REPORT OF THE BULLETIN MANAGEMENT GROUP

THIRTYFOURTH MEETING

(Bucharest*, 24-26 March 2009)*

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.)
Mr. Guillermo García Yáñez	Spain
Mr. Juerg Spaar	Switzerland
Mr. Kevin Loy	United Kingdom (Rapporteur)
Mr. James Randall	United Kingdom

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. 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 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 31-6-4	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	S. Ritchie Wim Demol	On-going
BMG 31-7-3	Organise meeting with Baltic states	K. Loy J. Funder	End of Nov
BMG34-x-x	To escalate the issue to a higher management	J.Funder K.Loy	
BMG 31-7-4	Finalise RODEX WPkg	ROCs	On-going
BMG 31-9-2	Provide PHP application login details to BMG members	H. Swinnen A. den Uijl	End of Nov
BMG 31-9-3 BMG 33-9-4	Derive statistics and report to BMG on PHP Provide announcement to ICAO Paris on PHP being operational	PH Task Team A. den Uijl	On-going End of Nov
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	
BMG32-4-5	Provide listing of data requested by Taipei and Dublin. Take action based on that listing.	W. Demol K.Loy	
BMG 32-5-1	Coordinate with ICAO and representatives from Algeria, Tunisia, and Morocco on data addressing. Egypt data to be clarified between Vienna and Toulouse	P. Simon	BMG 33
BMG 33-8-1	Distribute "NewBul", "DelBul" and "Report-oriented" listings to BMG members and publish on the FTP sites. Contact ICAO Paris to inform	BMG FP P. Simon	27 Oct and further on 23 Oct
BMG 33-8-2	Contact states to respond to Amd 74 questionnaire. New information announced via METNO	ROCs BMG FP	27 Oct and further on
BMG 33-8-3	Apply routing for new bulletins monitored from 5 Nov, inform centres and update table	ROCs	5 Nov
BMG 33-8-4	Perform 24hr monitoring on 12 Nov	OPMET centres	12 Nov
BMG 33-8-5	Derive action plans for correcting routing deficiencies related to Amd 74 changes	ROCs	After 12 Nov
BMG33-9-1	Update the Handbook with respect to: -RODEX and shopping chart -harmonize entire validation section with SADIS Gateway manual -redefine the restricted distribution	Johnny	on-going
BMG 33-9-2 BMG 33-2-1	Provide the last PHP version for updating the Handbook. Update Appendices A, B, C, E and G. Inform ICAO and publish on the ICAO website	Annemiek Johnny	27 Oct 1 Dec 2008
BMG 33-9-3	Compile listing of collective bmg email addresses to be included into the procedure	Annemiek	12 Nov
BMG 33-9-4	Annemiek will provide Dimitar with an announcement concerning the PHP	Annemiek	1 Dec 2008
BMG 33-7-0	Annemiek will update the documents concerning		

	RODEX as discussed	Annemiek	BMG34
BMG 33-7-1	Check national documentation for MOTNE->RODEX changes	BMG members	BMG35
BMG 33-7-2	Inform ICAO on the need to update ICAO docs for MOTNE elimination and inclusion of RODEX. Suggest ICAO to ask states do the same for national documentation (AIPs, etc)	Annemiek	BMG35
BMG 33-7-3	Inform BMG members well in advance on RODEX transition (for better monitoring)	ROCs	On-going
BMG 33-7-4	Sub-group on "shopping cart" to have a meeting and progress report to BMG	Michael Johnny James Patrick	BMG34
BMG 33-7-5	The group will inform Annemiek about new contacts for the RODEX contact list An updated list will be distributed	BMG members Annemiek	Before BMG34 BMG34
BMG 33-4-1	Update the SUG Annexes according to 12 nov monitoring	BMG FP	18 Dec 2008
BMG 33-4-2	Verify the registered but not monitored bulletins (bmg33 wp 5)	All centres	BMG34
BMG 33-5-3	Stop using EBZZM@@@ and use EBZZYBYX instead	ROC OPMET centres	Dec 2008
BMG 33-4-4	SIGMET monitoring procedure to be updated to keep unique seq no for all SIGMET types	Michael	Jan 2009
BMG 33-4-5	EUR VAACs to coordinate with ROCs when FV bulletins exceed 1800 chars	ROC	Dec 2008
BMG 33-10-1	Progress report on BMG website	Michael	BMG34

The group has considered that was necessary to nominate a person to chair the BMG meetings whenever the actual rapporteur (Mr. Kevin Loy) was unavailable. It was agreed that this function (deputy-chairman) be undertaken by Mr. Patrick Simon.

The group was informed that Mr. Dimitar Ivanov, the current ICAO Paris Regional Officer (MET) is going to move to WMO (Geneva) starting November this year (after the METG meeting).

