# REPORT OF THE BULLETIN MANAGEMENT GROUP

## THIRTYFIRST MEETING

(*Copenhagen, 11-13 March 2008*)

**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. Laurentiu Brojboiu | Romania (Sec.) |
| Mrs. Elena Glukhovskaya | Russian Federation (Observer) |
| Mr. Kevin Loy | UK (Rapporteur) |
| Mr. James Randall | UK |
| Mr. Juerg Spaar | Switzerland |
| Mr. Dimitar Ivanov | ICAO Paris |

### WP 1 - AGENDA

1. Approval of the Agenda
2. Actions from previous meeting
3. Information from other groups        IP05, IP06, IP07
4. EUR OPMET Data Update procedure and data monitoring and reporting.
    i)     Routine
    ii)    Non-routine (incl. SIGMET issues)      WP07, WP04, WP05
    iii)   Volcanic Ash
5. Addressing of EUR and Non-EUR OPMET data      IP02, WP06
6. Performance Indices      WP02, WP3
7. RODEX      IP01
8. Annex 3 – Amd. 74 TAF Changes      IP03, WP10, WP11
9. Documentation
    a) EUR OPMET Data Management Handbook      WP08
    b) PHP      IP04, WP12
10. WXXM      IP08
11. 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 |
| 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 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 J.Funder | BMG32 |
| 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 | SEP. 2008 |
| BMG 30-4-5 | Review monitoring results and clean from systematic monitoring errors | H. Swinnen | 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 |

Related to actions BMG 25-4-4 and BMG 30-4-1: The group was informed by Dimitar Ivanov that the ASIA/PAC region is ready to participate. As for the MID region, it is planned a MET meeting in June, so a good opportunity will be that Michael Pichler to attend that meeting and try to present the issue.

Action BMG 31-2-1 : M. Pichler to prepare for BMG32 a paper that summarise what has been achieved following the discussions with representatives from the ASIA/PAC and MID regions related to inter-regional SIGMET exchange and SIGMET monitoring procedures. If there is an agreement, preparations should be made to start from the Feb 2009 monitoring.

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

*IP05 – ICAO EANPG Meeting*
There were presented the three decisions endorsed by EANPG related to the BMG activities:
- Decision 49/6 – Transition from MOTNE to RODEX.
- Decision 49/43 – Preparations for the implementation of amended provisions for TAF.
- Decision 49/44 – TAF period of validity and issuance times.

IP06 EUR AOP corr
IP07 Review AOP Table

**Agenda Item 8:    Annex 3 Amendment 74 changes**

Action Plan – review
The draft Action Plan has been reviewed and changes were made to the deadlines.
The state letter is already being prepared by ICAO Paris and will be distributed by 20 March, along with the IATA requirements (IP3).

The group agreed to offer to ICAO Paris Office all the information needed for completion of the state letter, including also a template to be used by the states for their answers, and examples on how the questionnaire should be filled in.
Action 31-8-1: Kevin will provide as an example the proposal coming from the UK regarding the composition of the bulletins and the timelines.

It was considered that good cooperation with the other ICAO regions is needed, so was proposed that the following action to be included into the Plan:
- Initial coordination with the other ICAO regions, by providing them with the proposed state letter, including the template for responses and examples (term: 20 March).

It was agreed on the need to provide also the following guidelines to the states, in order to assist in the implementation of the changes:
- for the international exchange, the TAF for one aerodrome should not be included into more than one single bulletin (in order to avoid duplication of data)
- the 30 hr TAFs should be grouped into one bulletin (and not be mixed with 24 hr reports)
- in order to reduce the bulletin length, the FT bulletins should consist of not more than x individual reports
Note: the actual number will be derived following an investigation on the bulletin length issues.
Action 31-8-2: Michael and Johnny will make an assessment and will provide indication on the recommended maximum number of reports per FT bulletin.
- in order to ensure the regional requirements regarding the availability of the forecasts (30 min before the commencement of the validity period), the production of the forecasts shall be completed at H+15 and the compilation at H+22.

