

REPORT OF THE BULLETIN MANAGEMENT GROUP

TWENTYSIXTH MEETING

(Edinburgh, 29-30 June 2006)

List of participants

Mr. Roland Elentner	Austria
Mr. Herman Swinnen	Belgium
Mr. Wim Demol	Belgium
Mr. Johnny Funder	Denmark
Mr. Patrick Simon	France
Mr. Bernd Richter	Germany
Mrs. Annemiek den Uijl	Netherlands
Mr. John Syer	Norway
Mrs. Valentina Laletina	Russian Federation
Mrs. Concepcion Callejas	Spain
Mr. Juerg Spaar	Switzerland
Ms. Joanne Andrew	UK
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. Information from other groups
4. EUR OPMET Data Update procedure and data monitoring and reporting.
5. Addressing of EUR and Non-EUR OPMET data
6. SIGMET Issues
 - Volcanic Ash
7. Documentation
 - a) EUR OPMET Data Management Handbook
 - i) Current v Future collection/distribution
 - b) PHP
8. METAR/TAF Timeliness
9. Papers for METG
10. AOB
 - Next Annex 3 Amd.

Agenda Item 2: Actions from the previous meeting

The list of actions established at the end of BMG/25 was revised. The completed tasks were erased from the list.

Agenda Item 3: Information from other groups

IP 2 SADISOPSG/11 Summary of discussions

VA Working Group

The VA Group was set-up to deal with the disruptions encountered during the last VA monitoring exercise. The members of the group are France (including Patrick Simon), UK, ICAO and EUROCONTROL.

The group is split into two sub-groups. The first one is to deal with the meteorological bulletin distribution, while the 2nd one is to deal with the NOTAMS and the relation to the ATC.

Action plans derived by the group will be discussed under Agenda Item 6.

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

WP 15 – BMG Activity Report

Action BMG 26-4-1: Belgium and UK will work together to compile the Activity report that will be presented to the next METG meeting.

IP 5 – AIRAC 06/07/2006 EUR OPMET Data Modification Acceptance

The group was informed about the changes and special attention was asked for the changes in the Russian Federation SIGMETs.

WP 17 – EUR SIGMET Format Monitoring

The group was presented with a proposal for the amendment of the specifications of the monitoring tool, in order to ensure a properly monitoring of the SIGMET messages in the new format adopted since the issuance of ICAO Amendment 73 Annex 3.

The issue was further discussed under Agenda Item 6, IP01 and WP 16.

WP 8 – RQM Monitoring

There was presented a review of the RQM monitoring performed by the three databanks. In order to address the problems that were highlighted, the following actions have been agreed by the group:

Action BMG 26-4-2: Austria will check the routing of LTBA data to Ukraine.

Action BMG 26-4-3: Austria will provide UK with a list of the Canadian wrong format usage. The user will be informed (via NAVCANADA) and directed to conform to the database interrogation format, as defined by the ICD (available on the FTP servers). If the user fails to conform (within a specific period of time – fixed to the end of this year), this will be interpreted as misuse of the database and the user will be blocked.

Action BMG 26-4-4: For the EIDB requests, UK will check the routing tables to see if the data is distributed, and if affirmative, to investigate with EIDB if it is a timeliness issue that determines the routine requests.

Action BMG 26-4-5: Austria will provide the UK with details on the RCTP requests. The UK will confirm routing and, depending on the result, either route the data directly or query Singapore on why data is not being forwarded.

Austria raised the issue on whether it is necessary to restrict the distribution of the SYNOP data via AFTN. The correct path of addressing should be explored through the WMO. Details accumulated on the volume, statistics, etc are to be provided by the Austrian and Belgium databanks. Belgium also noted that they received requests for TEMP and CLIMAT messages. These are not ICAO code forms and in theory should not be transported using ICAO infrastructure. However, for the moment, no action by the group is considered necessary.

IP 4: Decommission of SITA-MOTNE Gateway Vienna

The group was informed about the disruption of the SITA – AFTN Gateway to the Vienna Databank by the end of 2006.

