

REPORT OF THE BULLETIN MANAGEMENT GROUP

TWENTY-EIGHTH MEETING

(Hamburg, 20-22 March 2007)

List of participants

Mr. Michael Pichler	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
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
 - Regularity
 - Timeliness
7. SIGMET Issues
 - Volcanic Ash
8. Documentation
 - a) EUR OPMET Data Management Handbook
 - i) Issue 1.03
 - ii) Appendices
 - b) PHP
 - c) SADIS User Guide Annex 1
9. TAF changes – Amendment 74 to Annex 3
10. AOB

Agenda Item 2: Actions from the previous meeting

The list of actions established at the end of BMG/27 was revised. The completed tasks mentioned below were erased from the list.

Ag.Item/BMG	Action item	Responsible	Target date
BMG24-7-4	Verify the routing to Prague-Moscow of FVs from Anchorage	M. Pichler	Solved
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	On-going
BMG25-8-1	Obtain details on SES concept from ICAO	K.Loy	BMG29
BMG25-8-7	Confirm support for PHP implementation	Belgium	Confirmed
BMG 26-4-2	Check routing of LTBA data to Ukraine	M. Pichler	BMG 29
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 29
BMG 26-4-5:	Austria will provide the UK with details on the RCTP requests. The UK will confirm routing	K Loy	Solved
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	WPg 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	Solved
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	Completed
BMG 27-4-4	Prepare a WP for BMG28 on AIRAC METNO bulletin exchange with other ICAO Region(s).	H. Swinnen	BMG/29
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 report)	H.Swinnen K. Loy	BMG/28
BMG27-7-3	IROG London to check whether routing is in place for the new SIGMET headers	J. Randall	BMG/29
BMG27-7-4	SIGMET validation criteria	P. Simon K.Loy	BMG/29

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/29
BMG27-8-2	Update the Handbook to v. 1.4 and submit to ICAO	R. Elentner	BMG/29
To be numbered BMG28-	To check with the ICAO Secretariat about the stages of papers submitted after Guillermo leaved.	K.Loy	BMG 29
BMG27-8-3	Check for need to include reference to IAVWOPSG into the Hdbk	K. Loy	Not needed (completed).
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	Completed
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	Completed
BMG27-11-2	Submit papers 2 wks in advance to Rap and Sec For issuing 1 wk before the meeting	BMG	On-going

Agenda Item 3: Information from other groups

It was noted that a request was made to BMG to reflect that the monitoring exercises carried on by the group aim to verify the disponibility of data, not the AFTN performance.

Action BMG-28-3-1: The PI documentation shall be modified in order to reflect that the terrestrial monitoring carried on by the BMG aims to compare the availability of data against the requirements in the FASID Tables (and not the performance of the network itself).

IP5 – CAeM Meeting

The group was informed about the discussions that took place at the CAeM XIII on the matter of migration from TAC to TDCF. After the presentation about perceived benefits, problems and opportunities arising from the proposed migration of OPMET data in the traditional alphanumeric codes (TAC) to Table Driven Code Forms (TDCF), the Commission considered that a review of the type and presentation format of the OPMET data including BUFR and XML was useful to identify the best approach to realize the benefits perceived by the Congress in the migration to TDCF and to justify the implementation cost. A CAeM expert team was tasked for this purpose and is expected to report to the Commission within 6 months.

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

WP 3 – METNO Overview

The latest version of the document was presented to the group, highlighting the modifications that were recorded since the last overview. It was mentioned that all the modifications are registered and are available on the FTP servers for study by the MOTNE centres. Statistics on the number of bulletins/reports that have been introduced or deleted following the procedure or not have also been presented to the group. Under the listing of the relevant activities concerning the update procedure, the members discussed in particular the case of a request for additional OPMET data

which has been addressed to ICAO Paris but no relevant answer has been received. Following the discussions, there were derived these conclusions:

Action BMG 28-4-1: Hermann to adjust the procedure to ensure that the form used for requesting additional data caters for both the Eur and non-Eur data as well.

Action BMG 28-4-2: Kevin will contact by e-mail Robert Krueger (ICAO Paris) who will act as an interim focal point and will investigate who is the responsible person(s) on the ICAO side to address the following issues:

- to check how the procedure is to be applied when there is a need to send a request for additional data to the concerning state (with particular case of the UKCM, Ukraine).
- to check the situation with the Eur SIGMET Guide Amendment on the basis of the email formerly sent to Guillermo Vega (the SIGMET Inventory, Herman). Also to check how to establish a procedure that these two lists can be synchronised in the future.
- To investigate the possibility of updating the documents on the ICAO website (The Handbook and Appendices).

