

REPORT OF THE BULLETIN MANAGEMENT GROUP

THIRTY SECOND MEETING

(Brussels, 17-19 June 2008)

List of participants

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
Mr. Laurentiu Brojboiu	Romania (Sec.)
Mr. Kevin Loy	UK (Rapporteur)
Mr. Juerg Spaar	Switzerland

WP 1 - 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.
 - i) Routine
 - ii) Non-routine (incl. SIGMET issues)
 - iii) Volcanic Ash
5. Addressing of EUR and Non-EUR OPMET data
6. Performance Indices
7. RODEX
8. Annex 3 – Amd. 74 TAF Changes
9. Documentation
 - a) EUR OPMET Data Management Handbook
 - b) PHP
10. WXXM
11. AOB

Agenda Item 2: Actions from the previous meeting

The list of actions established at the end of BMG/31 was revised. The completed tasks mentioned below were erased from the list (see comments).

Ag.Item/BMG	Action item	Responsible	Target date
BMG 28-4-5	Verify the routing of NOBX bulletin in GTS	P. Simon H. Swinnen	Complete
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 30-4-2	Finalise VA monitoring procedure and format of test messages. Include into OPMET Hdbk.	P. Simon 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 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	No info available
BMG 31-4-2	Investigate on obtaining EANPG decision on participation to SIGMET tests	D. Ivanov	No info available
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	No info available
BMG 31-5-2	Statistics on frequency and correctiveness of CNL SIGMETs	A. den Uijl	Complete
BMG 31-5-3	Amend the SIGMET test procedure in App. 3 of the Handbook	H. Swinnen J. Funder	Complete
BMG 31-6-1	Investigate on EB bulletins sent to EKCH	H. Swinnen	Complete
BMG 31-6-2	Investigate function of Vienna MSS switch on malformed bulletins (CCCC missing)	M. Pichler	No info available
BMG 31-6-3	Contact Israel to correct addressing of requests	J. Funder M. Pichler	Complete
BMG 31-6-4	Correct addressing of Beirut/Damascus bulletins	M. Pichler	On-going
BMG 31-6-5	Include the issues raised by EKCH into AFI Plan	P. Simon	Closed
BMG 31-6-6	Contact ADS for KCHIUALE bulletins	K. Loy	On-going
BMG 31-7-1	Correct addressing of AIRMET / GAMET from Spain	P. Simon	Complete
BMG 31-7-2	Coordinate on ROC London WPkg 1	K. Loy H.Swinnen A. den Uijl	On-going
BMG 31-7-3	Organise meeting with Baltic states	K. Loy J. Funder	On-going
BMG 31-7-4	Finalise RODEX WPkg	ROCs	On-going
BMG 31-7-5	State letter on RODEX implementation	A. den Uijl D. Ivanov	Complete

BMG 31-7-6	Derive static table of available data in EUR	J. Randall J. Funder	On-going
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	On-going
BMG 31-12-1	Forward corrected version of the Handbook to ICAO Paris	J. Funder	Complete

Agenda Item 3: Information from other groups

SADISOPSG

- The meeting was informed about the discussions that took place with regard to missing data from the SADIS reception (missing CSNs, duplication of CSNs within one minute time or even complete loss of reception for a specific amount of time). As it was not yet clear what should be the problem,, investigations will be made to find out what were the actions agreed for solving these faults and what is the stage of the process.
- The group was informed on the migration plan from Grib1 to Grib2 codes (leading to an increase of the data volume of about three times). First trials will start in spring 2009 and the transition will be effective mid 2009.
- There was a request from a PIRG representative to include into the SUG Annex 1 information on the availability of data (24 hours, partially, not available) or the period of availability for the forecasts (9, 24, 30 hrs). On this issue, the BMG members commented that SUG is not a document maintained by the group, and the fact that Annex 1 comprises requirements. Whether the new format is adopted by appending two additional columns, those will be simply ignored when the Annex 1 will be used by the BMG for current operations.

IAVWG

The BMG members were informed on the dates of the next VA monitoring exercises.

