

# REPORT OF THE BULLETIN MANAGEMENT GROUP

## TWENTYFOURTH MEETING

(Vienna, 8-10 November 2005)

### List of participants

Mr. Michael Pichler	Austria
Mr. Herman Swinnen	Belgium
Mr. Patrick Simon	France
Mr. Bernd Richter	Germany
Mrs. Annemiek den Uijl	Netherlands
Mrs. Valentina Lalletina	Russian Federation
Mr. Juerg Spaar	Switzerland
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. ICAO Meeting summary of interest; METG, COG
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
  - d) ANP/FASID
8. Volcanic Ash SIGMET Tests
9. TAF Validity period changes
10. AOB
  - a) New MET Switch in Vienna
  - b) BUFR Radar data exchange

### Agenda Item 2: Actions from the previous meeting

The list of actions established at the end of BMG/23 was revised. The completed tasks were erased from the list.

**Agenda Item 3: ICAO Meetings summary of interest***METG/15 Summary of discussions*

The BMG was presented the SoD of METG/15, with particular stress on the items related to the BMG activity, including the endorsement by METG of the papers that were submitted. The details related to the volcanic ash tests were to be discussed under the item 8 of the agenda.

It was also stressed that the BMG Activity Report that is presented to other groups (including METG and SADISOPSG) should be a 'slimmer' summary with the main detail being discussed at the BMG.

**Agenda Item 4: EUR OPMET Data Update procedure and data monitoring and reporting***WP 9 – EUR OPMET Data Update procedure - Activity Report*

The group was presented with the evolution of the procedure since the last meeting. Under 3.1.1.3 two requests on behalf of IATA filed by Germany were presented. The requests were forwarded to ICAO Paris in order to contact the Regional Offices Lima and Cairo and the response whether the data are available or not is expected.

The listing of the non-compliant data was presented as an appendix to the WP. It was noted that some of the bulletins are listed as a result of the restructuring of data (as have been monitored during the previous exercises) and are going to fade away from the future versions of the tables. As for the bulletin FTTU31 (LCEN, LCGK) it was agreed that the originator will be contacted in order to formalise it. If no response is received, the bulletin should be formalised "ex officio".

It was noted that within the scope of WPg 8, on the FTP servers listings for each MOTNE centre are available and the centres were to take actions for the regularisation of data. It was pointed out that, as some members encounter difficulties on accessing the FTP servers, a good alternative will be to send the tables via e-mail.

Action BMG24-4-1: The listings of non-compliant data shall be made available on the FTP servers and distributed by e-mail to the MOTNE centres.

Action BMG24-4-2: The BMG FP to enquire to ICAO Paris regarding the status of the outstanding requests for SAM data.

Action BMG24-4-3: The BMG FP to indicate to SADISOPSG and METG requests for data not currently contained within the requirements to enable requirements to be updated.

Action BMG24-4-4: The UK in future to produce a full set of performance indices for EGGY AFTN

*WP 4 – Timeliness of Regular Bulletins in the EUR Region*

The group was presented by The Netherlands with a listing of the average time interval between the observing and the reception time for the regular bulletins distributed within the EUR Region. As the transit times are expected to be insignificant due to the capabilities of the network nowadays, the values in the listing are a result of the collection and compilation process.

The group agreed that, for the moment, there is no official request related to timeliness. As a pro-active action, the group decided to start an investigation for the possible

reduction of these intervals. The exercise will take place before the next monitoring in February and will consist of these steps:

- Initial monitoring by participating states of the NIL/RETARD bulletins
- Study of the possibility for the earlier compilation of the bulletins
- Modify the compilation time
- Post-change monitoring of the NIL/RETARD bulletins

The result of the exercise will be available for the next BMG meeting.

Action BMG24-4-5: Austria, Belgium, France, Switzerland, The Netherlands and United Kingdom will take part into an exercise for the investigation of possible improvement of the timeliness for the bulletins.

#### *WP 2 – ASIA/PAC SIGMET Monitoring*

Regarding the results, ASIA/PAC will be asked to check the routing. For future tests in ASIA/PAC the whole EUR-region should be involved to have a better chance to indicate routing problems.

Action BMG24-4-2a: Austria will contact ASIA/PAC regional officer Mr. Dimitar Ivanov.

