

REPORT OF THE DATA MANAGEMENT GROUP

FOURTEENTH MEETING

(De Bilt, 24-26 March 2015)

The fourteenth meeting of the Data Management Group was held from 24 to 26 March 2015 in KNMI premises in De Bilt, and was attended by the following participants:

List of participants

Mr. Michael Pichler	Austria
Mr. Herman Swinnen	Belgium
Mr. Wim Demol	Belgium
Mr. Johnny Funder	Denmark
Mr. Patrick Simon	France (Chairman)
Mrs. Annemiek den Uijl	Netherlands
Mr. Laurentiu Brojboiu	Romania (Secretary)
Mr. Graham Easthope	United Kingdom
Mr. Christopher Keohan	ICAO Paris
Mr. Chris Tyson	UKMO
Mr. Dennis Hart	Eurocontrol

Agenda Item 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

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WP01

2. Approval of the DMG 13 report

DMG13 Draft report

3. Actions from previous meeting

4. Information from other groups

WP03 ICAO items (ICAO)

ICAO

EUR

EANPG, COG

WP03 ICAO items Attchmt C Language proficiency

WP09 ICAO items METAR issuance Time

AFSG

VA

Draft IWXXM Implementation Planning Questionnaire
 WP03 ICAO items Attchmt A, B and E (ICAO)

Coordination with other regions

Presentation meeting with the MID region

Global Groups

SADIS

WMO

5. **IWXXM** WP03 ICAO items Attchmt D Draft SIP IWXXM
 WP03 ICAO items Attchmt F IROG map
 Draft Concept of Operations for the Transition of
 OPMET Data Exchange using IWXXM DV4 4

6. **OPMET Data Monitoring results and action plans & PHP manager report**

Systematically wrong formatted/coded OPMET data

IP01 METAR remark section (Denmark)

Monitoring results (actions PHP)

WP08 PHP_Progress_Report March 2015

PHP

Proposed action plans

Missing data & Routing problems

IP04 SPECIAL AIREP bulletin headers

WP03 ICAO items Attchmt E States with missing
 AIREP headers (ICAO)

WP13 Monitoring results Feb 2015

Monitoring results (actions PHP)

PHP

Proposed action plans

7. **Performance indices**

IP02 Updates to the MET PI Tool (UK)

WP05 PI Metrics (UK)

IP03 ASIAPAC Sigmet monitoring results Nov2014

8. **Consolidated set of time values**

9. RODEX

RODC

WP04 RODC SD

ROC Back-up procedures/ contingency arrangements

London → Toulouse

Toulouse → Vienna

Vienna → London

WP06 NOC Backup Procedure (UK)

WP10 ROC Backup Procedure (Austria)

Implementation plan on transfer from some States from AFI to MID

[Libya and Sudan to be included in MID](#)

Implementation plan on transfer from some States from AFI to EUR

[Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia to be included in EUR](#)

10. EUR Documents

WP11 One Drive (Austria)

WP12 DMG Website (Austria)

WP15 RODEX Routing (Austria)

DOC 018 Handbook

Presentation document of the DMG and its activities

WP07 DMG Presentation (chair & vice-chair)

11. Next meetings

12. AOB

Agenda Item 2: Adoption of DMG13 Report

The group reviewed and approved the DMG13 report, including the comments and updates.

Agenda Item 3: Actions from the previous meeting

The reviewed the status of the actions established at the DMG13 meeting. The completed tasks were erased from the list (highlighted in yellow; see comments).