WP 13: OPMET-DB Availability Monitoring

Different from the previous 7 monitoring exercises, at the latest one the FASID tables were used instead of the SUG Annex 1. As these include a lot more airports, the results of the monitoring dropped and can not be compared anymore with the previous results.

Vienna informed the group that a considerable amount of data not compliant to the ICAO format are received at the databank, which induces workload for the operator. It is the case of the FT bulletins from US that contain reports from airports with no valid ICAO location indicator. Those bulletins are routinely recompiled by EGGY and distributed to the MOTNE centres, but additionally they are received by some MOTNE centres via GTS. The disruption of the distribution of these data was not agreed, as it was considered to be of meteorological importance to some centres. Instead, the routing tables should be revised such to ensure that the non-compliant data are NOT inserted into the ICAO systems (databank and network).

Action BMG 26-4-6: Austria and Germany to revise the routing tables in order to ensure that US FT bulletins (FTUSxx KWxx) are not circulated via AFTN and inserted into the databanks.

Action BMG26-4-7: The UK to liaise with WAFC London to correct routing and ensure that non-ICAO compliant data entering ICAO networks is kept to a minimum

It was noted that for several examples, the FASID tables are wrong and consequently the availability indices are low. It was agreed to investigate how many instances are where production does not match the requirements and notify ICAO in order to address the problem.

Action BMG26-4-8: Wim Demol and Patrick Simon to compare databank reception with the requirements and prepare a WP to METG to ask for the review of the FASID Tables and get this document changed accordingly.

Agenda Item 5

WP 2: Towards a future EUR OPMET Data Exchange

The Netherlands presented a paper outlining the view that any changes to the MOTNE system must be based on an all encompassing review of the roles, responsibilities, tasks/functions and technology. Furthermore, any changes to the MOTNE system or organisation must be approved by the parent group (METG). On the whole, the group agreed with the content of this paper, however members were reminded that the group, through WPkg 10, had been given a mandate by the METG to review the MOTNE system and organisation.

WP 6: Impact of the number of MOTNE Centres in a PENS/AMHS Environment

The group was presented with a draft evaluation on how the number of MOTNE centres would impact the efficiency and cost of the meteorological data exchange within the EUR region, with regards to network traffic load, in the context of AMHS/PEN.

The group agreed on the need for the system review, and stressed the need for taking into account the other issues that have impact, apart from the network bandwidth requirements.

Action BMG 26-5-1: The review will be done under the WPkg 10 (MOTNE Centres Review) by a small working group lead by the UK and composed of Austria, France, The Netherlands and Switzerland. The group shall come up with a draft presentation to BMG28 (march 2007).

WP 14: AFS Back-up procedures

Austria made a brief presentation of the options for AFS backup that had been presented earlier to the AFSG OG. This paper provided background to WP07 – MOTNE Back-up procedures.

WP 07: MOTNE Back-up procedures

Following on from WP14, Austria presented a series of proposals performing a MOTNE centre backup and therefore improving the resilience of the MOTNE system. While the group accepted the need for backup procedures it felt that the back-up issues (at different levels – MET, AFS, etc) shall be dealt with under the WPkg 10, as an additional issue that should be taken into account in the process of the system re-organising.

WP 11: IROG Toulouse

The group was presented with the problems being experienced by IROG Toulouse in obtaining missing AFI region data. A list of the missing data was presented with the suggestion that a request for all missing data will be presented at METG to try and solve the problem through the regional planning groups.

Action BMG 26-5-2: France will present METG a paper that rises the issue of data that is missing from Africa in order to address this problem through ICAO RPG.

Agenda Item 6

IP 01: Amendment 73 SIGMET Compliance

The group was presented with the results of a monitoring performed at the SADIS Gateway between 16-29 May 2006.

The group was informed about the SADISOPSG decision to update the SADIS Gateway Operations Handbook in relation to validating the new SIGMET format only after a threshold of 80% compliance is reached. The results highlighted that the threshold was a long way off.