#### *WP 5 – SIGMET Monitoring*

Regarding the distribution of the FV bulletins, the group concluded the following action:

Action BMG24-4-6: The FV bulletins should be distributed directly by the two VAACs (instead of Vienna) to all the MOTNE centres.

For this, the following preliminary actions are necessary:

- A compilation of a list with what is produced
- The distribution list of the FV's to be implemented by London and Toulouse VAACs and erased from Vienna (which will still be responsible for the FV's in its area of responsibility).
- An agreement on the date for the change (before the next monitoring exercise – preferably by the end of 2005).

For the WV bulletins distribution it was agreed that this should be done the same way as the WS bulletins and in addition, each responsible MOTNE centre shall ensure the distribution to the VAACs.

In order to ensure a better addressing of the non-EUR SIGMET messages, for the next monitoring exercises was agreed that the centres should record the originator of the message and where the messages were distributed to. The paper announcing the SIGMET exercise will be updated accordingly.

It as also been decided than on the future "normal" SIGMET monitoring exercises, there will be no FV bulletin sent to avoid confusion with the FV/WV tests monitoring exercises that will be held twice a year.

Action BMG24-4-7: The centres participating to the SIGMET monitoring exercise shall record the originator of the non-EUR SIGMETs and their distribution. The SIGMET monitoring focal point shall update the informational letter announcing the test.

#### *WP 11 – Monitoring OPMET Distribution Problems*

The BMG WPg 5 was presented to the group. The action plans will be distributed by e-mail to the MOTNE centres in order to address the problems. As a result, an improvement shall be expected for the next monitoring exercise in February.

Action BMG24-5-4: All the MOTNE centres will analyse the corresponding action plans, send back the comments to the focal point and take the necessary actions to improving the OPMET data distribution.

#### *WP 12 – Not compliant OPMET data*

The BMG WPg 8 was presented. The action plans will be circulated to the MOTNE centres to take responsive actions in order to address the METNO non-compliant data.

#### **Agenda Item 5: Addressing of EUR and non-EUR OPMET data**

##### *WP 3 – IROG Toulouse, AFI OPMET*

The group was presented with a set of syntax control rules (and corresponding actions) to be implemented at the Toulouse MSS. These are to be implemented in the first quarter of 2006. As the members decided they need some time to analyse in detail the document, the following action was concluded:

Action BMG24-5-1: The BMG members will send in two weeks time their comments on the syntax control rules to be implemented at Toulouse MSS.

As a general remark, backward compatibility was recommended as not all the states introduced the new format of the messages and this could significantly increase the workload on the operators.

##### *WP 7 – Russian Federation OPMET data transmission*

The group was presented with the latest improvements in the distribution of data from the Russian Federation. The SIGMET monitoring focal point confirmed a significant decrease of the errors in the messages received from Russia. As a consequence, the following actions was concluded:

Action BMG24-5-2: The Russian Federation will take part in the next SIGMET monitoring exercise and the data provided by them will be monitored by the participants to the test. It was emphasised that the test SIGMETs from the Russian Federation must be distributed in the same manner as 'normal' SIGMETs.

Regarding the OPMET data transport via AFTN, it was re-iterated that an institutional issue, internal to the Russian Federation, has to be solved as a pre-requisite to progressing any further.

##### *WP 13 – MOTNE Centres Rationalisation*

The discussions highlighted the potential benefits of running a reduced number of MOTNE centres, with respect to various aspects (contingency, validation, conversions, etc). The provisions in the EUR OPMET Handbook related to the MOTNE centres responsibilities were mentioned as well.

Taking into account that The Netherlands and Switzerland use SADIS as the primary source of OPMET data, it was proposed the cessation of functioning as a MOTNE centre. Particular stress was put on the fact that this will have implications of structural (functional) nature only. The two representatives raised no objections to this proposal. It was agreed that a more detailed description of the re-structuring be presented to the next BMG meeting.

Action BMG24-5-3: K.Loy will present to the BMG/25 a detailed proposal for the structure of the whole system, including the addressing of data coming from The Netherlands and Switzerland, and the addressing from the states located in the AFI region to IROG Toulouse.

##### *WP 11 – Monitoring OPMET Distribution Problems*

The BMG WPg 5 was presented to the group. The action plans will be distributed by e-mail to the MOTNE centres in order to address the problems. As a result, an improvement shall be expected for the next monitoring exercise in February.