List of actions resulted after last DMG meeting

Ag. Item/BMG	Action item	Responsible	Target date
	DMG11		

DMG11-10-2	Introduce in the ConOps provisions related to the WMO model (including reference to documentation, URL links, etc)	P.Simon W. Demol A. den Uijl	DMG14
DMG 11-8-7	Check the timers results with the February monitoring (or a special monitoring, if needed) and identify what European data will be systematically rejected when applying the proposed timers. The results will be presented to the next DMG and addressed through PHP	ROCs	DMG14
DMG11-6-2	Develop a consolidated requirements specification document for the RODC application and present the document to the next DMG	J. Funder H. Swinnen W. Demol	DMG14
DMG11-11-1	Take action for the public part of the FTP sites being discontinued.	P. Simon H. Swinnen M. Pichler	DMG14
DMG12			
DMG12-2-4	Create a presentation document of the DMG and its activities.	P. Simon A. den Uijl C. Keohan	DMG14
DMG12-6-1	The DMG reports shall be presented in the public part of the DMG website	M. Pichler	DMG13
DMG12-6-2	The METNO updates be formatted in a manner that provides easy search (xls would be a good option), published on the DMG website and periodically updated.	H. Swinnen & G. Easthope M. Pichler	DMG13
DMG12-6-3	Demonstration on the usage of the OneDrive capabilities for the purpose of the DMG activities.	M. Pichler	DMG13
DMG13			
DMG 13-2-1	WP with NOC back-up procedure	G.Easthope H. Swinnen J. Funder	DMG14
DMG 13-2-2	Apply timers for validation and conclude what data will be rejected	ROCs W. Demol	DMG15
DMG 13-2-3	RODC System Design Specification	J. Funder A. den Uijl H. Swinnen G. Easthope	DMG14
DMG 13-2-4	Verify the references to FTP are removed from Handbook	J. Funder	DMG14
DMG 13-2-5	Extract data received via GTS only, sorted for each ROC. WP for DMG14	H. Swinnen ROCs	DMG14
DMG 13-2-6	Respond to SADISOPSG that no resources are available for working on SUG Annex 3	P. Simon	
DMG 13-2-7	Prepare WP for IAVWOPSG on VA Special AIREP routing	P. Simon G. Easthope	
DMG 13-4-1	Contact States in their AoR for providing VA Special AIREP headers. Forward information to C. Keohan	ROCs	
DMG13-4-2	Proposal for clarification of terms used for METAR production. Forward to C. Keohan	M. Pichler	
DMG 13-4-3	Obtain information from MID representatives on subject to discuss during DMG14	M. Pichler	DMG14
DMG 13-10-1	Elaborate on pending questions related to IWXXM transition and prepare WP for AFSPG	P. Simon C. Keohan M. Pichler	9 Dec 2014

DMG 13-10-2	IWXXM RODB Specification – WP for DMG	W. Demol M. Pichler	DMG14
DMG 13-10-3	Assist ICAO Paris in development of high level requirements for State implementation plan for IWXXM	DMG	Jan2015
DMG 13-10-4	Structure and questions to be included in questionnaire. Forward to AFSG	P. Simon C. Keohan G. Easthope D. Hart	2 weeks
DMG 13-10-5	Revise the CONOPS document	DMG members	Mid December
DMG 13-5-1	Contact MID Region for OSDI data sent directly to Europe	C. Keohan	
DMG 13-5-2	Check with Finland for implementation of METAR keyword	G. Easthope	DMG14
DMG 13-5-3	Contact MID Region for METAR keyword in reports from Syria	M. Pichler	DMG14
DMG 13-5-4	Check for bulletins received from more than one centre and reports in different bulletins	M. Pichler	DMG 14
DMG 13-5-5	Contact AFI Region to stop distribution of data directly to EBBR	P. Simon	DMG14
DMG 13-5-6	Include originators in monitoring results and depict duplication	G. Easthope H. Swinnen	DMG14
DMG 13-5-7	Contact Azerbaijan for BAKU in Sigmet header	M. Pichler	DMG14
DMG 13-5-8	Notify PTEAST on the correct usage of 7910 loc ind in OPMET headers	C. Keohan	
DMG 13-5-9	Inform States on one single Sigmet monitoring exercise	M. Pichler	March 2015
DMG 13-5-10	Notify EANPG on implementation plan for Algeria, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan	C. Keohan	
DMG13-5-11	Verify missing OPMET data from DMG monitoring and crosscheck with IATA list. Send results to C. Keohan to include in the report for EANPG	ROCs	
DMG 13-5-12	Monitor the presence of RMK section in METAR messages	J. Funder	DMG 14
DMG 13-6-1	Correct the timers definitions in the EUR Handbook	G. Easthope A. den Uijl	DMG14
DMG 13-8-1	Proposal for the format for the exchange of routing information between the ROCs	M. Pichler	DMG14
DMG 13-8-2	Implement the new AFTN addresses	ROCs	DMG14
DMG 13-8-3	Review the back-up procedure	DMG members	DMG14
DMG 13-9-1	Refine the representation of Distribution Determination	M. Pichler H. Swinnen	DMG14
DMG 13-9-2	Contact the other ICAO Regions for information on IROGs and data collection/distribution	C. Keohan P. Simon	DMG14