The response from the states will be requested within one month from the distribution of the state letter (i.e. by 20th April), so the group will have a chance to perform a first review of the situation during May. The first conclusions are expected at the end of a teleconference scheduled for 15th May:
Action 31-8-3: Kevin Loy will organise a teleconference with the members of the group for 15 May between 09-10 UTC with the aim of analysing the states proposal for the FC/FT bulletins produced after 5 November. Technical details of the teleconference (tel. no and PIN) will be communicated in due time.

*WP 11: Data Monitoring Tool Specification*

Following the action BMG 30-8-3, the proposed changes to the monitoring tool specifications were presented to the group. These were related merely to the modification of the validity period group of the TAFs.
The group agreed on the proposal and also considered that further support to the old format should be maintained until the level of implementation of the changes by the states is considered acceptable. With this respect, a monitoring will be planned post-implementation in order to determine who switched to the new format and who not.

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

*WP 07 – METNO Overview*

The group was presented with a complete review of the update and monitoring activities since the last meeting.
Related to the update procedure, the most significant changes recorded were:
- reorganisation of Greenlandic OPMET data
- merging of the two Bulgarian FIRs into a single one (Sofia FIR).

There were presented also detailed statistics on the bulletin and reports that have been registered or introduced without being registered during the mentioned period.
Regarding the monitoring procedure: there were presented the date and type of the monitoring activities in the period 1-14 Feb 2008.
The next monitoring is scheduled for 1-14 Sep 2008.

With regard to the data monitoring, it was agreed that in the future, the whole concept should move towards measuring the difference between what is requested and what is actually received. Every NOC should have a compilation of necessary data, a so called "shopping list". Efforts should concentrate on data which can not be provided by the responsible ROC – and investigations be made to resolve these deficiencies.

*WP 04 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 group that the Vienna monitoring switch is able now to provide a detailed verification of the SIGMET messages. As a result, there were pointed out a significant number of bulletins for which, for instance, the FIR name was incorrect. In order to determine the nature of the problem, the group agreed on the following action:
Action BMG 31-4-1: Michael Pichler to pick-up all the situations of incorrect SIGMETs and investigate whether the problem is of accidental or institutional nature.

As the SIGMET monitoring procedure has proven to be mature and providing very good results, it was agreed by the group that support should be requested from ICAO Paris Office to ensure that states from EUR region and from other ICAO regions be invited to take part to the monitoring exercises.
Action BMG 31-4-2: Dimitar Ivanov to investigate the possibility that an EANPG conclusion asks states in the EUR region to participate to the SIGMET monitoring and adhere to the corresponding procedure.
Comment Wim DeMol - in Agenda item 4 : please mention that it was suggested to perform the EUR OPMET DB availability monitorings during the BMG routine monitoring periods (Feb and Sep) and that ODAG will consider this.

*WP05 CNL SIGMET in OPMET-DBs*

The paper presented two proposed solutions for storing and providing answers to requests in case of a cancelled SIGMET. The first one, which is currently implemented by all three databases (and most of the briefing systems, as well) consisted of storing and answering all SIGMET bulletins, including the CNL one (as if it was a normal SIGMET). The second solution would be that the CNL would replace the original bulletin into the database and be the only one included into the answer. It was pointed out that the second solution requires strict adherence to the message format, which is not always the case in the real world. Furthermore, the implementation of that solution would require additional costs.
Comment Michael Pichler - Agende Item 4, WP05:

The second solution is not that the CNL-bulletin will replace the original one but that the original SIGMET will be deleted from the database. So in case of two SIGMETs available only one of those will be sent back as a reply. If that one was the only active SIGMET the reply will come with NIL.