Action BMG24-5-4: All the MOTNE centres will analyse the corresponding action plans, send back the comments to the focal point and take the necessary actions to improving the OPMET data distribution.

Action BMG24-5-5: The UK to update its monitoring tool to capture FIR/UIR information for the FA, WA, WC and WV data types.

*WP 12 – Not compliant OPMET data*

The BMG WPg 8 was presented. The action plans will be circulated to the MOTNE centres to take responsive actions in order to address the METNO non-compliant data.

**Agenda Item 6: Performance Indices**

*WP 10 – Performance indices*

The group was presented the results of the latest set of performance indices. The indices show a slight upward trend. It was notes also a seasonal variations ( a downward north-hemisphere winter variation).

It was noted that the results obtained from EHDB monitoring were higher as a consequence of not recording if a report is NIL. It was agreed that until this is solved by The Netherlands, the SADIS Gateway monitoring results will be used instead for the SADIS performance indices calculation. Some investigations have to de held also concerning the different scores concerning NAM TAF.

It was agreed that in the future both the availability and regularity indices would be produced by the UK. This would allow the indices to be produced promptly and provide extra time to fully investigate the results before presentation at the BMG. Therefore all centers that provide data for the performance indices are invited to copy their monitoring results to the UK (james.randall@nats.co.uk) as well as the BMG FP.

Action 24-6-1: The Netherlands will take appropriate actions for the recording of NIL messages for the proper calculation of the SADIS PIs.

Action 24-6-2: The Netherlands, Belgium and UK to send future monitoring results to both the BMG FP and the UK.

**Agenda Item 7: Documentaion**

*WP 6 – EUR OPMET Data Management Handbook*

The editorial changes proposed by Austria and France were accepted and shall be marked as such within the soft document. To this version, the proposals from Belgium will be added and the resulting version will be circulated to the members for analysis. If the ICAO editorial process has not begun then these changes shall be submitted to ICAO Paris for inclusion in the ICAO document.

Action 24-7-1: Herman Swinnen to submit proposed changes in soft copy to Michael Pichler

Action 24-7-2: Michael Pichler to query ICAO Paris on editorial status of EUR OPMET Data Management Handbook.

Action 24-7-3: Michael Pichler to accept changes proposed by Austria and France and distribute changes proposed by Belgium to the BMG for comment.

*WP 8 – Changes in the MET Services*

There was presented a list of changes to the lists of FIRs, UIRs and MWOs in the Russian Federation, and the corresponding amendments to several ICAO documents. It was noted that due to some reason, the FV bulletins originated by Anchorage VAAC do not reach Magadan WMO, where are of particular use for the issuance of VA SIGMETs.

Action 24-7-4: The MOTNE centre Vienna will check if the FV bulletins issued by VAAC Anchorage are correctly routed to Moscow, in order to reach Magadan WMO.

#### **Agenda Item 8 - VA SIGMET Testing**

The group was informed that, as a conclusion of the METG/15 meeting, a proper VA SIGMET Test exercise shall be carried out twice per year. The exercise which was planned to take place in November 2005 was postponed and will now take place on a date between the 2-14 February 2006. Patrick Simon will liaise with Philippe Husson (co-ordinator of the VA SIGMET Test) .

The test imply confirmation from all the MWOs and ACCs that the FV messages were received. The concerned MWOs will issue the corresponding VA SIGMET which are to be sent to the responsible MOTNE centre which will distribute them to all MOTNE centres and VAACs.

#### **Agenda Item 9 – TAF Validity Period Changes**

It was recalled that the group adopted the format for the METNO message to be used for the TAF validity changes announcement. The procedure will be updated accordingly.

Action BMG24-9-1: The BMG Focal Point will update the EUR OPMET Update Procedure to include provisions for the announcement of TAF validity period changes.

Romania announced that starting from 15<sup>th</sup> January 2006 will switch to the TAF validity periods according to the EURANP. The corresponding change will be announced via the METNO procedure.

Austria informed that the change of the TAF validity periods will be done in synchronisation with the change of long TAF validity from 18 to 24 hours and is planned for the beginning of 2006.

Also, the group was informed that Greece will proceed in the next period to the TAF validity change as well.

