET headers	M. Williamson	METG/15
BMG23-6-2	Produce a VA SIGMET distribution scheme	P. Simon M. Williamson	METG/15
BMG23-6-3	Obtain info on Rome MOTNE centre AFTN distribution address	K. Loy	BMG/24
BMG23-8-1	Submission of EUR OPMET Handbook	K. Loy	METG/15
BMG23-8-2	Respond to the proposal for amendment of Table MET 1A	K. Loy	METG/15