Action BMG 28-4-3: Kevin and Herman to contact ICAO Montreal to find out what is the situation with the SUG Annex 1 updates.

WP02 Eur OPMET Data Update Procedure Deficiencies

The BMG FP has presented to the group a list of deficiencies encountered with the procedure, such as:

- distribution discontinuation of registered bulletins (without formal withdrawing)
- new reports monitored within registered bulletins (and not announced following the procedure)
- duplication of data (over several bulletins)
- intermediate METNO bulletins meant to announce urgent bulletins updates

The group discussed on these issues and agreed to the following:

Action BMG 28-4-4: Herman will circulate to the MOTNE Centres two lists (one with registered bulletins not monitored anymore and one with additional new reports monitored within registered bulletins) in addition to WPg8. These are to be analysed by the centres and comments sent back to the BMG FP, which will constitute the basis for a baseline of the registered bulletins.

WP04 SIGMET Monitoring

The paper presented the results of the SIGMET monitoring exercise on 01 Feb 2007. It was noted the high level of participation and based on the results, the corresponding action plans were derived. Also, it was noted the importance of the correct usage of the ii indicator in the SIGMET headers.

WP11 Monitoring Outcomes (Russian Federation)

The paper presented the deficiencies encountered for the SIGMET headers compiled by the Russian MWOs and the corrective actions that were undertaken. One such measure was to carry on an additional internal SIGMET monitoring to verify the proper usage of the AHL in the SIGMET bulletins.

The group appreciated again all the efforts made from the Russian Federation to ensure a high level of availability of data.

It was agreed that investigations shall be made to ensure that the changes announced via the METNO procedure are received and acknowledged by all the recipients, and that appropriate measures are taken for their implementation.

Action BMG 28-4-5: For METNO: Patrick will check WMO Volume C to see whether the NOBX bulletin is declared. If not, Belgium shall contact its National MET Centre to inform on it. This is to ensure that in areas where the reception is based on GTS, the centres also receive updates of the bulletins and routing is modified accordingly.

Action BMG 28-4-6: To arrange with ICAO for obtaining an ICAO document number for the EUR OPMET Handbook and after that a translation in Russian of the whole Handbook to be made available to all the states in the Russian Federation (and on the ICAO website).

WP06 VAAC Exercise February 2007

The group was presented with the details and the results of the VA Test that took place on 8th Feb 2007. The results showed a real improvement and were considered an overall success.

As a conclusion of the paper, it was proposed to the group to have a regular monitoring exercise for the routing of the WV SIGMETs, identical to the WS routing test. The group agreed on the following:

Action BMG 28-4-7: A VA routing test (of the WV and FV bulletins) be held on a regular basis in the first week of September, the day after the WS test (first Wednesday – the WS test; first Thursday – WV/FV test).

It was also mentioned that a complete test (simulating eruption and intended to test the procedures in place) is intended to be held next February for a better verification of the procedures.

Consequently, there will in the next years a routing VA test per year (VAA & VA SIGMET) every September, and one or more complete tests in NAT, EUR regions preferably in February, during the non routing data monitoring period. Problems highlighted during the routing testing will such be possible to be corrected until the complete test(s) in February.

Action BMG 28-4-8: In respect of the EUR OPMET Data Update Procedure, the RMCs and NMCs to review the BMG FP lists of:

- 1) registered OPMET bulletins not monitored;
 - 2) not-registered OPMET routine observations/reports in registered bulletins;
- for the validity of data as relevant to their area of responsibility.

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

IP 4: IROG Toulouse

The paper reflected the problems encountered in view of obtaining the AFI data. A complete listing of EUR Fasid MET 2A missing AFI data was presented to the group. It was mentioned that the issue was already raised to ICAO Paris at METG16. It was agreed that the issue be raised again to ICAO Paris after the MET Officer is assigned. The AFI IROG will also ask to receive from the AFI ICAO office the addressing schema to address the AFI region and the bulletins to be sent.

The group was informed about the availability of the AIRMET/GAMET issued by Azerbaijan (FAAJ31 UBBB and WAAJ31 UBBB, respectively). These bulletins have not being promulgated following the procedure.

Action BMG 28-5-1: Michael Pichler to inform Azerbaijan about the need to follow the procedure to announce the availability of the new bulletins.

Action BMG 27-5-2: States to be reminded once again about the EUR OPMET Data Update Procedure and the need to adhere to that when introducing new data, in order to ensure that all users are informed. The BMG report to be presented to next METG shall contain a note on this matter (Kevin).