- November 2008: an event focused on the Azores, which will affect the S Europe area. FV, WV and WS bulletins shall be monitored
- Spring 2009 an exercise affecting the EUR NAT region.
- November 2009: SE Europe.

The IAVWG intends to held a meeting between the exercises in order to assess the results.

COG

It was noted that the COG requested information on the status of RODEX implementation. It will be communicated that the process started slowly, but is expected to gain momentum during the summer and be finished by the end of the year. The next information update will be following BMG33, at the COG meeting in November.

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

WP 6 – EUR OPMET Data Update Procedure – Activity Report

The group was presented with a complete review of the changes announced using the procedure since the last meeting. It was noted that the amount of data that still needs to be formalised has constantly decreased (to 4% currently).

The latest version of the SUG Annex 1 was 7.1. It was agreed that if the new version is not available in due time (2-3 weeks in advance), the September monitoring shall be based on 7.1 ver.

Action BMG32-4-1: K.Loy to e-mail ICAO Montreal (Olli Turpeinen) to ask for an update in due time of the SUG Annex 1.

It was noted that, once published on the ICAO website, the OPMET Handbook (EUR Doc 018) becomes the master document, and what we currently use (and store on the FTP servers) are working documents / copies. Furthermore, it was noted that the SIGMET inventory is available as App.G to the handbook, but also as an attachment to the EUR SIGMET Guide (EUR Doc 016). It was appreciated that although our document is more up-to-date (due to the monitoring activities performed), the master document for the SIGMET inventory should be the EUR SIGMET Guide. In this respect, the following two actions have been agreed:

Action BMG32-4-2: Arrangements shall be made with ICAO Paris in order to ensure that amendments to the EUR SIGMET Guide are operated efficiently on the ICAO website version of the document.

Action BMG32-4-3: Once the previous action completed, the Appendix G to the Handbook to be removed (an opportunity will be the changes to the Hdbk generated by the transition to RODEX).

WP 4 ODAG Activity Report

From 2009 onwards, the ODAG monitoring will take place during the BMG routine monitoring periods (February and September).

The databanks are ready in time for the changes of Amendment 74 to Annex 3. All data banks (Brussels, Vienna and Toulouse will accept old and new TAF codes .

WP 3 OPMET Databanks Availability

The group was presented the results of the availability monitoring performed by the three databanks. Particular stress was put on the fact that still there are stations for which there are requirements but corresponding data have never been monitored by none of the databanks. Those stations were presented in a comprehensive listing, grouped on ICAO region. On analysing this list, there was noted that there were stations for which it is well known that they do not produce one type of bulletins, but requirements there still exist into the FASID Tables.

Action BMG32-4-4: With this respect, was concluded that BMG will draw the attention to the METG members again (either into the BMG report or as a separate working paper) that the results of the monitoring activities performed are based on the requirements and constantly highlight anomalies within these requirements.

With respect to the missing data from the AFI region, P. Simon informed the group that the results of an one month monitoring was already sent to the AFI region and response is expected. The availability of AFI data should improve considerably after implementation of the RODEX Plan.

Also it was noted that a major impact on the results of databanks availability is expected along with the Amd 74 TAF changes from 5th November (an increase in the availability of FC/FT).

WP05 Report of the RQM Monitoring

The results of the yearly RQM monitoring that took place in April 2008 have been presented. For Vienna and Toulouse databanks, the total number of requests decreased while for Brussels slightly increased. In total for the three databanks, the number of requests remains the same as in 2007. There was also presented a listing of the "heavy users" of the databanks, which appear to be located in Taipei and Dublin.

Action BMG32-4-5: Wim DeMol to provide K. Loy with the listing of data requested by Taipei and Dublin. Based on that, K. Loy will use his contacts to try to solve this out by normal (regular) distribution.

