

REPORT OF THE DATA MANAGEMENT GROUP

SIXTH MEETING

(Vienna, 19-21 June 2012)

The sixth meeting of the Data Management Group was held from 19 to 21 June 2012 in Austro Control premises, Vienna, and was attended by the following participants:

List of participants

Mr. Michael Pichler	Austria
Mr. Wim Demol	Belgium
Mr. Johnny Funder	Denmark
Mr. Patrick Simon	France
Mrs. Annemiek den Uijl	Netherlands
Mr. Laurentiu Brojboiu	Romania (Secretary)
Mr. Edward Boorman	United Kingdom
Mr. Kevin Loy	United Kingdom (Chairman)

WP 1 – Adoption of the provisional agenda

After the meeting opening, the group discussed on the provisional agenda and adopted it as follows:

1. Approval of the Agenda
2. Actions from previous meeting WP2, IP2
3. Information from other groups
4. EUR OPMET Data Update procedure and data monitoring, reporting and addressing
 - i) Routine WP6,7
 - ii) Non-routine (incl. SIGMET issues) WP5,IP1
 - iii) Volcanic Ash
 - iv) Addressing of EUR and Non-EUR OPMET data WP9
5. Performance Indices WP10
6. RODEX
7. Documentation
 - a) EUR OPMET Data Management Handbook WP04,8
 - b) PHP WP03
8. WXXM
9. AOB
10. Next meeting

Agenda Item 3: Actions from the previous meeting

The group approved the DMG5 Report and reviewed the status of the actions established at the DMG05 meeting. The completed tasks were erased from the list (highlighted in yellow; see comments).

Ag. Item/BMG	Action item	Responsible	Target date
DMG03-3-5	WP covering a revision to the SADISOPSG Terms of reference (to reflect that the responsibilities on OPMET data management in Europe are on the DMG).	K. Loy	SADISOPSG 17
DMG05-2-1	Approach DSNVA for providing the AFTN addresses that NEM and VAA need to be sent to. Try to obtain missing information from Russian Federation with the help of Viktor Kourenkov, and from Germany by contacting DWD. Russian Federation information completed and global database updated. Will ask Germany the first week in July for addresses.	P. Simon C. Keohan	DMG06
DMG05-2-2	C. Keohan will verify that the ACC AFTN address list is published and maintained on-line (http://www.icao.int/safety/meteorology/iavwopsg). (note – already verified) Based on the results, DMG will prepare a paper to reference this publication in the regional volcanic ash contingency plans for the next meeting with the intention to be presented next METG. Added this item to a list of considerations by the COG when the plan is reviewed. A review of the VACP will occur as determined by the COG that would likely activate the regional volcanic ash task force to consider outcomes from the IVATF, VOLCEX, and DMG.	C. Keohan	DMG06
DMG05-2-3	Meeting to update the documentation on timers. The resulting document will be presented at DMG06.	A. den Uijl P. Simon W. Demol (info Ed Boorman)	DMG06
DMG05-3-1	Work on proposals for aligning SIGMET, AIRMET, special AIREP messages and eliminating inconsistencies, and forward this proposal to the MET Warning Study Group representatives for consideration	A. den Uijl P. Simon	DMG06
DMG05-3-2	Correct version of the state letter on the amended aerodrome forecast times. ICAO to notify the states. Completed	P. Simon C. Keohan	End March 2012
DMG05-3-3	Amend the EUR OPMET Handbook according to the comments presented in DMG05 WP03	J. Funder	DMG06
DMG05-4-1	PHP entries for the required problems regarding missing data on ISCS / SADIS. The 3 ROCs will take the necessary actions for solving these issues. Report to the next DMG meeting.	A. den Uijl	DMG06
DMG05-4-2	Paper to the next SADISOPSG meeting highlighting the efforts done by DMG to ensure proper distribution of data,	K. Loy	SADISOPSG

