

REPORT OF THE BULLETIN MANAGEMENT GROUP

THIRTIETH MEETING

(Toulouse, 16-18 October 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. Jacques Anquetil	France
Mr. Bernd Richter	Germany
Mrs. Annemiek den Uijl	Netherlands
Mrs. Elena Glukhovskaya	Russian Federation (Observer)
Mr. Kevin Loy	UK (Rapporteur)
Mr. James Randall	UK
Mr. Juerg Spaar	Switzerland
Mr. Laurentiu Brojboiu	Romania (Sec.)

WP 1 - AGENDA

1. Approval of the Agenda
2. Actions from previous meeting
3. Information from other groups IP01, IP02
4. EUR OPMET Data Update procedure and data monitoring and reporting.
 - i) Routine WP02, ~~WP8~~, ~~WP9~~
 - ii) Non-routine (incl. SIGMET issues) WP04, ~~WP7~~, ~~WP10~~
 - iii) Volcanic Ash WP11
5. Addressing of EUR and Non-EUR OPMET data
6. Performance Indices WP5, WP6
7. RODEX
8. Annex 3 – Amd. 74 TAF Changes
9. Documentation
 - a) EUR OPMET Data Management Handbook WP03
 - b) PHP
10. AOB

Agenda Item 2: Actions from the previous meeting

The list of actions established at the end of BMG/28 was revised. The completed tasks mentioned below were erased from the list (see comments).

Ag.Item/BMG	Action item	Responsible	Target date
BMG25-4-4	Liaise with ICAO Paris to discuss inter-regional SIGMET improvement	Austria	On-going
	Contact Italy, for missing data	MOTNE centres	
BMG25-6-4	Address missing data from MID region	Austria UK	On-going
BMG25-8-1	Obtain details on SES concept from ICAO	K.Loy	BMG30
BMG 26-4-2	Check routing of LTBA data to Ukraine	M. Pichler R.Elentner	BMG 30
BMG 26-6-2 BMG 27-7-3	EUR OPMET Hdbk amendment related to SIGMET format & validation criteria	P. Simon K. Loy J. Funder	BMG/30
BMG27-6-2	Calculation of PIs related to timeliness (based on Feb monitoring).	J. Randall H. Swinnen	BMG/29 BMG/30
BMG27-8-4	Keep hdbk amendment on the following BMG meetings agenda	K. Loy	On-going
BMG27-11-2	Submit papers 2 wks in advance to Rap and Sec For issuing 1 wk before the meeting	BMG	On-going
BMG 28-4-1	Update additional data request form to cater for both Eur and non-Eur data	H. Swinnen	BMG/30
BMG 28-4-5	Verify the routing of NOBX bulletin in GTS	P. Simon H. Swinnen	BMG/31
BMG 28-4-7	Perform VA tests	BMG	On-going
BMG 28-4-4 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	On-going
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	BMG/30
BMG 29-4-1	Provide DB data availability statistics and work packages	ODAG	June 2007
BMG 29-4-2	ALL DBs data availability representation	ODAG	June 2007
BMG 29-4-3	Compile list of ASIA/PAC missing data Cross check the availability	Austria, Belgium UK	BMG/30
BMG 29-4-4	METNO procedure for SIGMET bulletins affected by changes in Russian Federation	Russian Fed. BMG FP	July 2007
BMG 29-4-5	The Russian Federation to inform ICAO Office Bangkok of the changes as they affect the ASIA/PAC region.	Russian Fed	July 2007
BMG 29-4-6	The Russian Federation should inform ICAO about the changes, through its METG representative. The affected ICAO documents shall be identified and updated accordingly.	Russian Fed	METG/17
BMG 29-5-1	WPg 10 – OPMET Data Exchange Review	Austria France UK	METG/17

		Netherlands Switzerland	
BMG 29-6-1	Timeliness procedure update & calculations	J. Randall	METG/17
BMG 29-8-1	Update & use the new vers. of the monitoring tool	Monitoring centres	Sep. 2007
BMG 29-8-2	Acceptance tests & trial of PHP	PHP sub-group	METG/17
BMG 29-8-3	Obtain ICAO doc. no. and translation into Russian of the Hdbk.	K. Loy	METG/17
BMG 28-9-1	Amendment 74 TAF changes impact	BMG members K. Loy	METG/17

Agenda Item 3: Information from other groups

IP01 – METG/17 Summary of discussions

The main issues from the METG/17 Summary of discussions which have impact to BMG activities have been presented:

- WMO decided to establish an expert team to study the feasibility of using an industry standard code (XML) instead of BUFR, in coordination with ICAO. The decision will be taken by the end of 2008. ICAO decided the suspension of all activities related to BUFR transition until the decision on the code to be used will be announced by WMO.
- EUROCONTROL continues its work towards developing the Weather Exchange Model (WXXM) and an expert team was proposed in this respect. BMG and METATMG have been invited to nominate experts for participating in that project. The BMG was informed that the first meeting of the expert team was scheduled for the 23rd of October, and consequently there will not be time enough for any BMG members to participate. Wim Demol has informed though that he was proposed to participate to that meeting by the METATMG so he will be able to inform BMG members about the course of discussions.
- Further during the meeting, Wim Demol made a short presentation on the Eurocontrol project.
- BMG decided to nominate two representatives to attend the following meeting of the expert team (James Randall and Patrick Simon), scheduled for the 19th of November, and to the Eurocontrol Workshop on WXXM on 18-19th December.
- A new version of the EUR SIGMET Guide will be available on the ICAO website, and would take into account the observations and comments expressed during METG. Also, consequence of a proposal during the meeting, the Guide will be amended in the future to include provisions/guidance on issuing AIRMET messages.
- It was proposed to BMG to set-up performance objectives for data availability over the terrestrial lines (similar to that established by the SADISOPSG for data availability on SADIS).
- The OPMET Update Procedure: the progress analysed. The BMG Rapporteur presented situations where states have not reacted to provide the requested OPMET data. Since METG did not consider addressing the issue, there is nothing to be done from BMG further on and the users will be informed accordingly.
- The BMG was tasked to continue working on the Problem Handling Procedure (PHP) and present the results to METG/18 (though missing from the BMG Work Programme).
- METG adopted the proposed rationalisation of the EUR OPMET Data Exchange and implementation of the new RODEX system. There was agreed the need for a Regional Data Catalogue (RDC) which should contain the data set required for international distribution. It was proposed that the Catalogue be hosted on the ICAO Paris Website and the proposal was accepted by the Regional Officer.

- METG agreed to adopt the proposed changes to the MET FASID Tables. As not all the states use SADIS, the SADIS User Guide Annex 1 can not be used as a reference, and the FASID Table MET 2A will remain instead. The table MET2A will be hosted also on the ICAO Paris website and will be part of the RDC Catalogue.
- METG agreed on the proposals that came from the PT TAF established to align the regional procedures to Amd.74 and asked the Regional Office to amend the ANP. With regard to the preparations for the changes, BMG was tasked to coordinate the implementation and a plan (including time schedule) has been derived.

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

WP 2 – EUR OPMET Data Update procedure – Activity Report

The situation regarding the updates has been presented to the group. It was again brought up the list of non-METNO compliant bulletins that had been monitored, which now counts to 16,5% of the total bulletins. Concerns were expressed that the existing bulletins will continue and not be registered. It was made the proposal to start with a new empty list, also taking into account the compilation of the RDC catalogue.

With regard to the status of the request of data from other regions, there were presented the situations when no response had been received. Moreover, it was highlighted that for a particular case, the requested data (all Mexican reports) was not even part of the FASID Tables (not requested for international distribution). For this kind of situations, the requester should go with the request directly to the state that issues that data.

Presentation of the MOTNE Overview in BMG will be continued till RODEX is implemented.

WP 4 SIGMET Monitoring

The group was informed about the results of the latest SIGMET monitoring exercises. When analysing the results, the SIGMET monitoring Focal Point informed the centres involved about the inconsistencies encountered. For the cases where missing bulletins have been registered, the involved centres were asked first to investigate what the cause could be. One other problem was reported for some messages received from the Russian Federation, which were correctly transmitted and followed by an additional message with an incorrect header. The Russian Federation was asked also to investigate further into the problem.

As the SIGMET monitoring procedure has proven to be mature and providing very good results, it was agreed by the group that the stage of the procedure be reported to ICAO Paris, along with the proposal that the states from other ICAO regions be invited to take part into the monitoring exercises.

Action BMG 30-4-1: Michael Pichler to inform the ICAO MET Officer about the stage of the procedure and ask for invitation of states from other ICAO regions to participate to future monitoring exercises.

WP11 Formats used during the VA in attendance of Philippe Housson, VAAC manager

The paper presented a proposal for the formats to be used during the volcanic ash testing for both the VAA (advisories, FV) and the VA Sigmets (WV). It was noted that two kind of scenarios are to be expected: one for communication testing purposes only, and one for meteorological purposes. While the first scenario is intended to monitor the correct distribution of the messages (FV and in return, WV), the second scenario is meant to test how the MWOs/ACC-FICs react to a “real” eruption that affect their area.

The procedure, once completed, will be included into the EUR OPMET Handbook, with detailed explanations and examples.

Action BMG 30-4-2: Patrick Simon and Michael Picher will work together to bring the procedure and format of the messages in line with the WS monitoring, and include it into the Appendix C of the EUR OPMET Handbook.