WP 16: ICAO Amd 73 An 3 SIGMET Format Survey

The group was presented with the conclusion of a SIGMET Format survey which took place at the EBBR AFTN/CIDIN centre between 27/04 00:00 till 11/05/2006. A listing of all received bulletins was presented, followed by examples of non-compliant format recorded.

Action BMG 26-6-1: For the updating of the EUR SIGMET Guide: Kevin Loy will discuss off-line at METG with Guillermo Vega to check whether and when is planned the updating of the document. A draft proposal for the amendment of the relevant sections (prepared by Herman Swinnen) will be forwarded.

Action BMG 26-6-2: For the updating of the EUR OPMET Handbook: Patrick Simon and Kevin Loy will work together for a proposal of amending sections 11.2.4 and 11.3.4 (Validation + Correction Procedures) to be presented to the next BMG meeting.

Action BMG 26-6-3: For the updating of the monitoring tool specifications: James Randall and Herman Swinnen will co-ordinate to identify what is the minimum requirement and what is optional in relation with the new SIGMET format monitoring. A trial be performed during the September monitoring, and the results presented to BMG 27 (October 2006).

Action BMG 26-6-4: For the updating of the SIGMET monitoring documentation: Roland Elentner will cross-check in the monitoring procedure if the details are in-line with the new format.

Action BMG 26-6-5: UK and Belgium (Kevin Loy, James Randall and Herman Swinnen) will work together to produce a paper on the issue of the EUR SIGMET compliance (including figures and examples) based on the results of the last monitoring performed. This paper will be presented to the METG.

WP 10: VAAC Toulouse

The group was informed about the planned actions regarding future tests on VA.

There is a proposal to make a reference in the OPMET handbook stating how the VA addressing is performed, both to support a new structure of the FASID Table 3 and to provide an understanding of how the distribution from the VAACs and MWO should take place. A table of addressing be made available on the non-public part of the BMG FTP sites to be used by the BMG members and ICAO MET Technical officers only. Means for efficient updating of the table should be taken into account.

Action BMG 26-6-6: All MOTNE centres verify by the end of July the routing table that was distributed on the 8th June by Patrick and ensure proper routing for the test in September.

Action BMG 26-6-7: Provide information to Guillermo Vega on the content of the state letter.

Action BMG 26-6-8: In order to avoid the risk that the state letter will not reach everyone, Patrick will inform by e-mail the BMG group members in advance of the content of the state letter (for their use or to inform the responsible operational personnel).

Agenda Item 7

WP 12: OPMET Data Management Handbook

Action BMG 26-7-1: Belgium and Netherlands (Herman Swinnen, Wim Demol, Annemiek den Uijl) will work together to edit the appendices to the Handbook. After revision, these will be made available in PDF format to be published on the ICAO website by September.

WP 09: Problem Handling Procedure : implementation plan

The group was informed that there is a green light to move ahead with the implementation of the PHP by using an adapted version of the Belgocontrol trouble ticketing system. Also, the implementation schedule proposed at BMG/25 can be maintained : test system ready by March 2007, fully operational by BMG/30.

Agenda Item 8

WP 05: An Index to Measure Timeliness

The group was presented with a proposal for addressing the timeliness quantification. Although the timeliness measurement was identified as technically feasible, there were highlighted a number of issues that need clarification before proceeding with the implementation.

The group agreed that a simplified model on a smaller basis should be run initially, and based on the corresponding results further interpretations be clarified and refinements applied to the procedure.

WP 03: Timeliness of Regular Bulletins in the EUR region

Action BMG 26-8-1: It was proposed that a paper should be presented to METG regarding the concerns of the BMG in respect to timeliness. The paper shall illustrate also the stage that was reached and ask for clarification on the specific issues like network transit times, compilation times, etc.