WP02 CNL SIGMET in OPMET-DBs

As a result to BMG31-5-2, there has been made an inventory of CNL SIGMETs for one month (January 2008) in order to gather information on the frequency and the level of adherence to the format for such messages. The results showed that from the whole number of SIGMET issued, only 7% are cancelled. Out of these, more than half have deviations from the correct format. Based on these results, the group decided to implement the solution 1, that means the CNL message is stored and included into responses just the same as a normal SIGMET. As this facility is already implemented by all three databanks, no further refinement to the storage/response facilities was considered necessary.

IP02 Proposal for the format of test messages to be used during VA exercises

The paper presented the proposed formats for the FV and WV bulletins to be used during the VA exercises. This paper will also be presented to the first meeting of the MET Group of the MID region.

It was agreed to verify whether the proposed format is in line with the EUR OPMET Handbook provisions.

Further, this information will be presented into an IP for METG, to describe the format and to direct users to the VAAC website where more details can be found. This paper will also comprise additional information that results following the next IAVW meeting.

Action BMG32-4-6: P. Simon to produce an IP to be presented at METG with the proposed format for FV and WV messages used during VA exercises.

Agenda Item 5 – Addressing of EUR and non-EUR OPMET Data

The group was questioned on the impact that the format of the Canadian METAR bulletins could have on the existing systems. It was agreed by the group that from a terrestrial user, as well as SADIS user perspective, no problems have been identified yet. In this case, the response to the question will be that no reports of any problems related to that have been recorded so far. Nevertheless, the recommendation will be that procedures for distribution of bulletins (WMO doc 386) should be followed and that the workstations (ISCS) should be designed in such a manner that focus should be on the report, and not the bulletin header (which is meant for distribution purposes mainly).

With regard to the routing of the AFI data, there has been concluded the following action:

Action BMG32-5-1: P. Simon will investigate with ICAO Paris to arrange a meeting with the representatives from the AFI region (Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia) on the addressing of their data to the designated ROC Toulouse (LFZZMAFI).

With regard to Egypt, it will be discussed during the MID meeting next week the possibility that their data be routed also to Toulouse (instead of Vienna, currently). That way, all D,G,F,H sub-regions of AFI will be addressed by the same ROC. If accepted, then the relevant actions to add another WPkg into ROC Toulouse RODEX Plan.

During those meetings, the SIGMET testing issues should be discussed as well.

Agenda Item 9 - Documentation

IP 04 – PHP Ticketing application

The group was informed on the current status on the PHP implementation. The application is available on Internet at this time to task force members only. The manual is already available.

Things to be done:

- user accounts to be created, based on the result from the states
- Quick start Guide will be produced
- A live testing will be performed. The results will be presented to METG.

WP 12 - EUR OPMET Handbook

The EUR OPMET Handbook has been adopted and already published on the ICAO website (EUR Doc 018).

Agenda Item 10 – WXXM Concept

The only information available for the moment was that Eurocontrol will soon publish a proof of concept for weather radar data.

Agenda Item 8 – Amendment 74 to Annex 3

The group was informed on the poor responses received from states on the questionnaire sent by ICAO through a state letter.

Each of the available responses has been investigated into detail. The following were noted:

- Due to the new structure of the bulletins, the currently used ii indicators (30-39) might not be sufficient, so a proposal was made to use the range 20-39.
- Based on the investigations result, the 30 hrs FT bulletins should not exceed 4 reports. Suggestions to be made to Greece to re-arrange, as they might encounter bulletin length problems
- Spain be notified to use the AA indicator into the header “SP” for Spain instead of “EW” (Western Europe).
- The necessary METNO bulletins should be issued as one per each state. They will not be AIRAC based. A template for the format of the METNO bulletins should be prepared (based on the UK data restructuring proposal) and circulated to the MOTNE centres.
- The agreed format for the METNO bulletin will be based on deletion of the affected existing bulletins and introduction of the new ones from scratch. No indication on the validity period was considered necessary for announcing the changes of the bulletin structure. This information will be available in the FASID tables instead.
- The restructuring of the bulletins can be made at any point in time. However, the implementation of the new validity format shall be made on 5th of November, ideally at midnight.
- The proposed sequence of operations that some centres will adopt comprise:

- i. Turning off validation before 5th Nov
- ii. Monitor
- iii. Turn back on validation around 10th Nov.