In order to have the procedure implemented within other regions, the ICAO Paris MET Officer will be proposed to discuss with his ICAO colleagues from the MID and ASIA/PAC regions about the standardisation of the proposed procedure.

Action BMG 30-4-3: The ICAO Paris MET Officer be informed on the procedure and be requested to present that to the other ICAO regions for adoption.

Action BMG 30-4-4: Philippe Husson to inform IAVWG on the procedure and propose to inform other regions in order to adopt it.

It was recalled that the VA monitoring exercises for communication purposes were scheduled twice a year, one day after the WS monitoring. The group was informed about the dates of the next VA monitoring exercises:

- 7 Feb 2008 – VA communication test (no MET content included in messages)
- 12 Feb 2008 – VolcEUR (MET content) test for EUR, MID and Russian Federation, involving both VAACs
- May-June 2008 – VolcEUR (MET content) test (Italy)
- October 2008 – VolcEUR (MET content) test (Iceland)

Analysis of the monitoring results

It was felt by the group the need to analyse the results of the regular OPMET monitoring. Herman Swinnen provided a listing of the data that were not monitored by all the participants. During an initial analysis, there were depicted situations where the missing data was not due to deficient routing, but rather to other causes: discontinued bulletins (i.e. DN32) or compilations (i.e. EE31), etc. In order the results to be correct so that the users gain confidence in them and use them for deriving corrective action plans, it was necessary that such systematic and “administrative” deficiencies be eliminated from the results, so that the focus could go to the real routing problems.

Action BMG 30-4-5: A small sub-group (**composition ?**) will do an in-depth analysis of the monitoring results in order to eliminate structural and systematic recorded deficiencies from the results.

Agenda Item 6 – Performance Indices

WP 6 – Availability & Regularity Metrics

The results of the availability and regularity metrics calculation, based on the data monitored between 1-14 Sept 2007, have been presented to the group.

It was particularly noted the FT availability for NAT/NAM data, which presented a big discrepancy between SADIS, on one hand, and EGGY, EBBR on the other (much higher on SADIS). This was to be considered to be subject for further investigation.

Action BMG 30-6-1: UK will investigate into detail the discrepancy of NAT/NAM FT data availability on SADIS and terrestrial links.

The methodology of calculating the metrics will be presented to the BMG31.

Action BMG 30-6-2: James Randall will present at BMG31 a WP on the methodology for determining the metrics.

The group noted that METG/17 tasked BMG to come up with performance targets. During the discussions, it was stressed that calculating performance indices is well influenced by the

correctitude of the requirements (bad requirements lead to low performance indices). Consequently, when the first results will not be too good, ICAO should first investigate and try to correct the requirements.

Establishing targets was considered a not so easy task. A proposal was made to base the target values on what is currently monitored, differentiated as per region. Practically, the values will be 10% off the values recorded for the September 2007 monitoring.

Agenda Item 7 – RODEX Project migration

The group noted again the Project was approved by METG17 and is waiting to be endorsed by EANPG. Taking into account the schedule of implementation of TAF - Amd 74, there will be also a very tight schedule for the RODEX project, in order to have it implemented before November 2008. Consequently, immediately after endorsement by the EANPG work should start for implementation of RODEX. The necessary Work Packages were briefly described by the designated WPkg Managers. These WPkgs should generally be ready by the end of November 2007 (except the “shopping cart” – the bulletins listing, which can only be completed after the adoption of the project by EANPG).

Action BMG 30-7-1: The Work Package managers for the RODEX implementation project should finalise the packages by the end of November 2007.

As the project carries-on, it was expressed that situations may occur when will be necessary for the members to communicate face to face. As the work programme is quite heavy for everyone and such no intermediate meeting can take place before BMG31, it was agreed that for these situations, the tele-conference facilities shall be used.

Agenda Item 8 - Annex 3 – Amd. 74 TAF Changes

The group was presented with the “EUR Plan for implementation of the new TAF provision (Amendment 74 to Annex 3)” that was approved by the METG/17 meeting. The necessary tasks were reviewed, together with the implementation schedule. The following have been agreed by the group:

For the first steps (the ICAO state letter and the response from the states) – in order to ensure that all the necessary data are gathered, BMG should assist the ICAO MET Officer to formulate the state letter, in order to include provisions of what is expected. It was expressed the need to have information on both the current situation and the proposed structure.

Action BMG 30-8-1: The ICAO MET Officer be provided, by the end of November 2007, with a proposal for the templates of the tables to be included into the state letter (including examples as well) that should be used by the states to respond.

Further during the meeting, Michael Pichler presented a first proposal of the format of the templates to be used for reporting. It was agreed that Michael will coordinate with Kevin Loy and send the final proposal to Dimitar Ivanov.