Agenda Item 10

WP 4: Proposals for the amendment 74 of Annex 3

The group reviewed a list of proposal related to Amendment 74 to Annex 3. The following were agreed for each proposal in the WP:

- **New GAMET Format:** The paper suggested that the amendment should take the opportunity to align the AIRMET, GAMET and SIGMET formats with regards to the second line after the AHL. Patrick informed that this proposal was already included in the comments forwarded to the CAA. The group agreed that the proposal was sensible, however the meteorological content of messages was beyond the remit of the BMG and, in any case, the BMG may not comment officially on amendments to Annex 3. Any suggestions that the BMG may have must be submitted through the member states in the normal manner.
- **For the introduction of the new TT=WN (for "Nuclear SIGMET"),** the group raised the following
 - There is no support provided by the doc. 386 (Manual on the GTS)
 - The change was evaluated as important, with major impact on existing switching systems and databanks

Consequently, no action was agreed on this issue.

- **TAF validity format change:** Belgium expressed concern that this change will impact the functioning of the databank in Brussels.

Action BMG 26-10-1: Annemiek den Uijl will contact Guillermo Vega, on behalf of The Netherlands, to request the opportunity to submit a late state response related to the proposal of the new format of the GAMET messages.

Action BMG 26-10-2: Wim Demol will investigate the impact of the new TAF validity format on the databank functioning and will check whether the ICD and Database Specification documents are in line with the new format. Appropriate action by the group is expected according to the results.

New Norwegian SIGMETs.

The group was presented with a listing of a new Norwegian SIGMET structure, which is planned to be introduced later this year. The new structure means that the ATSU indicator in the first line and the FIR indicator in the second line of the SIGMETs will be different. The meeting agreed that the structure strictly conform to the current Annex 3 specifications. Nevertheless, it was highlighted that currently the SIGMET messages are stored into the databanks according to the ATSU indicator in the first line, not on the FIR on the second line. This is also a consequence of the low level of implementation of the new format (most MWO use the same CCCC for ATSU and FIR indicator).

The BMG group will at this time, advice Norway not to introduce the new Sigmet structure, even though it conforms with Annex 3 and the ATSU indicators to be used are valid and listed in ICAO Doc 7910.

Action BMG 26-10-3: ODAG to analyse the impact of the Amendment 73 to Annex 3 (example Norwegian SIGMETs) to the ICD and Database Specification Document.

Uniform procedures in ASIA/PAC region

The group was informed that some States from Asia ICAO region use validity times 01-10, 04-13, etc for 9-hour TAFs instead of 00-09, etc., which is contrary to the ANP. The Russian Federation had expressed it's willingness to bring it in correspondence with the ANP requirements for the time of compilation and dissemination of 9-hour TAFs for the East part (behind Ural) of the Russian Federation.

Action BMG 26-10-4: The procedures for the announcement (via METNO) of the short TAF compliance with ANP (changes to the validity period) should be communicated to ICAO ASIA/PAC Office in order to propose that similar procedures be applied in ASIA Region.

Dates and location of the next meetings.

The BMG/27 meeting was proposed to be held on the second week of October in Brussels – (exact dates to be confirmed).

The BMG/28 meeting was proposed for 20-22 March 2007 in Germany (Hamburg/Langen)

The BMG/29 meeting was proposed for 12-14 June 2007 in Moscow.

Papers

The draft report of the meeting should be available by 04.07.2006. The comments are expected until 14.07.2006. The version of the report including the amendments will be circulated for one more week and after that the final version will be endorsed.

For the next meeting all working papers should be submitted at least two weeks in advance for a better preparation of the meeting.