Action BMG32-8-1: The above information will be summarised by K. Loy for presentation to the PT TAF. Prior of that will be circulated to the BMG members for comments.

Agenda Item 7 - RODEX

IP 01 – RODEX Shopping Cart

There was presented to the group a draft proposal for the Rodex “shopping cart”, derived from the SUG Annex 1. It was noted that behind that exists a database, comprising also the bulletin headers for each individual report.

The current status of the Work Packages, for each of the ROCs, was summarised:

ROC Toulouse:

- Portugal is completed
- Malta – nothing done yet
- Rome did not respond to the RODEX state letter
- Morocco, Tunisia: to be done
- Algeria is prepared (good contact)
- After Morocco: Gibraltar and then Madrid

ROC Vienna:

- Routing of Turkey data to Vienna (instead of Offenbach) is already in place. Will become effective at a date to be established
- Switzerland the same

ROC London:

- There is planned a meeting in Copenhagen on 8th July.
- Afterwards, Brussels and De Bilt

Documentation:

Action BMF32-7-1: Annemiek and Juerg will prepare an IP with an Attachment to draft the proposals for amending the relevant documents (EUR OPMET Handbook, EUR ANP, etc.)

Agenda Item 11 - Any other business

- Dates and location of the next meeting

Proposed date and location for BMG33: Munich, starting with 13 or 20 October. Alternative: De Bilt

Proposed date and location for BMG34: Bucharest, starting with 23 March 2009.

- Papers for METG
 - BMG Report: shall include:
 - EUR OPMET Data Update Procedure – Inventory (Herman)
 - SIGMET monitoring inventory (Michael)
 - Overview of Canadian TAFs restructuring (Kevin)
 - PHP status report (Annemiek)
 - AFI data (Patrick)
 - IP on the proposed format of messages used during VA exercises (Patrick)
 - IP on Performance Indices (James and Herman)
 - RODEX status report (Kevin)
 - Update report on Amd 74 changes implementation (Kevin)

List of actions

Ag.Item/BMG	Action item	Responsible	Target date
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BMG 31-4-1	Investigate nature of errors in SIGMET format	M. Pichler	
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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 31-6-2	Investigate function of Vienna MSS switch on malformed bulletins (CCCC missing)	M. Pichler	No info available
BMG 31-6-4	Correct addressing of Beirut/Damascus bulletins	M. Pichler	On-going
BMG 31-6-6	Contact ADS for KCHIUALE bulletins	K. Loy	On-going
BMG 31-7-2	Coordinate on ROC London WPkg 1	K. Loy H.Swinnen A. den Uijl	On-going
BMG 31-7-3	Organise meeting with Baltic states	K. Loy J. Funder	On-going
BMG 31-7-4	Finalise RODEX WPkg	ROCs	On-going
BMG 31-9-2	Provide PHP application login details to BMG members	H. Swinnen	
BMG 31-9-3	Derive statistics and report to BMG on PHP	PH Task Team	On-going
BMG 32-4-1	Ask for SUG Annex1 update	K. Loy	
BMG 32-4-2	Arrange with ICAO Paris to efficiently update the EUR SIGMET Guide	K. Loy	
BMG 32-4-3	Remove App.G from the Handbook after completion RODEX transition	J.Funder	
BMG 32-4-4	Rise the question on anomalies within requirements (FASID, SUG An.1)	K. Loy	METG
BMG32-4-5	Provide listing of data requested by Taipei and Dublin. Take action based on that listing.	W. Demol K.Loy	
BMG 32-4-6	IP for METG on the proposed FV and WV format	P. Simon	METG
BMG 32-5-1	Coordinate with ICAO and representatives from Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, Egypt on data addressing	P. Simon	BMG 33
BMG 32-8-1	Paper for PT TAF presenting schedule of actions regarding TAF changes implementation	K.Loy	
BMG 32-7-1	IP on draft proposal for amending relevant documents after RODEX implementation	A. den Uijl	BMG33