Agenda Item 3:   Information from other groups

The BMG members were informed that the next VA monitoring exercise is going to take place on Wednesday, 25 March 2009, location: Iceland. The Nordic states will be involved.

IP4 – Status on TAC to TDCF transition

At the CBS/CAeM ET/ODR meeting (Brussels, Nov 2008), there was an agreement on a phased approach for the development of a pilot project, for the presentation of OPMET data in XML, including also that the distribution of OPMET information be changed from the current "message-distribution" system towards a "net-centric" environment utilizing web services based technologies. The Phase I (Proof of concept) of the project will include the conversion of METAR/SPECI (including runway state) and TAF from TAC to XML and back again, wrapping of TAC in XML and the exchange of complete messages via AFS (to be completed by the end of 2009).

The BMG members expressed the opinion that ICAO and, in particular, BMG, as the working group responsible for bulletin management of OPMET data within Europe, was not sufficiently consulted with respect to the planned changes.

WP09 - METNO Overview

The evolution of the EUR OPMET Data Update results was presented to the BMG members.
The centres were requested to cease international distribution of OPMET data for locale usage to the extend possible, and the ii bulletin header numbering should be in accordance with the BMG EUR Distribution Determination for OPMET Data Procedure.

With regard to the monitoring, it was noted that ICAO failed to provide an updated/accurate set of requirements. As for the performance indices, regarded as a measure of what is distributed against what is required, they are severely affected whether the requirements are not accurate. The group concluded that ICAO should be informed on that aspect.

Action BMG34-4-1: The Rapporteur will construct a letter to the SADISOPSG and Mr. Oli Turpeinen to inform that this year the Performance indices will not be produced due to missing updated OPMET data requirements.

WP06 – OPMET DB Availability

There were presented the results of the availability monitoring performed on the three databases. There was suggested that in the future, the report should include a reference to the FASID table version used.

Action BMG34-4-2: K. Loy will contact ICAO Paris (D. Ivanov) asking for an update of the FASID tables.

There was noted that following the Amd 74 changes, there has been recorded an increase of the availability in Toulouse databank, while a decrease of nearly 2 percent has been noted for Brussels databank. That was possibly related with the RODEX-transition and/or the AMD 74 changes.

Action BMG34-4-3: EGGY and LFPW will investigate missing TAFs from Brussels databank prior to any RODEX change implementation.

IP01 – Dutch platforms in Northsee (SANL33 EHDB bulletin)
The group was informed about the geographical location and the location indicators used for the helideck platforms. It was mentioned that these produce full METAR messages

WP04 – SIGMET Monitoring

The results of the latest EUR SIGMET monitoring exercise (Feb 2009) were presented, both for WS SIGMETs and WV (volcanic ash).

Action BMG34-4-4: ROC Toulouse will contact states to ask for clarification and inform on the correct usage of the AA indicator (for instance, Italy uses both IY and EU indicators).

WP05 – Format of SIGMET messages

During the BMG33 meeting, the group noticed that there was no clear guidance regarding the use of sequence numbers for different SIGMET types (WS, WV, WC). Advice from Dimitar Ivanov was obtained, who was in favour of using separate sequence numbering series for the different types. The group concluded that extra guidance in the EUR SIGMET guide was not sufficient, but that this should be clarified in the Annex3, which currently suggests to use one series of sequence numbers.

The proposed changes for SIGMETs in Annex 3 Amd 75 were brought under the attention of the group, particularly the changes in the sequence numbering and the possibility to include several areas with the same phenomena in one SIGMET. It was concluded that from a communications and databank perspective, this new format did not represent any technical problems. However a number of other concerns were identified :

- SIGMET validity should be based on the validity periods and not on the sequence numbers
- a number of states currently use the possibility of a prefix letter to the sequence number to differentiate between different parts of FIRs
- the proposal is unclear : are there fixed combination letter-phenomena, or does the day start with A-type SIGMETs, or can each centre decide upon themselves
- including several areas with the same phenomena in one SIGMET message raises the problem of validity times. This would only be feasible if the validity time can be specified for each of the areas. However this would impact the current systems, such as OPMET databanks, that do process the SIGMETs correctly (validity based on the specified validity period).
- BMG monitorings show that the Annex3 Amd73 are currently, after 4 years, only implemented by +/- 50% of the MWOs. Therefore it looks very optimistic to think that all MWOs will implement this new format in due time

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

WP08 – NOTAM headings
Different international publications have indications on the usage of headings for the volcanic ash NOTAM messages. In particular, the group analysed the provisions of the ICAO Annex 15 and IAVW handbook, where the heading is described in detail. There were indentified some deficiencies:

- TT=VA is not in accordance with WMO 386. In practice was noted that TT=NO is frequently used.
- The geographical designator AA is related to ICAO Doc 7910, not to WMO 386
- The date/time group consists of 8 characters (instead of YYGGgg).