Agenda Item 4: Information from other groups

WP 03 – ICAO Items Att. A, B and C

C. Keohan presented to the group the status of the actions from DMG/13 related to ICAO.

ICAO Meteorological Information Exchange Model (IWXXM)

C. Keohan presented to the group the supporting high level requirements for State Implementation Plan of IWXXM, in addition to the questionnaire developed for collecting States' intentions and capacity building needs to implement IWXXM and the distribution methods, as required by EANPG Decision 60/03. The draft survey was developed based on comments from DMG and AFSG. It was considered useful that the DMG members try to fill-in the questionnaire as an exercise. There were discussed some necessary adjustments to it and the final consensus version will be provided to ICAO Paris, which will distribute it as a State Letter in May 2015.

The group was presented with the intention of organising a workshop on implementing IWXXM (first half of 2016, ICAO Paris). It was considered that the participation should be restricted to ROCs, RODBs and IROGs, but shall include WMO. This proposal will be made to the METG/25 of EANPG for possible endorsement. The DMG members mentioned it will be very useful that ICAO informs States on the results and outcome of this workshop.

EUR SIGMET and AIRMET Guide (EUR Doc 014)

The group was informed on the status of SIGMET AHL updates. There are changes for Armenia and Azerbaijan which will be included in the headers – EUR SIGMET and AIRMET on the ICAO portal, while the corresponding information for the Russian Federation (usage of RUxx instead of Uxxx) will be raised to PT/EAST meeting, together with requirement for confirmation on the correct header used by Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan.

On the matter of SIGMET corrected messages, the group agreed that the option will be to provide a new SIGMET and cancel the erroneous SIGMET (the order needs to be decided).

Action DMG14-4-1: C. Keohan will present a WP to DMG15 with the proposed wording to be included into the EUR Sigmet Guide with respect to addressing of erroneous SIGMET messages.

WP03 – ICAO Items Att. E WMO AHL for special air-reports

The ICAO Secretariat provided the three ROCs with a list of States with missing WMO AHL for special air-reports. The group agreed on the following actions:

Action DMG14-4-2: P. Simon will try to obtain an update of the headers used for Special AIREP messages in Malta.

Action DMG14-4-3: C. Keohan and M. Pichler will try at PT/EAST15 to obtain the headers used for Special AIREP messages in the eastern countries.

IP04 - SPECIAL AIREP bulletin headers

On the same subject, M. Pichler presented IP04, which gave an overview of the current status of the actions related to obtaining the headers used in the AoR of ROC Vienna.

WP09 - METAR Issuance Times

Regarding METAR issuance time harmonization, it was noted that the DMG had assisted in defining observation, production and issuance times. As detailed in *Working Paper 09 – METAR Issuance Times* presented by M. Pichler, a coordinated response from the DMG members was provided to the rapporteur of METAR issuance time group on 13 January 2015. This response included the observation time definition, *the actual time of observation*, while issuance and production times were considered unnecessary as there was no indication of those in the official documentation.