During the discussions it was agreed on the following actions:
Action 31-5-1: The EUR SIGMET Guide should be amended to provide specific details on the correct usage of the same day-time group (YYGGgg) and sequence number for a CCx bulletin as in the original one (ICAO Paris).
Action 31-5-2: In order to make a decision on the solution to be implemented, first there is a need to gather statistics on the frequency of the CNL SIGMETs and on how the formats being observed (Annemiek den Uijl).
Based on the above assessment, at BMG32 a decision will be made and the outcome will be reflected into the Database Specification document.
Action 31-5-3: H. Swinnen & J. Funder to amend correspondingly the SIGMET test procedure in Appendix C of the Handbook (to be used the last information letter sent by M. Pichler prior to the test in February 2008).


**Agenda Item 5:   Addressing of EUR and Non-EUR OPMET Data**

*IP02 NAT/NAM Inconsistencies*

There were presented to the group the results of the investigations that have been made following the inconsistencies between the SADIS and terrestrial monitoring results for the availability and regularity of the NAT/NAM (Action BMG 30-6-1). The main causes were identified (monitoring architecture, temporary monitoring deficiencies, misrouting of FTUS80) and correspondingly addressed.

*WP06 Invalid WMO Headers*
The group was presented with a comprehensive listing of bulletins with errors that were received by the MOTNE centre Copenhagen. During the discussions, the errors have been grouped into categories and for each category an appropriate action has been derived:
Action BMG 31-6-1 : Brussels will investigate the reasons the presented bulletins were sent to Copenhagen (most likely, EKCH included accidentally into a PDAI and needs to be removed). Inform the group on the result.
Comment Wim DeMol - WP06 Invalid WMO headers ; action BMG31-6-1 : still during the meeting we discovered that this was not a routing error, but the Belgian GAMET which sometimes exceeds 1800 characters. Please replace this action by : Brussels will split after 3600 chars instead of after 1800 chars

Action BMG 31-6-2: Vienna will investigate the function of the MSS with regard to malformed bulletins (missing CCCC from AHL) and take an action to address the problem.
Action: In order to address wrong bulletins coming from Italy, Kevin Loy will try to arrange next BMG meeting in Rome. With that occasion multiple problems involving Italy could be addressed (including RODEX transition plan).

Action 31-6-3: Bulletins coming from Israel: Johnny Funder will go into details to find out what is the entry point into the region for these messages. In order to address the problems identified, Johnny will contact El-Al and ask them to address their requests directly to the responsible databank (i.e. Vienna). Michael Pichler will try on his side to contact the MET centre Tel Aviv. Problem solved during the BMG/31 meeting.

Action 31-6-4: Regarding data from Beirut and Damascus, Michael Pichler will raise the problem during the MID region meeting in June. The bulletins should be transmitted into the EUR region to one single address (IROG Vienna).

Action 31-6-5: Patrick will include the issues related to the messages from the AFI region into the AFI plan.

Action 31-6-6: Kevin Loy will contact ADS to address the problem of the bulletins coming from KCHIUALE (position messages).

## Agenda Item 6 – Performance Indices

*WP 02 – OPMET Performance metrics definition*

In accordance with Action BMG 30-6-2, the WP presented to the group the methodology for the metrics determination. For each of the three indices (availability, regularity and timeliness) there were presented the definition and purpose of the metric, a description of the methodology for calculating and a set of targets.

Dimitar Ivanov suggested that the indices be calculated separately for AOP listed aerodromes and for non-AOP, as the AOP listing does not change so often and this way it is expected to have more stable results.

*WP03 – Performance Metrics*

The results of the OPMET Performance metrics generated during February 2008 were presented to the group. In general, the results proved to be consistent and also showed a positive trend, so there is expected an improvement on the data availability and regularity for in the next period.

As Dimitar Ivanov informed on the good contacts with the AMBEX group, he was invited to have a discussion with them trying to progress with the AFI region on the issue of the OPMET interfaces with Europe.