Taking the above into account, the group considered that bulletins with that heading format can not be accommodated on the current meteorological communication systems.

Action BMG34-5-1: P. Simon will perform a consistent review of the ICAO Annex 15, IAVW Handbook, EURANP-FASID and SADIS User Guide and will highlight the inconsistencies in order to inform the appropriate bodies.

IP05 – TAF Auto correction

The auto-correction software used by the SADIS gateway was updated to account for the new TAF format (Nov 2008). As a large number of TAF AMD (including cancellations) are being issued more than 6 hours after the original TAF without the original validity period being updated, these fail the auto-correction rule.
The group agreed on the conclusion that above mentioned validation type should be removed from the gateway.

WP10 – Routing OPMET Data to EBBR

The group was informed that some OPMET data are being sent to other EBZZM@@@ addresses, instead of the one and only PDAI group address to be used: EBZZYBYX. A complete listing of the data sent to other addresses instead of the correct one was provided.

Action BMG34-5-2: IROGs will check and ensure that the data listed are correctly distributed by them to EBZZYBYX.

Action BMG34-5-3: Brussels will backtrace to investigate where this wrong address was inserted (part of a PDAI or explicitly included by the originator) and send administrative messages to the originators to stop sending data directly to EBBR.

Action BMG34-5-4: Rome, Madrid and Frankfurt will modify the addressing of data that should be sent to the corresponding ROC instead of sending direct to Brussels (cross-check with the national AFTN switch, if necessary).

IP03 – AFI Data

Action BMG34-5-5: There was agreed that an information paper on this subject will be presented at next SADISOPSG meeting, stating that:
SADISOPSG, through ICAO, liaise with Regional Offices in the AFI Region to investigate and arrange for the distribution into Europe as per EUR FASID Table 2A (to AFTN address LFZZMAFI), to ensure delivery into Europe for terrestrial purposes and also, through the EUR RODEX system, for SADIS.

Agenda Item 7 - RODEX

IP02 –RODEX Transition (Austria)

BMG members were informed on the current status of the implementation of RODEX for Austria.
The collection of data from Switzerland, Turkey and Albania has been taken over by Vienna. For distribution of data, all MOTNE-centres have been addressed to provide a list of bulletins that they route to Offenbach and Zurich. After all the information has been received Vienna will start to prepare the routing table so that those two centres are supplied with OPMET data from Vienna only.

Action BMG34-7-1: All centres to provide a list of all bulletins they currently distribute to Offenbach and Zurich. Based on that, Vienna will prepare the necessary routing.

Further, there were analysed the Working Packages for ROC Toulouse.

Action BMG34-7-2: P. Simon will nominate a person from ROC Toulouse by 7 April, in order to look on the necessary data, and will co-ordinate with Brussels on 21-22 April.

It was mentioned that for the time being, no contact was possible to establish with Tunisia. Transition for Rome will be completed by the end of the year. There should be checked whether data from Gibraltar sent by ROC Toulouse are received by all ROCs and remaining MOTNE centres (all centres did no confirm the right reception) before Madrid stops introducing Gibraltar data into its compilations (SA,FC)EW32LEMM..

The group was reminded that the MOTNE Work Package procedure should be followed and the documentation updated. According to the procedure, EBBR will stop the distribution of EB and EL OPMET data to the MOTNE Centres involved only after formal confirmation from the involved former MOTNE Centre(s) that data are being received from the responsible ROC (for example, the transfer of EBBR responsibilities versus LEMM to LFPW). Also prior communication about any transfer of distribution responsibilities of at the least one week is needed to ensure availability of persons and in order to get the monitoring organised.

IP07 RODC Shopping Cart

Agenda Item 9:   Documentation

Handbook

WP02 – Documentation changes due to transition to EUR RODEX.

There were presented the necessary updates to documentation as a consequence of transition to EUR RODEX (to eliminate mentions of old MOTNE system).
There was considered that also the Regional Supplementary needs review.
For the Doc 7910 was considered that that was a responsibility of the state concerned.

Action BMG34-9-1: Each member should take measures to propose to the corresponding national authority the update of the ICAO Doc. 7910 with respect to MOTNE mentions.

Action BMG34-9-2: Each member should send its comments on the documentation update to A. den Uijl. The resulting listing will be reviewed by K. Loy and P. Simon and they will prepare a paper that will be presented to the next BMG meeting in June.

WP07 – RODEX Transition WPkg Template Communication

There were discussions and proposals for small amendments of the document.

Action BMG34-9-3: A. den Uijl will update the paper according to the proposed changes.

WP03 – WPkg Templates
There have not been comments to the paper.