List of papers for METG

- Activity report, including:
 - statistics on the TAF validity changes
 - reference 4 of the tasklist (converting attachments to the Handbook into database format)
 - reference to the Work Package 10 (MOTNE centres review)
- Missing data from AFI Region (Patrick)
- EUR SIGMET compliance inventory (James, Kevin and Herman)
- Timeliness issue (James, Annemiek and Kevin). Concern, stage of achievement, clarification.
- The ODAG paper. Wim will produce and Patrick will present. Shall include
 - a proposal for FASID amendment based on the comparison of databank reception against requirements
 - Impact on the databanks of the new SIGMET format

List of actions

Ag.Item/BMG	Action item	Responsible	Target date
BMG24-7-4	Verify the routing to Prague-Moscow of FVs from Anchorage	M. Pichler	To be dealt with
BMG25-4-4	Action plan for ASIA/PAC SIGMET improvement	Austria France UK	On-going
BMG25-6-2	Provide list of missing data	James Randall	On going
	Contact Italy, Turkey, Azerbaijan for missing data	MOTNE centres	
BMG25-6-3	Segmentation of US long bulletins – check/dubble-check data	Belgium UK	BMG27
BMG25-6-4	Address missing data from MID region	Austria UK	On-going
BMG25-6-5	SADIS monitoring - NIL report recording	UK Netherlands	On-going
BMG25-8-1	Obtain details on SES concept from ICAO	K.Loy	BMG27
BMG25-8-7	Confirm support for PHP implementation	Belgium	BMG27
BMG25-8-8	Handbook update prior to publishing	Austria	
BMG25-9-2	Timeliness improvement resulted from sept+feb monitoring	P. Simon	BMG26
BMG 26-4-1	Activity report for METG	H. Swinnen K. Loy	METG/16
BMG 26-4-2	Check routing of LTBA data to Ukraine	R. Elentner	BMG 27
BMG 26-4-3	Address the Canadian wrong formatted requests	R. Elentner K. Loy	BMG 27
BMG 26-4-4	Address EIDB request (timeliness issue ?)	UK	BMG 27
BMG 26-4-5:	Austria will provide the UK with details on the RCTP requests. The UK will confirm routing	R Elentner K Loy	BMG 27
BMG 26-4-6	Avoid routing of FTUSxx Kxxx to the dbank	R. Elentner B. Richter	BMG 27
BMG26-4-7:	The UK to liaise with WAFC London to correct routing and ensure that non-ICAO compliant data entering ICAO networks is kept to a minimum	K Loy	BMG 27
BMG 26-4-8	Compare dbank reception with requirement and prepare paper for FASID amendment	W. Demol P. Simon	METG/16
BMG 26-5-1	WPkg 10 – MOTNE System Review	Austria France UK Netherland Switzerland	BMG/28
BMG 26-5-2	Paper to address missing data from AFI	France	METG/16
BMG 26-6-1	Discussion on EUR SIGMET Guide Amendment	H. Swinnen K. Loy	METG/16
BMG 26-6-2	EUR OPMET Hdbook amendment related to SIGMET format	P. Simon K. Loy	BMG/27

BMG 26-6-3	Updating of monitoring tool specification related to SIGMET format	H. Swinnen J. Randall	BMG/27
BMG 26-6-4	SIGMET monitoring documentation updating	R. Elentner	Next monitoring
BMG 26-6-5	Paper to METG on SIGMET compliance with new format	H. Swinnen J. Randall K. Loy	METG/16
BMG 26-6-6	Check VA Routing	MOTNE Centres	September
BMG 26-6-7	Provide ICAO with content of State letter	P. Simon	September
BMG 26-6-8	Provide info on state letter content to BMG members	P. Simon	September
BMG 26-7-1	Edit the Handbook Appendices	A. den Uijl H. Swinnen W. Demol	BMG/27
BMG 26-8-1	Paper to METG on timeliness accomplishment	A. den Uijl J. Randall K. Loy	METG/16
BMG 26-10-1	Contact ICAO on GAMET format update	A. den Uijl	BMG/27
BMG 26-10-2	Check database specification for TAF validity	W. Demol	BMG/27
BMG 26-10-3	Check ICD and database specification on new SIGMET format (example: Norwegian FIRs)	ODAG	BMG/27
BMG 26-10-4	Inform ICAO Bangkok on METNO procedure for TAF validity changes	K. Loy V. Laletina	BMG/27