

# REPORT OF THE BULLETIN MANAGEMENT GROUP

## TWENTYSEVENTH MEETING

(Brussels, 03-05 October 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. Elena Glukhovskaya	Russian Federation
Mr. Juerg Spaar	Switzerland
Mr. James Randall	UK
Mr. Laurentiu Brojboiu	Romania (Sec.)

### 0. Agenda

1. Approval of the Agenda
2. Actions from previous meeting
3. Information from other groups
  - METG/16
4. EUR OPMET Data Update procedure and data monitoring and reporting.
  - Routine
  - Non-routine
  - Volcanic-ash
5. Addressing of EUR and Non-EUR OPMET data
6. Performance indices
7. SIGMET Issues
8. Documentation
  - a) EUR OPMET Data Management Handbook
    - i) Issue 1.03
    - ii) Appendices
  - b) PHP
9. METAR/TAF Timeliness Indices
10. TAF changes – Amendment 74 to Annex 3
11. AOB

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

The list of actions established at the end of BMG/26 was revised. The completed tasks mentioned below were erased from the list.

BMG25-6-2	Provide list of missing data	James Randall	Closed
BMG25-6-3	Segmentation of US long bulletins – check/double-check data	Belgium UK	Closed
BMG25-8-8	Handbook update prior to publishing	Austria	Closed
BMG25-9-2	Timeliness improvement resulted from sept+feb monitoring	P. Simon	Closed
BMG 26-4-1	Activity report for METG	H. Swinnen K. Loy	Closed
BMG 26-4-6	Avoid routing of FTUSxx Kxxx to the dbank	R. Elentner B. Richter	Closed
BMG 26-4-8	Compare dbank reception with requirement and prepare paper for FASID amendment	W. Demol P. Simon	Closed
BMG 26-5-2	Paper to address missing data from AFI	France	Closed
BMG 26-6-1	Discussion on EUR SIGMET Guide Amendment	H. Swinnen K. Loy	Closed
BMG 26-6-3	Updating of monitoring tool specification related to SIGMET format	H. Swinnen J. Randall	Closed
BMG 26-6-4	SIGMET monitoring documentation updating	R. Elentner	Closed
BMG 26-6-5	Paper to METG on SIGMET compliance with new format	H. Swinnen J. Randall K. Loy	Closed
BMG 26-6-6	Check VA Routing	MOTNE Centres	Closed
BMG 26-6-7	Provide ICAO with content of State letter	P. Simon	Closed
BMG 26-6-8	Provide info on state letter content to BMG members	P. Simon	Closed
BMG 26-7-1	Edit the Handbook Appendices	A. den Uijl H. Swinnen W. Demol	Closed
BMG 26-8-1	Paper to METG on timeliness accomplishment	A. den Uijl J. Randall K. Loy	Closed
BMG 26-10-1	Contact ICAO on GAMET format update	A. den Uijl	Closed
BMG 26-10-2	Check database specification for TAF validity	W. Demol	Closed
BMG 26-10-4	Inform ICAO Bangkok on METNO procedure for TAF validity changes	K. Loy V. Laletina	Closed

### **Agenda Item 3: Information from other groups**

#### *METG/16 Summary of discussions*

The group was presented the subjects and conclusions resulting from the METG/16 meeting (Sept. 2006), with special attention to the ones that concern the BMG activities. The group noted that the METG/16 Summary of Discussions was still draft and subject to change.

The following items were discussed:

- The permanent provision of PNG format WAFS SIGWX charts in parallel with the BUFR format charts.
- A proposal for the Amendment concerning the format of FASID Table MET 3B
- A proposal for the BMG to maintain the addressing of VAA distribution by a procedure to be defined.
- The proposals from IROG Toulouse for improving the availability of data from the AFI Region
- ICAO to request states to comply to correct SIGMET format and a proposal for the use of a closed line to describe the area of phenomena in SIGMET/AIRMET.
- ICAO EUR/NAT office to invite EUR States to review compilation time of OPMET information and the BMG to present to the METG/17 statistics on timeliness
- BMG to study the implications of TAFs with varying validity periods and report to METG/17.
- BMG to continue work on PHP and present results to METG/17
- ICAO to update the EUR SIGMET Guide and publish it
- For the alignment of EUR ANP with Annex 3 Amd. 74 (30 hr TAF and discontinuation of two parallel TAF valid simultaneously) a Project Team (France, Germany, Netherlands, Sweden, BMG Rapporteur, ICAO) was established to work on it and report to METG/17
- ICAO initiate an Amendment proposal to the EUR ANP / FASID to update the MET regional req.