Agenda Item 6 – Performance Indices

WP05 Regularity Threshold calculation

The working paper was presenting the rationales that sustain a periodical update of the threshold used for the regularity index calculation. The following conclusion has been derived:

Action BMG 28-6-1: The proposed update of the threshold be promulgated and used on a regular basis for the calculation of the regularity index.

IP02 Timeliness Indices Implementation Update

There were mentioned the objective reasons that the implementation of the timeliness indices has not been done yet. There were briefly discussed the two possibilities for calculations – based on the standard deviation (UK), or window intervals (Belgium).

Action BMG 28-6-2: An application of both methods for the calculation of timeliness indices based on the data monitored in Feb. 2007 will be presented at BMG29 (James Randall, Herman Swinnen).

WP12 SADIS Performance Indices

The paper presented the results of the SADIS availability and regularity indices calculation for the monitoring period 1-14 Feb 2007. For the first time, both results from the monitoring at the SADIS Gateway and EHDB have been presented together. The overall trend showed an improvement of the availability and regularity, although some results needed more investigation. In particular, there was still encountered a higher availability at EHDB than at the SADIS Gateway. While this can not be possible, it was believed that the discrepancies could be based on the way the NIL and retard bulletins are recorded at the two places and further investigation was considered necessary.

IP03 ODAG Required Software Changes

The first issue addressed by the paper was related to the planned software changes to the databanks software in order to address the SIGMETs formatted in accordance with the Amendment 73, and the timescale of their implementation. The proposed solution consisted of verification of the second line for a correct FIR indicator (checked also against a valid indicator list) and if negative, the ATSU indicator in the first line after the AHL should be used instead. All three databanks announced that the software changes will be implemented before November 2007.

The 2nd part of the paper (related to TAF format) was discussed under agenda item 9.

MOTNE System Review – Presentation

As a consequence of the BMG26, the action BMG-26-5-1 tasked a small working group to come up to BMG28 with a proposal for the review of the MOTNE System. The sub-group met in January 2007 and the results of that meeting were presented to the group. The proposal for the review took into accounts multiple aspects and analysed possible advantages and disadvantages for the options that were identified. Primarily, the review would count for three centres acting as Regional OPMET Centres (as well as Inter-regional Gateways), which will have each a defined area of responsibility. The group took note of the presentation. As a way forward, the sub-group will meet again in April and if a higher level plan for the implementation can be produced, the issue will be presented for the METG17.

Agenda Item 8 - Documentation

Problem Handling Procedure - Presentation

Belgium presented a live demonstration of the trouble shooting ticketing application developed by Belgocontrol in support of the Problem Handling Procedure. The Internet based automated

application was used for a complete trouble case presentation, from introduction till the completion.

WP 07 - BMG EUR Problem Handling Procedure

The group was presented with the history of the PHP and the WPg 3 progress report. In the future course of actions, it was stated that the acceptance tests could start in April, with an evaluation in May and the application ready for delivery for BMG 29 (June 2007).

With regard to the proposed memorandum of co-operation between Belgocontrol and BMG, the rapporteur pointed that no request can be made from ICAO side towards another company, agency or state and further no agreement can be made between the parts. Consequently, the only solution for the introduction of the PHP application is that Belgium, through its representative to METG, informs ICAO about the disponibility to offer this service to ICAO/BMG.

Agenda Item 9 – TAF Changes – Amendment 74 to Annex 3

WP 08 – Future TAF provision after 05 Nov 2008

The group was presented with a draft proposal for the provision of TAF within UK starting from Nov 2008, with details of the period of validity for each aerodrome, the number of TAFs issued per day and the issuance times.

WP 09, 10 – Project Team TAF

As stated in the Decision 16/2 of the METG, a Project Team was established to align regional procedures to Amendment 74 to Annex 3 related to the issuance of TAF. After the initial working of the project team, a number of proposals have been derived for the amendment of EUR ANP with regard to the TAF production, such as:

- period of validity of either 9 hours or 24(30) hours
- issuance of TAFs 30 minutes prior to commencement of validity
- renewal of the TAFs every 3 hours (both for FC and FT)

The Project Team asked the BMG to investigate the impact of these changes to the operational activities. It was also discussed about the impact that the TAF bulletins with different validity periods could have.