Action BMG24-9-2: States who plan the change of the TAF validity period shall announce that according to the EUR OPMET Procedure.

#### **Agenda Item 10 – Any other business**

The group was informed that the MOTNE centre Vienna will install a new MSS. The change is planned for the end of November, and will be completed on 28 Nov. 2005. The change of the MSS will introduce also the new request/reply procedure (according to the EUR OPMET DB Specification), while the old format will still be kept until the end of 2007. It was noted that the old format would be accessed using a RQX message.

The group was informed about the meteorological radar data exchange in BUFR format by the Russian Federation with other states in the region.

A BMG sub-meeting concerning the Problem Handling Procedure will attend in Brussels or in the Netherlands during January. Confirmation of the location and dates of this meeting will be presented by the end of November.

Date and location of the next meeting.

The BMG/25 meeting was confirmed for 14-16 March in De Bilt.

United Kingdom will come with a proposal for the date and location of BMG/26 meeting. Provisional dates will be presented to the group by the end of November.

**List of actions**

<b>Ag.Item/BMG</b>	<b>Action item</b>	<b>Responsible</b>	<b>Target date</b>
5/22	Inventory of data from the AMBEX region	P Simon	BMG/25
8/22	Produce an inventory list of WV bulletins with same AAii for different FIRs	H Swinnen	BMG/25
BMG23-4-1	Investigate UAAA (Almaty) availability	M. Pichler	BMG/25
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.		On-going
BMG23-5-4	Prepare a listing of data requested from DBs	ODAG	BMG/24
BMG23-6-3	Obtain info on Rome MOTNE centre AFTN distribution address	K. Loy	BMG/25
BMG24-4-1	Take responsive actions to address the METNO non-compliant data.	MOTNE Centres	BMG/25
BMG24-4-2	BMG FP to enquire to ICAO Paris about progress of SAM data requests.	H Swinnen	BMG/25
BMG24-4-2a	Contact ASIA/PAC for SIGMET routing check	M Pichler	
BMG24-4-3	BMG FP to indicate to SADISOPSG & METG of user requests for data not currently included within the requirements	H Swinnen	SADISOPSG/11 METG /16
BMG24-4-4	Future PIs to include results for EGGY AFTN	J Randall	BMG/25
BMG24-4-5	Investigation plan for timeliness improvement	Austria Belgium Switzerland UK The Netherlands	BMG/25
BMG24-4-6	Distribution of FV bulletins to the MOTNE centres by VAACs (instead of Vienna)	Austria France UK	Feb 2006 monitoring
BMG24-4-7	Recording of originator and distribution of non-EUR SIGMETs during monitoring	All states	Feb 2006 monitoring
BMG24-5-1	Comment on MSS Toulouse syntax checking	BMG members	End Nov. 2006
BMG24-5-2	Monitoring of SIGMETs from Russian Federation	Russian Fed. All states	Feb 2006 monitoring
BMG24-5-3	Proposal for the rationalisation of MOTNE centres	K. Loy	BMG/25
BMG24-5-4	Actions resulting from WPg 5 – OPMET distribution problems	MOTNE centres	Feb 2006 monitoring
BMG24-5-5	The UK to update monitoring software to capture FIR/UIR on FA, WA, WC and WV data types	J Randall	Feb 2006 monitoring
BMG24-6-1	Modify the EHDB monitoring to record NIL	A. den Uijl	Feb 2006 monitoring
BMG24-6-2	The Netherlands, Belgium and UK to send PI monitoring results to BMG FP and UK	Belgium, Netherlands, UK	After Feb 2006 monitoring
BM24-7-1	Submit proposed changes to EUR OPMET Handbook in soft copy to M Pichler	H Swinnen	November 2005
BMG24-7-2	Query ICAO Paris on editorial status of Handbook	M Pichler	November 2005
BMG24-7-3	Accept Handbook changes proposed by France and Austria & distribute changes proposed by Belgium for comment	M Pichler	November 2005



BMG24-7-4	Verify the routing to Prague-Moscow of FVs from Anchorage	M. Pichler	
BMG24-9-1	Amend the EUR Update procedure for TAF validity changes announcement	H. Swinnen	Nov. 2005
BMG24-9-2	Announce the TAF validity changes	Austria Romania	