#### *METG/16 Working programme for BMG*

- With regard to the VA SIGMET tests, addressing and monitoring procedures, it was considered that these tasks are contained in the ref. 1 of the Work Programme. Patrick Simon will prepare for BMG28 a working paper on these subjects.
- It was agreed that the work programme should cover all the BMG work, as it serves also as a justification to the local administrations of the work of the BMG members. In particular, it was agreed that should be requested that the work programme to be revised in order to include explicit provisions on the PHP task of the BMG.

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

#### *IP 3 – AIRAC 26/10/2006 EUR OPMET Data Modifications Request*

The proposal for the changes announced by the METNO bulletin corresponding to 26 Oct cycle was presented to the group.

#### *WP 3 – SIGMET Monitoring*

The partial results of the latest SIGMET monitoring exercise in September 2006 were presented to the group. The action plans will be derived after all the monitoring results are gathered. It was noted that because of a configuration error in Prague, the Russian Federation bulletins with  $i \geq 32$  were not further routed. This explains the absence of these SIGMETs from the majority of centres. After the test, the routing problem was solved and consequently the Russian Federation bulletins were confirmed to be routed.

The SIGMET monitoring exercises are usually planned for the first day of the regular monitoring exercises. In future this could happen to be on a weekend day. It was discussed on the ability of centres to perform monitoring on these days, or the days after based on logged data. As this is an issue for 2008 dates, the problem was left open and a decision will be made at the next meetings.

### *Regular monitoring exercise*

Action BMG 27-4-1: Herman will produce and distribute to the MOTNE centres the Work Packages (also be published on the FTP sites).

#### *IP 1: Usage of validity times for 9-hour TAFs*

The group was informed that, as concluded at BMG 26, a letter was sent to ICAO ASIA/PAC Office in order to inform about the procedure used in the EUR Region to announce the 9 hour TAF validity period changes (to conform to the ANP). A response containing FC Table B2 from the Robex Handbook was received, highlighting that correct validity times are used in ASIA Region.

It was noted also that there are still monitored short TAFs from the EUR Region which are not compliant with the validity periods in the EUR ANP provisions. The representatives of Germany and Switzerland informed that actions have been taken for ensuring compliance. Nevertheless, particular cases were noted related to military airports and also some airports which are not H24 operational. This later case should be taken into account by the group established to analyse the impact of Annex 3 Amd 74 on TAF hours.

Action BMG-27-4-2: P. Simon to inform the Project Team established for analysing the alignment of EUR ANP with Amd 74 on TAF hours, about the particular case of airports not operated H24.

### *VA Testing*

The group was informed about the preliminary results of the VA test exercise that took place in September 2006. Although the participation was improved, it was noted that there still were absences. The main reason for this was not considered a refusal to participate, but rather put on the difficulty with which the ICAO state letter reaches (in some states) the operational people involved in running the test. This will be brought into attention to the next meeting of the VA subgroup meeting (Iceland, Oct. 2006) in order to find additional, more efficient means to distribute the information.

The group was informed that a new VA test is planned for February 2007 (details to be established at previous mentioned meeting).

The group agreed that VA SIGMETs (WV) distribution could be monitored in the future by BMG, in conjunction with regular SIGMETs (WS) monitoring exercises performed.

Action BMG 27-4-3: P. Simon to inform the VA subgroup that BMG has the possibility to perform WV distribution monitoring in conjunction with regular monitoring exercises of WS bulletins.

Belgium proposed to exchange the OPMET update METNOs with other regions having a similar update procedure.

Action BMG 27-4-4: Herman Swinnen to prepare a WP for BMG28 on AIRAC METNO bulletin exchange with other ICAO Region(s).

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

#### *IP 2: Designation of Selected State Volcano Observatories in the Russian Federation*

The meeting was informed about the designation of the selected State Volcano Observatories in the Russian Federation, as follows

- For the EUR part of Russian Federation: MWO Saint Petersburg/Pulkovo (ULLI)
- For the Eastern part of Russian Federation: MWO Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky /Yelizovo (UHPP)

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Action BMG 27-5-1: H. Swinnen will provide a list of duplicated data to the IROGs. After analysing the list, a task should be derived to ensure that inter-regional data are processed efficient.

### **Agenda Item 6 – Performance Indices**

Although without much indication on this matter, the METG/16 meeting requested BMG to perform statistics on OPMET data timeliness and present them to METG/17. Under these circumstances, the group agreed that a methodology for timeliness calculation should be established first.

Action BMG27-6-1: H. Swinnen and J. Randall will prepare a proposal for OPMET data timeliness calculation methodology. This proposal will be discussed at the next BMG meeting (28).

Based on the methodology agreed at BMG/28 and on the data monitored during the Feb. 2007 exercise, statistics will be derived and discussed at BMG 29 for presentation at METG/17.

Action BMG27-6-2: BMG to perform calculation of PIs related to timeliness based on Feb. 2007 monitoring data and discuss the results at BMG 29 (for preparing the presentation at METG/17).