## Agenda Item 7 – RODEX Project migration

The group was informed on the progress with development of WorkPackage 1 by each of the ROCs, as follows:

- Toulouse ROC has already successfully taken over the responsibilities for Portugal. For the following steps, it was noted again the necessity of cooperation with MOTNE centre Rome. With this respect it was agreed that a good opportunity would be that the BMG32 meeting be hosted by Italy. Also, in order to support the transmission of the AIRMET and GAMET data from Spain to the databanks and to SADIS, it was agreed on the following action:
    Action BMG 31-7-1: Madrid be invited to send the AIRMET and GAMET bulletins in the same manner as the other regular products.
- Vienna informed by IP01 on the status of actions with regard to the taking over the responsibilities for Turkey. At present a list of the bulletins currently routed by Germany to Turkey was forwarded to Austria. Prior to implementation of this list, there were noted many bulletins which are not meant for international distribution, or even not produced at all. So there was agreed that a filtering should be made, the most convenient being by confronting the list

against what is currently available (the monitoring results). It was highlighted again the necessity of contacting Italy in order to assist the taking over the responsibilities over Albania.

- UK: there were presented the following actions related to the Work Package:

> <u>Action BMG 31-7-2</u>: Kevin Loy to co-ordinate by e-mail and telephone with Belgium and Netherlands on the activities related to taking over the responsibilities of these two MOTNE centres.
>
> <u>Action BMG 31-7-3</u>: UK and Denmark will organise a meeting in Copenhagen with the Baltic States in order to establish a transition plan.

<u>Action BMG 31-7-4</u>: Finally it was agreed that work should be continued for the transition planning, and the Work Packages be finished by June 2008 and ready to be presented also to the COG meeting.

<u>Action BMG 31-7-5</u>: A.den Uijl will assist Dimitar Ivanov in compiling a state letter to be sent in order to inform on the RODEX project implementation.

<u>Action BMG 31-7-6</u>: J. Randall and J. Funder will cooperate to derive an interim static table comprising what global data are currently available in Europe. The table should be report oriented and data grouped by state.

## Agenda Item 9 - Documentation

*IP 04 – PHP Ticketing application*

The group was informed on the current status on the PHP implementation, following the successfull tests undertaken. The BMG accepted the terms and conditions imposed. There were derived the following actions:

<u>Action BMG 31-9-1</u>: A. Den Uijl will act in the future as PH Manager, and be backed up by H. Swinnen.

<u>Action BMG 31-9-2</u>: Belgium will provide initial login details to each of the BMG members. It was agreed that these details should be continuously reviewed on the following BMG meetings.

<u>Action BMG 31-9-3</u>: The PH Task Team will support the implementation of administrative reports and statistics resulting from the PH ticketing application and present them to the BMG members.

WP12 – PHP Manual

The PH Task Team made available a PHP Manual

*WP 08 - EUR OPMET Handbook*

The current draft of the OPMET Handbook, formatted to be in line with the ICAO documentation, was presented to the group. It was agreed the following action:

<u>Action BMG 31-12-1</u>: The current version of the Handbook to be forwarded by 27 March to Dimitar Ivanov, in *.doc format, in order to be reviewed and ready for publication on the ICAO website.

## Agenda Item 10 – WXXM Concept

IP08 - WXCM

The group was informed on the progress of developing the Weather Exchange Conceptual Model by the corresponding Task Force. There have been presented the conclusions of two meetings that took place since last BMG: a working session of the expert team (19 November 2007) and a Eurocontrol workshop (18-19 December 2007).

**Agenda Item 11 - Any other business**

- Airport warnings

  On the issue of the aerodrome warnings (requested by Annex 3), the group was informed by Dimitar Ivanov that these messages are intended to be distributed at the aerodrome only, and not outside, so for the activities of the group there is no impact at the moment.

- Dates and location of the next meeting

  Taking into account a number of issues involving Italy the BMG/31 meeting was proposed for 17-19 June 2008 in Rome. As an alternate location: Paris/de Bilt.