The group agreed that these changes could have a serious impact on:

- The way that the messages are stored and extracted from the databanks.
- The validation procedures
- The compilation/recompilation procedures
- The documentation (EUR OPMET Handbook, SADIS Handbook)

Consequently, the group concluded the following action:

Action BMG28-9-1: The BMG members should investigate the impact of the proposed changes to the operational activities and send their comments to Kevin Loy, who will act as a focal point. Based on these comments, a paper should be derived to be presented to the Project Team for consideration and to METG.

Agenda Item 10 – Any other business

The group was informed that France has started the production of fully automated METARs, with cloud height / type (CB, TCU) assessment based on radar and satellite data. It was pointed that these messages (conformed to the Amendment 74 to Annex 3 in operation from November 2007) are not properly handled by the existing VOLMET systems. In order to address the problem, Patrick Simon will provide the necessary details on the format of the messages, such that the end-systems be updated accordingly.

It was pointed that, although there is a need for a long TAF for Maastricht (EHBK), this is not yet illustrated in the FASID Table. It was suggested first to check if this requirement is present in the paper submitted to METG15, otherwise the Netherlands representative to METG should raise the problem again.

It was signalled that the UAOO TAF is currently received without a validity period. This case was appreciated as a good opportunity to test the PHP, so that Michael Pichler will initiate the procedure as a problem reporter.

Dates and location of the next meetings.

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

The BMG/30 meeting was proposed for 16-18 October 2007 in Toulouse.

The BMG/31 meeting was proposed for 11-13 March 2008 in Copenhagen.

The sub-group "MOTNE Centres Review" meeting was proposed for 19-20 April in UK.

Papers

The draft report of the meeting should be available by 27/03/2007. The comments are expected until 10/04/2007. 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) and to the Secretary (laurentiu.brojboiu@romatsa.ro) at least two weeks in advance. The secretary will number the papers accordingly and the complete bundle will be circulated to all members one week prior to the meeting.

List of actions

Ag.Item/BMG	Action item	Responsible	Target date
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	On-going
BMG25-8-1	Obtain details on SES concept from ICAO	K.Loy	BMG29
BMG 26-4-2	Check routing of LTBA data to Ukraine	M. Pichler	BMG 29
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 29
BMG 26-5-1	WPg 10 – OPMET Data Exchange Review	Austria France UK Netherlands Switzerland	BMG/29
BMG 26-6-2	EUR OPMET Hdbk amendment related to SIGMET format	P. Simon K. Loy	BMG/29
BMG27-6-2	Calculation of PIs related to timeliness (based on Feb monitoring).	J. Randall H. Swinnen	BMG/29
BMG27-7-3	IROG London to check whether routing is in place for the new SIGMET headers	J. Randall	BMG/29
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BMG27-8-2	Update the Handbook to v. 1.4 and submit to ICAO	R. Elentner	BMG/29
To be numbered BMG28-	To check with the ICAO Secretariat about the stages of papers submitted after Guillermo leaved.	K.Loy	BMG 29
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	Completed
BMG27-11-2	Submit papers 2 wks in advance to Rap and Sec For issuing 1 wk before the meeting	BMG	On-going
BMG 28-3-1	PI documentation update (monitor availability, not network performance)	J. Randall	BMG/29
BMG 28-4-1	Update additional data request form to cater for both Eur and non-Eur data	H. Swinnen	BMG/29
BMG 28-4-2	Contact ICAO Paris to obtain status of the current MET activities	K. Loy	BMG/29
BMG 28-4-3	Contact ICAO Montreal to check the SUG Annex 1 update	K. Loy	BMG/29
BMG 28-4-4	Verify the discontinued bulletins and new reports in registered bulletins	H. Swinnen BMG members	BMG/29
BMG 28-4-5	Verify the routing of NOBX bulletin in GTS	P. Simon H. Swinnen	BMG/29

BMG 28-4-6	Obtain ICAO doc. no.and translation in Russian	K. Loy	BMG/29
BMG 28-4-7	Perform VA tests	BMG	On-going
BMG 28-4-8	Review the BMG FP lists of: 1)registered OPMET bulletins not monitored and 2) not-registered OPMET routine observations/reports in registered bulletins	RMCs NMCs	
BMG 28-5-1	Inform Azerbaijan on the OPMET Upd Proc	M. Pichler	BMG/29
BMG 28-5-2	Request adherence to the update procedure (METG)	K. Loy	METG/17
BMG 28-6-1	Update regularity threshold on a regular basis	J. Randall	On-going
BMG 28-6-2	Timeliness PI calculation based on Feb 2007 monitoring	J. Randall H. Swinnen	BMG/29
BMG 28-9-1	Amendment 74 TAF changes impact	BMG members K. Loy	BMG/29