WP14 – Harmonisation of METAR Issuance Times

On the same subject, H. Swinnen presented *Working Paper 14 – Harmonisation of METAR Issuance Times*. As a consequence of METG24 decision, the paper presented the implications that need to be taken into account in relation to setting out the process for States in a position to do so to move to a METAR observation time of 00/30. In particular, it was presented a proposal for the format of the METNO messages that can be implemented in support of announcing the change of the METAR observation times. The following actions were agreed by the group:

Action DMG14-4-4: H. Swinnen, A. den Uijl, G. Easthope will work to refine the proposal for the METNO format to be used for announcing changes to the METAR observation times.

Action DMG14-4-5: P. Simon, on behalf of the DMG, will inform the METAR Observation Time ad-hoc group that a mechanism can be set in place to announce the changes of the observation times by the States in a position to do so.

*WP03 – ICAO Items Att. F**IROG Distribution Chart*

The meeting appreciated the suggestive representation in the global IROG distribution chart developed by ICAO Secretariat.

VA Contingency Plans

The meeting was informed that NAT implemented a new plan, aligned with PANS/ATM. A new plan will be implemented in the EUR region by mid 2015.

Coordination with other Regions

The group was informed on the progress in the implementation of Regional OPMET Centre (ROC) Jeddah and back-up ROC Bahrain. The process is on its way and it will soon start to show its benefits.

It was agreed that ROC Toulouse will provide support for developing an Implementation Plan for ROC Pretoria and Dakar. Based on the monitoring results, will provide suggestions.

SADIS

Chris Tyson informed the DMG members on the expected evolutions related to SADIS. It was mentioned that is expected that the MET Panel meeting in April 2015 will come to a conclusion regarding the continuation / cessation of the SADIS 2G broadcast. The foreseen change (mid 2016) of the carrier satellite will imply considerable costs related to the upgrade of the uplink/downlink equipments, and this would need to be factored into any decision regarding continuation of a satellite based service.

Agenda Item 6 - EUR OPMET Data Monitoring results & action plans. PHP manager report*IP01 – Use of RMK Groups*

J. Funder presented to the group the results of the monitoring on the usage of the RMK group in METAR messages distributed internationally. The monitoring was requested by DMG13-5-12 action and took place over a period of three month. The group reviewed the results and considered necessary to cover the required data only (FASID tables) and the updated version be presented to METG.

Action DMG14-6-1: J. Funder will filter the results of the monitoring on RMK usage for the required data only and the updated results be presented to DMG15. After review, these will be included into the DMG report to METG.

WP08 – PHP Report

A. den Uijl, as the PHP Manager, presented to the meeting the PHP Progress Report for the period October 2014 - March 2015.

With reference to the bulletins received by more than one centre and the reports received in more than one bulletin, the group was informed that the corresponding tickets are closed. The group agreed on the following action:

Action DMG14-6-2: M. Pichler will verify the monitoring results with respect to the bulletins received by more than one centre and the reports in more than one bulletin and will derive PHP actions as required (without the need to report to the next DMG meeting except that is considered necessary).

With reference to the bulletins not compliant to Amd 73 to Annex 3 it was noted the following:

- G. Easthope contacted Finland (action DMG13-5-2) and awaiting response
- current situation in Syria does not permit addressing the issue
- C. Keohan will contact Guillermo Vega for the NAM/NAT/CAR region data. There is a need to contact him without delay as he will retire soon.

Action DMG14-6-3: C. Keohan will contact ICAO SAM Office on the matter of OPMET data not compliant to Amd 73 to Annex 3.

With reference to the tickets 1057,1058,1059 regarding non-required data present in bulletins with internationally distribution (ii=01-39), the following action was agreed:

Action DMG14-6-4: The three ROCs will investigate the problems indicated by the tickets related to internationally distribution of non-required data.