	while little support is received from Washington on the matter		
DMG05-4-3	Check the headers and FIRs used in SIGMET messages against the list published in EUR Doc 014. If inconsistencies are recorded, registered through the PHP. Inform C. Keohan. Used headers from monitoring to update draft EUR Doc 014 for verification at the METG/22. If State is not present at METG/22, will request verification from State.	M. Pichler	DMG06
DMG05-4-4	Monitor the RQM interrogations of the databanks and include the results in a WP for DMG06	M. Pichler W. Demol	DMG06
DMG05-4-5	Devide the missing reports by responsible IROG for a ticket in the PHP. IROGs shall participate in the PHP procedure	A. den Uijl	asap
DMG05-4-6	Investigate whether the AIRMET messages are subject to regional distribution. In accordance to Annex 3, Appendix 6, para 2.2.2, AIRMET messages should be transmitted to international operational meteorological databanks and the centres designated by regional air navigation agreement for the operation of aeronautical fixed service satellite distribution systems, in accordance with regional air navigation agreement. The EUR RANP lists AIREP in the exchange requirements as well. For missing reports from Italy and missing bulletin from Spain, ROC Toulouse will approach the responsible centres via PHP UK will investigate on FCUK32, FTUK34	ROCs	DMG06
DMG05-4-7	Check the status of implementation of the respective AIRAC updates originated from their area of responsibility. Address the issues through PHP.	ROCs	DMG06
DMG05-6-1	Tabletop exercise preparation to be held in Toulouse.	ROCs	DMG07
DMG05-6-2	Update the RODC Use Cases document according to the comments expressed during the meeting and will circulate it to the DMG members for review.	Ed Boorman	DMG06
DMG05-7-1	Investigate whether the proposals for GAMET (Chapter 10 Hdbk) are in line with Annex 3 (and WMO 386) and finalize the proposed guidance material. Determined that using a sequence letter for a FIR sector is not in conflict with Annex 3.	DMG members	DMG06
DMG05-7-2	Prepare examples to be included in the Handbook (complete messages included, and separated for each of the possible alternatives).	M. Pichler	DMG06
DMG05-8-1	Teleconference to establish the possibilities to approach PT/MARIE (maybe in conjunction with ASIA/PAC). Not necessary as UK has addressed this internally.	K. Loy C. Keohan	End March
DMG05-9-1	Submit comments to the proposed changes of SADIS User Guide and SADIS Operations Handbook. Prepare papers for SADISOPSG/17 (inclusive on OPMET quality control)	DMG members K. Loy	26 March SADISOPSG

According to the action DMG 5-2-2 DMG is to prepare a paper for METG to reference the ACC Address list used for NucEM distribution to be published in the VACP. Patrick will verify with Chris Keohan and decide whether is still the case for that (added this request from DMG to a draft appendix for consideration by the COG that will likely activate the regional VATF to consider IVATF and VOLCEX outcomes as well as this item from DMG). He also informed the group that he will present (on behalf of France) a WP to METG asking for the way to have VA Contingency Plan updated.

IP02 – ICAO Executive Summary

The group was presented the status of the actions related to ICAO that were derived after the DMG05 meeting.

With regard to the request from MID BMG/2 that DMG to provide an estimate of the machine and manpower required to run a ROC, it was noted that currently no record is maintained on the matter, and is subject to local particularities. The general principles of running a ROC are, though, established and published into EUR Doc 018 and can be used as a guidance.

Agenda Item 3: Information from other groups

SADISOPSG

K. Loy presented to the group the outcome of SADISOPSG/17 meeting (Cairo, May 2012), focusing on the conclusions which are related to the DMG activities.

- Conclusion 17/9 — Revision to Annex 1 to the SADIS User Guide (SUG) concerning OPMET information from non-AOP aerodromes
- Conclusion 17/11 — Establishment of a notification process to inform SADIS and ISCS/WIFS Gateway Providers and Regional OPMET Databanks of updates to Annex 1 of the SADIS User Guide
- Decision 17/12 — Dissemination of special air-reports on SADIS
- Conclusion 17/13 — Routing of special air-reports received at the SADIS Gateway for dissemination on SADIS
- Conclusion 17/14 — Description of special air-report dissemination in Annex 3
- Conclusion 17/15 — Inventory of WMO AHLs used by States to promulgate special air-reports