### **Agenda Item 7 – SIGMET Issues**

#### *WP 06: Usage of unique TTAAii headers for SIGMET messages in the Russian Federation*

Following the conclusion of BMG 25, the Russian Federation has addressed all the SIGMET headers in order to provide an unique TTAAii for each FIR. These changes became effective on 6 July 2006.

In the provided list, there were noted some missing headers for the WV bulletins. These headers will be made available soon. If these were not already officially announced, they will be announced by using the METNO procedure.

Action BMG 27-7-1: Russian Federation to complete the list with missing WV headers (and announce via METNO, if necessary).

Action BMG 27-7-2: H. Swinnen and K. Loy to check whether the changes to the Russian Federation SIGMET headers are included in the Appendix E to the METG/16 SoD. If negative, K. Loy to inform ICAO Paris about the changes and ask for inclusion in the EUR SIGMET Guide Amendment.

Action BMG 27-7-3: IROG London to check whether routing is in place to ensure proper distribution of the new SIGMET bulletins.

#### *WP 4: ICAO Amd 73 An 3 SIGMET Format Survey*

Following a conclusion of BMG 25 meeting, the BMG FP has upgraded the monitoring tool in order to register and validate the syntax of SIGMET bulletins against the Amd 73 provisions. The results of the SIGMET Format survey which took place at the EBBR AFTN/CIDIN centre between 01-14/09/2006 were presented to the group. There were also listed examples of most used non-compliant format recorded.

Although the level of compliance of the European SIGMETs has improved and is considered relatively high, many of the SIGMETs originated from other regions still are non-compliant.

With regard to the definition of the 80% threshold of valid messages, requested by SADISOPSG for the implementation of the new validation procedures, it was noted that it refers to 80% of all the SIGMET messages received (not MWOs) from all the regions.

Action BMG 27-7-4: Based on the WP4 results, P. Simon and K. Loy will prepare a paper for BMG/28 related to SIGMET validation criteria to be used. P. Simon will include also examples of validation criteria used by the MOTNE centre Toulouse for validation of internal (French) SIGMET bulletins.

Action BMG 27-7-5: ODAG will present to the next BMG a paper on criteria for storing the SIGMET messages in the databanks.

### **Agenda Item 8 - Documentation**

#### *WP 2: BMG Analyser Specification Updates*

The group was presented with a proposal for the update of the analysis tool specifications to include provisions for recording additional fields from the SIGMET messages. The group reviewed the proposal and endorsed it.

Action BMG 27-8-1: J. Randall will update the Data Monitoring Tool Specification to include the proposals from H. Swinnen. The new issue of the document will be distributed to BMG members and presented to BMG/28.

#### *EUR OPMET Data Management Handbook*

Some small corrections were effected, as follows:

- Delete Appendix H (BMG Database extract) from the Inventory
- Include Switzerland into BMG members list, correct GOS to Russian Federation.
- Include Mr. M. Pichler (Austria) in the contact list.

- Include FIR indicator in all SIGMET examples
- SIGMET end AIRMET Validation (11.2.4): ATSU must be a valid four letter ICAO location indicator
- Include “to be completed” for AIREP exchange chapter.

The resulting version (1.04) will be presented to ICAO for publication.

Action BMG 27-8-2: R. Elentner will make the above corrections and submit the handbook (v. 1.4) to ICAO Paris in order to be published on the ICAO website.

A proposal was made for the update of the diagram “Relation between BMG and other ICAO groups” to include also the IAVWOPSG. The group agreed that this should be first checked with ICAO Secretariat.

Action BMG 27-8-3: K. Loy to check with ICAO Secretariat whether reference to IAVWOPSG is to be included into the EUR OPMET Handbook.

The group agreed that the handbook updates should be discussed also at the next BMG meetings.

Action BMG 27-8-4: The Rapporteur to keep the EUR OPMET Handbook issues on the following BMG Meetings Agenda.

#### *EUR OPMET Handbook Appendices*

##### *WP5 Review of Appendix E*

*The group agreed that the following changes should be in place:*

- *A version number on the front page*
- *The document change record should be started with version 1.0*
- *The document circulation referred to ICAO should be [www.paris.icao.int](http://www.paris.icao.int)*
- *DAAA has asked to be deleted from the distribution list for NOBX98/99 EBBR bulletins*
- *The version number on the information table should be deleted*

Action BMG 27-8-5: The Rapporteur to revise all Appendices prior to publication.

### **Agenda Item 10 – TAF Changes – Amendment 74 to Annex 3**

The group agreed that the changes could have a serious impact on the way that the messages are stored and extracted from the databanks.