With reference to the ticket 1062 (OPMET deficiencies) the following action was agreed:

Action DMG14-6-5: C. Keohan will work together with A. den Uijl to filter the data in the listing and double check with the latest version of the requirements and update the list of deficiencies.

WP13 OPMET Monitoring Results

H. Swinnen informed the meeting about the details of the DMG monitoring exercise in February 2015 and presented the results in great detail in different modes in order to highlight the deficiencies in distribution of required data.

The meeting analysed the overviews and discussions took place on the possibility that based on the monitoring results to derive PHP tickets not by ROC but by responsible State instead. It was considered that this will help to better depict the responsibility of the State to take the necessary action for individual issues and close the corresponding ticket (which otherwise stays longer until all related actions are finalised) , but on the other hand it was appreciated a larger volume of work was required.

Action DMG14-6-6: A. den Uijl will derive for the next DMG an overview of the PHP and produce tickets for each responsible State in the EUR Region.

Agenda Item 7 – Performance Indices

IP02 - Updates to the MET PI Tool

G. Easthope informed the group that Belgocontrol forwarded the results of the SADIS monitoring in February 2015. These were processed accordingly and are available on the website dedicated to the MET PI.

WP05 - Definition of PI Metrics

Following the action DMG13-6-1, G. Easthope refined of the definitions related to the references to the number of reports for each index instead of the number of aerodromes. These changes

applied to the three indices were presented and the group agreed on the update of section 2 of Appendix F of the EUR DMG OPMET Handbook.

The group considered necessary to check whether the provisions related to the SADIS PI calculation are reflected correspondingly in the SADIS documentation.

Action DMG14-7-1: G. Easthope will check consistency of SADIS PI calculation with SADIS handbook or other applicable documents.

IP03 – ASIA/PAC SIGMET Monitoring

M. Pichler informed the DMG members that the yearly ASIA/PAC Sigmet monitoring exercise had taken place in November 2014 and he presented the results of the monitoring performed in the EUR Region by the ROCs + Brussels and De_Bilt.

Agenda Item 9 - RODEX

WP04 – RODC Specification Document

Taking into account the higher priority of developing the Draft Concept of Operations for IWXXM, and the complexity and large volume of time expected for reviewing the RODC, it was agreed by the group that J. Funder will present the *WP04 - RODC Specification Document* at the next DMG meeting (DMG15).

WP06 - NOC Back-up procedure

Following the DMG13-2-1 action, G. Easthope presented to the group a draft version of the NOC back-up procedure (to be used in case a NOC is not able to distribute its OPMET data by the normal method). The group agreed the procedure to be included in the ROC back-up procedure and be discussed during the next DMG meeting, along with other issues, like: total loss of AFS connection between the NOC and the ROC; clarifications on the implications the procedure will have on the RODC).

Action DMG14-9-1: M. Pichler will include the draft NOC back-up procedure in the RODEX back-up procedure and present it to the next DMG meeting.

WP10 – RODEX Back-up procedure

M. Pichler presented the latest version of the procedure. It was agreed on the following action:

Action DMG14-9-2: The three ROCs will do a final check of the RODEX back-up procedure before implementation.

Agenda Item 10 – EUR Documents

WP15 – RODEX Routing

M. Pichler presented to the group a new proposal for the table in Appendix E to the EUR OPMET Handbook (RODEX distribution determination), with the aim to easily identify which AFTN-address shall be used to send specific data.

The group agreed to review the proposals and take a decision at DMG15 on what need to be included into the Handbook.

Action DMG14-10-2: M. Pichler will prepare a WP for the DMG15 with a new proposal for routing table (RODEX distribution determination).