METG/21 TAF ad-hoc team

P. Simon presented briefly the current state of discussion of the ad-hoc team on TAF by first recalling the METG decision as follows :

"METG/21 Decision 21/08- TAF requirements in EUR RANP

That, an ad-hoc group be established consisting of France (rapporteur), IATA, Sweden and UK to review the outcome of next AMOFSG related to TAF production. The aim of the group is to examine the consequences on production, dissemination and processing of TAF data, including flexible issuance of TAF, one hour lead time for TAF issuance, use of FT and FC bulletins, taking into account the wishes expressed by IATA in METG/21, and to come with proposal(s) for amendment to the ICAO European Air Navigation Plan, Volume I, Basic ANP (Doc 7754) to METG/22".

The major points of the discussion within the ad-hoc group were on:

- the use of METAR (including AUTO METAR) to follow the TAF;
- the requirement from IATA to have FT TAF produced for all AOP airports;
- the requirement to have some more flexibility to produce TAF for groups of aerodromes at different times for efficiency purposes.

A consensus was found on a proposal to have, in addition to the current beginning of validity base on 00H00 mod 6h, the possibility to adopt for some airports the validity base of 03H00 mod 6h to allow the MET provider a better efficiency on forecasters availability to produce TAF. An implementation plan of 3 years will be proposed to take into account the possibility of discussions with all the airlines by representative States and a smooth transition in a context where the

budgets are heavily constrained. Different situations may be considered, depending on the closure of airports less or more than 8 hours during the night.

VA Exercise & IVATF

P. Simon informed the group on the results of the last VA monitoring exercise, particularly on the problem related to the VA concentration products usage. It was mentioned that VAACs were questioned on the XML capabilities and the response was affirmative, though was noted that no schema is developed at the moment.

One major outcome is that IVATF meeting clearly indicated that the use of concentration charts is not be considered for a delivery to users, and IATA declared also its willing that Concentrations charts be disregarded and not more used.

Agenda Item 4 - EUR OPMET Data Update procedure and data monitoring

WP06 – GAMET Distribution

The group was presented the revised version of the proposal regarding the GAMET distribution to be included in the EUR OPMET Handbook (originated by PT/LLF). After discussing the paper, the group concluded:

Action DMG06-4-1: M. Pichler and J. Funder will refine the proposal and update the EUR Doc 18, Chapter 10 (GAMET).

The group was presented then a number of issues on the use of GAMET forecasts which are not in-line with WMO386 or Annex 3 provisions, like:

- ii not in range 50-59 (bulletins not compliant were listed)
- FIRs with multiple regions and not using numbers to differentiate them (short description used instead)
- No indication of the vertical extent

As no evident safety issue was envisaged, it was not considered necessary at the moment to address the issue of ii numbering through a state letter. (A State letter would briefly indicate the changes associated to Doc 018, when endorsed, which would include GAMET distribution in Chapter 10)

It was mentioned also the reception of FAUK bulletins which in fact are not GAMETs. There was decided to identify what is the source of these bulletins (note: already verified during the meeting – UKMO. Actions taken to stop the distribution to EUR region).

WP7 – RQM Monitoring

The meeting was presented by W. Demol with the results of the regular RQM monitoring for 2012 (Vienna and Brussels only, as Toulouse DB is addressed mainly via non-AFTN). It was noted that the numbers of requests was similar to previous year (slightly decreased for LO, increased for EB) and that only a heavy user was still recorded (Taipei, RCTPYZYX), for which the following action was concluded:

Action DMG6-4-2: Ed. Boorman will provide C. Keohan with details of the problem regarding Taipei and will contact the ASIA/PAC AMC representative to as what is the correct network path to send data from Taipei into the EUR region. Raise a PHP report detailing the problem so that it can be tracked properly.

IP01 – SIGMET Comparison

M. Pichler presented to the group the results of a comparison between the SIGMET headers that are monitored against what is actually published into the EUR SIGMET Guide. The inconsistencies were highlighted and had been already submitted to A. den Uijl (for addressing through PHP) and C. Keohan (to raise the issue during METG and send ICAO state letter to states not participating to METG).