PHP

IP06 – PHP status
There was noted the progress with the PHP implementation. The Manual was already available, the quick starting guide under final development. Minor set-up needed for the ticketing application.

Action BMG34-9-4: Belgium will e-mail all members when everything is set-up and will provide also the user names and passwords for using the application (next couple of weeks).

Agenda Item 10 - Any other business

- The group was informed by K. Loy on the format of the WS SIGMETs received from Canada. For many messages, there was missing the FIR indicator and these bulletins miss the validation. The proposed solutions were either to disable the validation for these particular headers, or disregard the bulletins.

There was considered that this could be a first application of the PHP.

Action BMG34-10-1: A complete listing of the above mentioned bulletins will be derived and addressed through the PHP. Every year, this listing (along with the corresponding PHP reference number) will be presented to METG and SADISOPSG, with the mention that the validation has been turned of for those bulletins.

- The BMG FP updated the BMG33 WP5 list of registered but not monitored OPMET data from The Netherlands to the February 2009 OPMET monitoring results. The list was shared as: MetnoNotMon.xls, including data to be considered for revision via the EUR OPMET Data Update Procedure. – see action BMG33-4-2

- Dates and location of the next meeting

  Proposed date and location for BMG35: UK, 16-18 June 2009.

  Proposed date and location for BMG36: Madrid, 20-22 October 2009 (alternate location: Vienna)

  Option arranged for BMG37: De Bilt, 16-18 March 2010

List of actions

Ag. Item/BMG	Action item	Responsible	Target date
BMG 31-6-6	Contact ADS for KCHIUALE bulletins	K. Loy	On-going
BMG34-x-x	To escalate the issue to a higher management	J. Funder K. Loy	
BMG 31-7-4	Finalise RODEX WPkg	ROCs	On-going
BMG 32-4-2	Arrange with ICAO Paris to efficiently update the EUR SIGMET Guide	K. Loy	
BMG32-4-5	Provide listing of data requested by Taipei and Dublin. Take action based on that listing.	W. Demol K.Loy	
BMG33-9-1	Update the Handbook with respect to: -RODEX and shopping chart -harmonize entire validation section with SADIS Gateway manual -redefine the restricted distribution	Johnny	on-going
BMG 33-9-4	Annemiek will provide Dimitar with an announcement concerning the PHP	Annemiek	1 Dec 2008
BMG 33-7-1	Check national documentation for MOTNE->RODEX changes	BMG members	BMG35
BMG 33-7-5	The group will inform Annemiek about new contacts for the RODEX contact list An updated list will be distributed	BMG members Annemiek	Before BMG34 BMG34
BMG 33-4-2	Verify the registered but not monitored bulletins (bmg34 MetnoNotMon.xls)	All centres	BMG34
BMG 33-4-5	EUR VAACs to coordinate with ROCs when FV bulletins exceed 1800 chars	ROC	Dec 2008
BMG34-4-1	Construct a letter to SADISOPSG & ICAO (Mr. Turpeinen) to inform that PI will not produced due to missing updated OPMET data requirements.	K. Loy	SADISOPSG
BMG34-4-2	Contact ICAO Paris (D. Ivanov) asking for an update of the FASID tables.	K. Loy	SADISOPSG
BMG34-4-3	Investigate missing TAFs from Brussels databank prior to any RODEX change implementation.	EGGY LFPW	
BMG34-4-4	Contact states to ask for clarification and inform on the correct usage of the AA indicator	LFPW	
BMG34-5-1	Review documentation on VA NOTAM format	P. Simon	
BMG34-5-2	Verify correct routing of OPMET data to Brussels	IROGs	
BMG34-5-3	Back trace and notify originators on correct addressing of OPMET data to Brussels	H. Swinnen	
BMG34-5-4	Cross-check with AFTN switch and correct routing to Brussels	Frankfurt Rome Madrid London	
BMG34-5-5	Letter to SADISOPSG to ask coordination with AFI ICAO office for correct addressing of data	B. Richter	30 March
BMG34-7-1	Provide list of data routed to Frankfurt & Zurich. Set-up routing of data.	All centres M. Pichler	1 week
BMG34-7-2	Nominate a person from ROC Toulouse to coordinate with EBBR	P.Simon	7 April

BMG34-9-1	Actions to amend 7910 on MOTNE-RODEX change	All members	
BMG34-9-2	Review updated documentation on RODEX changes	A. den Uijl K. Loy P. Simon	BMG35
BMG34-9-3	Update the RODEX Transition Wpkg Template Communication	A. den Uijl	
BMG34-9-4	Inform BMG members on credentials for PHP	H. Swinnen Wim Demol	
BMG34-10-1	Compile listing of malformed bulletins for which the validation is turned off and inform METG/SADISPOPSG	K. Loy	