**List of actions**

| Ag.Item/BMG | Action item | Responsible | Target date |
|---|---|---|---|
| BMG 28-4-5 | Verify the routing of NOBX bulletin in GTS | P. Simon<br>H. Swinnen | BMG/31 |
| BMG 28-4-7 | Perform VA tests | BMG | On-going |
| BMG 28-4-4<br>BMG 28-4-8 | Review the BMG FP lists of:<br>1)registered OPMET bulletins not monitored and 2) not-registered OPMET routine observations/reports in registered bulletins | RMCs<br>NMCs | On-going |
| BMG 30-4-2 | Finalise VA monitoring procedure and format of test messages. Include into OPMET Hdbk. | P. Simon<br>J.Funder | BMG32 |
| BMG 30-7-1 | Finalise Work Packages | RODEX WPkg Managers | June. 2008 |
| BMG 30-8-2 | Confront response from states with current monitoring results | H. Swinnen | |
| BMG 31-2-1 | Participate to MID meeting and inform BMG on SIGMET monitoring inter-change and monitoring | M. Pichler | BMG 32 |
| BMG 31-8-1 | UK provide examples on bulletin re-organising and transmission timelines | K. Loy | 20 March 08 |
| BMG 31-8-2 | Investigate the maximum no of reports for 30 hr FT bulletins | M. Pichler<br>J. Funder | 20 March 08 |
| BMG 30-8-2 | Review the response received from states on the reorganising of the FC/FT bulletins | All members | 15 May |
| BMG 31-8-3 | Organise teleconference to conclude the first review of the states response | K. Loy | 15 May 08 |
| BMG 31-4-1 | Investigate nature of errors in SIGMET format | M. Pichler | |
| BMG 31-4-2 | Investigate on obtaining EANPG decision on participation to SIGMET tests | D. Ivanov | |
| BMG 31-5-1 | Amend the EUR SIGMET Guide to include provisions on correct usage of YYGGgg and seq no for SIGMET CCx | D. Ivanov | |
| BMG 31-5-2 | Statistics on frequency and correctiveness of CNL SIGMETs | A. den Uijl | |
| BMG 31-5-3 | Amend the SIGMET test procedure in App. 3 of the Handbook | H. Swinnen<br>J. Funder | |
| BMG 31-6-1 | Investigate on EB bulletins sent to EKCH | H. Swinnen | |
| BMG 31-6-2 | Investigate function of Vienna MSS switch on malformed bulletins (CCCC missing) | M. Pichler | |
| BMG 31-6-3 | Contact Israel to correct addressing of requests | J. Funder<br>M. Pichler | |
| BMG 31-6-4 | Correct addressing of Beirut/Damascus bulletins | M. Pichler | |
| BMG 31-6-5 | Include the issues raised by EKCH into AFI Plan | P. Simon | |
| BMG 31-6-6 | Contact ADS for KCHIUALE bulletins | K. Loy | |
| BMG 31-7-1 | Correct addressing of AIRMET / GAMET from Spain | | |
| BMG 31-7-2 | Coordinate on ROC London WPkg 1 | K. Loy<br>H.Swinnen<br>A. den Uijl | |
| BMG 31-7-3 | Organise meeting with Baltic states | K. Loy<br>J. Funder | |
| BMG 30-7-1<br>BMG 31-7-4 | Finalise RODEX WPkg | ROCs | June 2008 |

| BMG 31-7-5 | State letter on RODEX implementation | A. den Uijl<br>D. Ivanov | |
|---|---|---|---|
| BMG 31-7-6 | Derive static table of available data in EUR | J. Randall<br>J. Funder | |
| BMG 31-9-1 | Act as PH Manager | A. den Uijl | |
| BMG 31-9-2 | Provide PH application login details to BMG members | H. Swinnen | |
| BMG 31-9-3 | Derive statistics and report to BMG on PHP | PH Task Team | |
| BMG 31-12-1 | Forward corrected version of the Handbook to ICAO Paris | J. Funder | |
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