WP5 – Distribution of AIRMET

M. Pichler presented the situation with the distribution of AIRMET messages. The current AIRMET routing table used in Vienna ROC was displayed. With regard to the requirement to distribute these messages, several official documents were analyzed in order to get provisions on this matter. The inconsistencies recorded were also presented to the group.

It was mentioned that in the new draft Amendment of Annex 3 there will be provisions that AIRMET messages should be distributed to the adjacent FIRs and to WAFC.

From the documents presented, it was noted that three are under ICAO Montreal authority (Annex 3, SADIS User Guide, Doc 8896 – Manual of Aeronautical Meteorological Practice) while two are under ICAO Paris (EUR Doc 14 SIGMET & Airmet Guide and Doc 7754 - The EUR ANP). The group agreed that a paper should be presented to METG containing a proposal for the alignment of these documents with respect to AIRMET provisions.

Action DMG06-4-3: M. Pichler will come with a proposal for aligning ICAO documents provision related to AIRMET messages. K. Loy will present the paper to METG/22.

Agenda Item 5 – Performance Indices

Presentation on PI

UK offered a presentation of the application developed for the purpose of the performance indices calculation. The information was structured to offer information on regional level, per OPMET centre and on airfield level. The application was available for consultation on-line, via the Internet. There were agreed the following actions:

Action DMG6-5-1: A. den Uijl and A. Boff will come to a common understanding of the data definition (what is NIL, no data, data) and document that with examples. Information on requirements will be sent to Annemiek by Ed Boorman.

Action DMG6-5-2: UK will make the PI application accessible to the users via the Internet (by username and password) and will be adapted to indicate the headers of the bulletins.

Regarding the timeliness performance indicator, it was recalled that significant work was done on the matter by J. Randall (UK). The resulting document will be forwarded to A. Boff to check its usability and whether will be feasible to implement that within the web-based DMG tool for PI.

Action DMG6-5-3: Document describing timeliness indices be analysed by A. Boff for the possibility of adaptation and implementation within DMG web-based tool for PI calculation. If affirmative, then WP with the detailed description of PI's (definition and method of calculation) to be presented to METG 22.

Agenda Item 6 - RODEX

RODC Use Cases

Ed. Boorman presented the ver. 1.2 of the document, containing updates following discussions from DMG05.

The document was discussed and there were raised the following issues:

- The use case for ROC uploading of the routing table need to be removed (this action is done only once, initially).
- The system should provide enough flexibility such that in the future, the NOC can choose in what format to receive data (TAC or XML).
- Would that be good to offer a NOC the possibility to make a general request of data (i.e. all data from a State, including the future FASID MET2 A changes)? While it was expressed that is not on this group to limit the requests coming from a user, it was still noted that there are many issues related to the additional costs that such an approach can incur (and not necessarily on the requester's expense). It was considered that this issue be addressed through METG.

WP9 Doc9766

Ed. Boorman presented that, after investigating an OPMET submission problem from Guatemala to the EUR region, the defunct address LOZZMMSS is contained within the Handbook on the International Airways Volcano Watch, Doc 9766. That was brought into attention to ICAO Paris and information related to that is contained into IP2. The problem should have been already solved by the ICAO secretariat from Montreal but the current status on the action is to be checked with C. Keohan. (LOZZMMID is now listed for addressing to Austria from the MID Region in Doc 9766, which was updated 5 June 2012)

WP 8 – Allowed Timers for OPMET

According to DMG05-2-3, A. den Uijl, P. Simon and W. Demol had a meeting to propose an update to the documentation on timers. The outcome of that meeting (April 2012) comprises the following considerations:

- timers are part of validation procedures and used to detect incidental errors in real time. If structural errors appears, this should be brought into the PHP
- the three ROCs implement a monthly monitoring (like 3 days monitoring) to detect structural rejected bulletins
- A message should only be validated by the responsible ROC/IROG (needs re-wording, not to be interpreted that originators/NOCs feel free to send invalid data)
- Automatic correction procedures are unsafe and should not be used