At that time, the Regional MET Officer will also be proposed to contact the other ICAO regions and provide them with the content of the state letter used in EUR. The other regions should be informed as well about the EUR Implementation Plan and its timescale, highlighting that in July 2008 the EUR region will have finalised the Amendments to the FASID tables and requesting to have similar information from the other regions available.

Particular attention was accorded to the production time of the TAF forecasts. In order to accomplish the objective that the bulletins be available globally 30 mins. before the commencement of validity, and taking into account on average 5 minutes needed to distribute the message, plus 1-2 additional minutes as additional buffer, it is recommended that the compilation take place not later than H+23 (where H is the AHL hour). This leads to recommending that the

production deadline for the TAFs should be H+15. All these considerations will be proposed to be included into the state letter that ICAO Paris will distribute.

Action BMG 30-8-2: The next step after the receiving of the response from the states:

- the BMG FP to investigate into detail whether the reported current situation is in line with what is actually monitored
- the MOTNE centres will verify the correctitude of the reported data and will do an initial assessment impact of the proposed structure

The outcome will be sent back to ICAO for coordination.

The final step will be the post-implementation monitoring. In order to have well defined what and how to monitor, the monitoring tool should be updated.

Action BMG 30-8-3: James Randall will present to the BMG31 meeting a proposal for the monitoring tool update in order to ensure a proper post-implementation monitoring.

Agenda Item 9 - Documentation

WP 03 - EUR OPMET Handbook

In order to have the Handbook published on the ICAO website, Johnny Funder was tasked to re-format the document according to the ICAO format. The resulting document was presented to the group. BMG took note of this and agreed that the same format should be applied to the Appendices of the Handbook as well.

Action BMG 30-9-1: The Appendices to the EUR OPMET Handbook be formatted according to the ICAO format.

BMG EUR Problem Handling Procedure

The group was presented with the current status of the Problem Handling Procedure implementation.

Action BMG 30-9-2 The PHP sub-group (PHP WPgMgr is now Annemiek den Uijl) proceeded to a trial of the procedure, following the BMG meeting. The results will be presented to BMG/31.

Agenda Item 10 – Any other business

- The group was informed by James Randall that a formal request was made for the SADIS broadcast to be replicated on ISCS (date ?).
- Dates and location of the next meeting

Taking into account a number of issues involving Italy (RODEX transition, VA exercise planning in May, etc), the BMG/31 meeting was proposed for March 2008 in Rome.

The BMG/32 meeting was proposed for June 2008 in Vienna (exact dates tbc).

List of actions

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BMG25-4-4	Liaise with ICAO Paris to discuss inter-regional SIGMET improvement	Austria	On-going
BMG 26-6-2 BMG 27-7-3	EUR OPMET Hdbk amendment related to SIGMET format & validation criteria	P. Simon K. Loy J. Funder	BMG/30
BMG 28-4-5	Verify the routing of NOBX bulletin in GTS	P. Simon H. Swinnen	BMG/31
BMG 28-4-7	Perform VA tests	BMG	On-going
BMG 28-4-4 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	On-going
BMG 28-5-2	Request adherence to the update procedure (METG)	K. Loy	METG/17
BMG 29-4-1	Provide DB data availability statistics and work packages	ODAG	June 2007
BMG 29-4-2	ALL DBs data availability representation	ODAG	June 2007
BMG 28-9-1	Amendment 74 TAF changes impact	BMG members K. Loy	METG/17
BMG 30-4-1	Inform ICAO Paris on SIGMET monitoring procedure – invitation to other regions	M. Pichler	BMG 31
BMG 30-4-2	Finalise VA monitoring procedure and format of test messages. Include into OPMET Hdbk.	P. Simon M. Pichler	FEB. 2008
BMG 30-4-3	Inform ICAO on VA testing procedure	P. Simon	FEB. 2008
BMG 30-4-4	Inform IAVWG on VA testing procedure	P. Husson	FEB. 2008
BMG 30-4-5	Review monitoring results and clean from systematic monitoring errors	??	BMG 31
BMG 30-6-1	Investigate on NAT/NAM FT availability on SADIS and terrestrial links	J. Randall	BMG 31
BMG 30-6-2	Present methodology of metrics calculation	J. Randall	BMG 31
BMG 30-7-1	Finalise Work Packages	RODEX WPkg Managers	Nov. 2007
BMG 30-8-1	Proposal for the templates to be used by states for responding to ICAO inquiry	M. Pichler K. Loy	Nov. 2007
BMG 30-8-2	Confront response from states with current monitoring results	H. Swinnen	
	Analyse response from states and inform ICAO on discrepancies	MOTNE centres	
BMG 30-8-3	Proposal for monitoring tool update (TAF changes post-implementation)	J. Randall	BMG 31
BMG 30-9-1	Re-formatting of OPMET Hdbk – Appendices	J. Funder	BMG 31
BMG 30-9-2	Presentation of the PHP test results	A. den Uijl	BMG 31