Action BMG27-10-1: ODAG will prepare a paper for the next BMG meeting on the issues related to the impact of the changes to the storage/retrieval procedures. The paper could be forwarded by the BMG to the Project Team for consideration.

### **Agenda Item 11 – Any other business**

Austria informed the group that starting from Dec. 2007, Vienna databank will store the FV & FK messages.

M. Pichler will start attending the meeting again as from BMG/28.

The PHP inclusion as an Appendix to the Handbook is postponed after BMG/28, when more consistent provisions will be available.

As a matter of principle, for further actions, the absence of a response will be treated as a positive response.

### **Dates and location of the next meetings.**

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

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

### *Papers*

The draft report of the meeting should be available by 09/10/2006. The comments are expected until 20/10/2006. 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 to the Rapporteur ([Kevin.Loy@nats.co.uk](mailto:Kevin.Loy@nats.co.uk)) and to the Secretary ([laurentiu.brojboiu@romatsa.ro](mailto:laurentiu.brojboiu@romatsa.ro)) at least two weeks in advance, at circulated to all members one week prior to the meeting.



**List of actions**

<b>Ag.Item/BMG</b>	<b>Action item</b>	<b>Responsible</b>	<b>Target date</b>
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
	Contact Italy, Turkey, Azerbaijan for missing data	MOTNE centres	
BMG25-6-4	Address missing data from MID region	Austria UK	On-going
BMG25-6-5	SADIS monitoring - NIL report recording	UK Netherlands	BMG28
BMG25-8-1	Obtain details on SES concept from ICAO	K.Loy	BMG28
BMG25-8-7	Confirm support for PHP implementation	Belgium	BMG28
BMG 26-4-2	Check routing of LTBA data to Ukraine	R. Elentner	BMG 28
BMG 26-4-3	Address the Canadian wrong formatted requests	K. Loy	BMG 28
BMG 26-4-4	Address EIDB request (timeliness issue ?)	UK	BMG 28
BMG 26-4-5:	Austria will provide the UK with details on the RCTP requests. The UK will confirm routing	K Loy	BMG 28
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 28
BMG 26-5-1	WPkg 10 – OPMET Data Exchange	Austria France UK Netherlands Switzerland	BMG/28
BMG 26-6-2	EUR OPMET Hdbk amendment related to SIGMET format	P. Simon K. Loy	BMG/29
BMG 26-10-3	Check ICD and database specification on new SIGMET format (example: Norwegian FIRs)	ODAG	BMG/28
BMG27-4-1	WPkgs distributed to MOTNE centres (and FTP)	H. Swinnen	
BMG27-4-2	Inform the Project Team on the issue of TAFs for airports not operated H24	P. Simon	
BMG27-4-3	Announce the VA group that BMG is able to perform a WV routing test performed in conjunction with WS messages	P. Simon	Oct. 2006
BMG 27-4-4	Prepare a WP for BMG28 on AIRAC METNO bulletin exchange with other ICAO Region(s).	H. Swinnen	BMG/28
BMG27-5-1	List of duplicated data provided to IROGs to come up with a task for the proper addressing of inter-regional data	H. Swinnen	BMG/28
BMG27-6-1	Proposal for timeliness monitoring	H. Swinnen J. Randall	BMG/28
BMG27-6-2	Calculation of PIs related to timeliness (based on Feb monitoring).	BMG	BMG/29
BMG27-7-1	Complete the missing WV headers for Russian Federation	V. Laletina	BMG/28
BMG27-7-2	Contact ICAO Paris on modification of Russian Federation SIGMET headers (App. E to METG/16)	H.Swinnen K. Loy	BMG/28

	report)		
BMG27-7-3	IROG London to check whether routing is in place for the new SIGMET headers	J. Randall	BMG/28
BMG27-7-4	SIGMET validation criteria	P. Simon K.Loy	BMG/28
BMG27-7-5	Criteria for storing SIGMETs in the DBs	ODAG	BMG/28
BMG27-8-1	Update BMG Analyser specification (Herman comments)	J. Randall	BMG/28
BMG27-8-2	Update the Handbook to v. 1.4 and submit to ICAO	R. Elentner	BMG/28
BMG27-8-3	Check for need to include reference to IAVWOPSG into the Hdbk	K. Loy	BMG/28
BMG27-8-4	Keep hdbk amendment on the following BMG meetings agenda	K. Loy	On-going
BMG27-8-5	Review of the Hdbk Appendices	K. Loy	October 2006
BMG27-10-1	Paper with issues on issuing / validity hours of TAFs related to Amd 74	ODAG	BMG/28
BMG27-11-1	Algeria removed from the EUR update procedure tables	H. Swinnen	BMG/28
BMG27-11-2	Submit papers 2 wks in advance to Rap and Sec For issuing 1 wk before the meeting	BMG	On-going