Based on proposals for various timer values, the monitoring results for accepted/rejected messages in Toulouse and Brussels were evaluated. A balance was sought between rejecting obviously erroneous messages and operator workload and allowing some flexibility for local practices. The resulting proposal for the values was in general agreed by the group. UK mentioned that, from its perspective, there is a need for an internal assessment on the impact that the implementation could have on the operational activities (volume, practicalities, applied procedures for the watch keeping staff; automatic correction procedures to be stopped). Therefore, the formal approval of the timer values and inclusion into EUR OPMET Handbook was postponed for the next meetings. In order that the work will be properly structured and to ensure a concrete outcome, a new Working Package on validation will be started.

Action DMG6-6-1: UK to assess the impact of the timer values for validation and inform DMG on the outcome. DMG Work Package will be followed for addressing properly the validation issue.

It was agreed, nevertheless, that the progress that was reached so far should be reported to METG.

Action DMG6-6-2: K. Loy will include description of the progress on validation into the DMG report for METG22. P. Simon will present an information paper detailing the issue.

By analysing the monitoring results, it was noted that only a few data from the EUR region felt outside the proposed timers, for instance a bulletin from Turkey.

Action DMG6-6-3: M. Pichler will address his contacts in Turkey to solve the problem of correcting time groups within the corresponding bulletin(s).

Agenda Item 7 – Documentation. PHP

WP4 – EUR OPMET Handbook

The last edition of the handbook (4th ed.) was published in 2010, and a revised version was ready in January 2012. The release of the 5th edition was stalled (waiting for validation timers section). Since then, a number of updates have piled up, and J. Funder presented to the group the current version, including these updates. Moreover, he presented a compilation list of other required updates that were not processed yet – these were coming from previous BMG/DMG meetings or proposals coming from outside DMG.

The meeting had a thorough look into each and every proposal and decided on the inclusion or discarding of that.

Particular discussions were on the validation section (short and long TAFs in the same bulletin; this was decided to be addressed through the corresponding WPkg) and the necessity that the diagram in section 1.5 be updated to reflect better the functional relationships between DMG and other groups.

Action DMG6-7-1: J. Funder will make the necessary updates to the EUR Doc 018 – OPMET Handbook, according to the discussions during the DMG06 meeting. (Note: C Keohan will coordinate with J Funder as there are a few editorial changes to section 9 and 12 identified by States to be included in next release)

It is expected that the fifth edition of the handbook will be submitted to ICAO before METG/22.

WP3 – PHP Report

A. den Uijl (PHP Manager) presented to the meeting the PHP Progress Report. An overview of the problems addressed so far through the procedure and their current status was analysed by the group. It was decided the progress report be included into the main body of the DMG report for METG22, while the open tickets considered be important for METG (as potential safety issues) will be incorporated into a separate WP. For that, the group ran into each of the existing tickets and decided that:

- Ticket 1022: will be presented to METG, to make them aware that the problem with the SIGMETs from US and Canada. First there will be necessary to recall what has been previously done on the matter and what was the feed-back so far. (C Keohan to investigate how reporting a deficiency in a State outside the region can be tracked via another region's deficiency database)
- Ticket 1023: not for METG. Action DMG6-7-2: Patrick will present a WP to the AFI MET Task Force (equivalent to DMG in the AFI Region) meeting.
- Ticket 1028: will be addressed via the ICAO Office (the Syrian bulletin header sent to EKCHYMYX is not correct)
- Ticket 1030: [the bulletin FTIN90 VOHS dd2100 is still directly sent to EHDBYMYX \(solved now\)](#)
- Ticket 1031: [ORBIYMYX send different bulletins directly to EHAMYMYX.](#)
- Ticket 1033, 1034, 1035: continuous action.

Action DMG6-7-3: A.den Uijl will provide the text to be included into the DMG report for METG22.

The group was informed that the updates following the BMG change to DMG are now in place: the PHP URL <https://secure.belgocontrol.be/dmghelpdesk> is functional, in parallel with the old one <https://secure.belgocontrol.be/bmghelpdesk> , while the DMG Focal Point eMail address DMG_FP@belgocontrol.be is functional equal to the former BMG_FP@belgocontrol.be. The same time, the group was informed on the necessity to clean-up the unused accounts, as for each account a license is being paid for. It was agreed that the accounts will be reset, and will be created one for each DMG member state, plus one for ICAO.

Agenda item 9: Any other business

- Dates and location of the next meetings

DMG07: Toulouse, 16-18 Oct. 2012

On 15 Oct. starting 12:00 a meeting of the three ROCs representatives will take place on the subject of preparing the table top exercise for RODEX back-up procedures. The DMG07 meeting will start on 16 Oct. 13:30.

DMG08: De Bilt, (12-14 March 2013 or 25-27 March 2013 – to be confirmed).

DMG09: Edinburgh (tentative date: June 2013, to be confirmed.)

List of actions resulting after DMG06

Ag. Item/BMG	Action item	Responsible	Target date
DMG05-2-1	Approach DSNA for providing the AFTN addresses that NEM and VAA need to be sent to. Try to obtain missing information from Russian Federation with the help of Viktor Kourenkov, and from Germany by contacting DWD. Russian Federation information completed and global database updated. Will ask Germany the first week in July for addresses.	P. Simon C. Keohan	DMG06
DMG05-2-2	C. Keohan will verify that the ACC AFTN address list is published and maintained on-line (http://www.icao.int/safety/meteorology/iavwopsg). (note – already verified) Based on the results, DMG will prepare a paper to reference this publication in the regional volcanic ash contingency plans for the next meeting with the intention to be presented next METG. Added this item to a list of considerations by the COG when the plan is reviewed. A review of the VACP will occur as determined by the COG that would likely activate the regional volcanic ash task force to consider outcomes from the IVATF, VOLCEX, and DMG.	C. Keohan	DMG06
DMG05-3-1	Work on proposals for aligning SIGMET, AIRMET, special AIREP messages and eliminating inconsistencies, and forward this proposal to the MET Warning Study Group representatives for consideration	A. den Uijl P. Simon	DMG06
DMG05-3-2	Correct version of the state letter on the amended aerodrome forecast times. ICAO to notify the states. Completed	P. Simon C. Keohan	End March 2012
DMG05-3-3	Amend the EUR OPMET Handbook according to the comments presented in DMG05 WP03	J. Funder	DMG06
DMG05-6-1	Tabletop exercise preparation to be held in Toulouse.	ROCs	DMG07
	DMG06		
DMG06-4-1	Update the EUR Doc 18	J. Funder M. Pichler	
DMG6-4-2	Provide ICAO Paris (C. Keohan) with details of the Taipei RQM problem and contact the ASIA/PAC AMC representative to as what is the correct network path to send data from Taipei into the EUR region. Raise a PHP report detailing the problem so that it can be tracked properly	Ed. Boorman	
DMG06-4-3	Proposal for aligning ICAO documents provision related to AIRMET messages. Present the paper to METG/22.	M. Pichler K. Loy	July 2012 METG22
DMG6-5-1	Common understanding of the PI data definition (what is NIL, no data, data) and document that with examples. Information on requirements will be sent to Annemiek by Ed Boorman	A. den Uijl A. Boff	

DMG6-5-2	will make the PI application accessible to the users via the Internet (by username and password) and will be adapted to indicate the headers of the bulletins	UK	DMG07
DMG6-5-3	Analyse timeliness indices for the possibility of adaptation and implementation within DMG web-based tool. If affirmative WP with the detailed description of PI's (definition and method of calculation) for METG 22.	A. Boff K. Loy	METG22
DMG6-6-1	Assess the impact of the timer values for validation. Inform DMG on the outcome. Work Package for addressing properly the validation issue.	K. Loy	DMG07
DMG6-6-3	Contact Turkey to solve the problem of correcting time groups within the corresponding bulletin(s) to conform to timers thresholds.	M. Pichler	DMG07
DMG6-7-3	Provide the text to be included into the DMG report for METG22	A.den Uijl	July 2012