WP12 - DMG Website

M. Pichler presented to the group the changes that had been made to the DMG website. It was noted that the restricted part had been removed (as no activity had been recorded for sharing files that way) and a link to OneDrive had been included instead named "DMG Online Collaboration". There was noted the availability of all BMG and DMG reports. Another important feature already available was presented to the group regarding the possibility to review the METNO history. A number of queries are possible to retrieve the METNO messages issued by now. The group appreciated the overall development of the website, and in particular this new feature. There was discussed the possibility to retrieve the current status for a station based on all the METNO messages issued that relates to that particular station.

As during the work on the ConOps there was noted that the current version of the application did not permit the concurrent work on the document, it was decided that the presentation in *WP11 - OneDrive* be postponed for the next DMG meeting, refined for a feasible solution of the collaborative working.

In the week after the meeting, M. Pichler send by email a solution for collaborative working including examples.

WP07 - DMG Presentation

A. den Uijl presented to the group the DMG Presentation - intended for explaining DMG and its activities to other parties. The group took note and appreciated the presentation. There were mentions related to the updates of the diagrams used.

Action DMG14-10-1: A. den Uijl will update the diagrams used in the DMG presentation and will present the updated version to DMG15.

Agenda Item 5 - Draft Concept of Operations for the Transition of OPMET Data Exchange using IWXXM DV4 4

With reference to the date of implementation of the new standard, it was mentioned that that will not necessarily be the date of the Amendment 78. It was recalled by Chris Tyson that previous changes related to the new METAR/TAF codes and the GRIB/GRIB2 messages were in fact implemented at dates arbitrary chosen by WMO/ICAO. As it was considered useful to know the exact date of implementation, the following action was agreed:

Action DMG14-5-1: P. Simon will ask ICAO Paris, on behalf of DMG, for the provision of the date when the use of IWXXM becomes mandatory.

It was also mentioned that in some cases, the national regulations transpose the Annex 3 ICAO by converting the recommendations into standards. In such cases, for these States the Amendment 77 will bring the requirement on the usage of IWXXM. Moreover, D. Hart mentioned that EASA is currently developing an EC regulation which will bring also requirements on the usage of IWXXM.

Forwards, the participants proceeded to the in-depth review of the Draft ConOps document and the following were agreed:

- Assumption 3 will be moved to *3.1 Managing the transition* (renumbering of assumptions is necessary)
- M. Pichler raised the question that in case the EUR region receives data with extensions, shall those be removed by the IROG before distribution to the region?
- In chapter *Transmission and routing*, details should be provided related to the file naming, including an example and a reference to WMO 386 (the details related to the TTAA should be removed instead).

Action DMG14-5-2: Harmonise the wording all over the document where the filename convention is referred.

- Assumption 14 (max size of FTBP and max number of FTBS) will be converted into a Note.
- 3.5 Compliance testing: remove "in each region" (we deal with EUR only)

- 3.6 Data collection moved before Transmission and Assumption 11 moved to Data collection
- From the diagram, remove TREND (is part of METAR) and “bilateral agreement”.
- Translation or conversion – to use one single term over the whole document.

Action DMG14-5-3: A. den Uijl will revise the updated document to replace “conversion” with “translation”.

The group discussed on the role of a NOC as a translator. It was agreed that, for the perspective of the international distribution, the NOC should not be viewed as a translator. The document was revised to reflect that. As for the NOC definition, a note was included to mention that the data provided shall be in accordance with the applicable specifications for the international Data Aggregator.

It was noted that the next AFSG meeting will take place between 20-25 April 2015. The following was agreed:

Action DMG14-5-4: The DMG members will forward to P. Simon the issues they believe should be looked into detail by AFSG. Based on that, P. Simon will present these to the AFSG.

Action DMG14-5-5: Figure 1 (former fig. 2) will be updated to include the distribution of EUR data to the other regions.

Action DMG14-5-6: H. Swinnen will produce a glossary to be appended at the end of the ConOps document.

Agenda Item 12: Next DMG Meetings

Dates and location of the next meetings

DMG15: 16-18 June 2015, Toulouse (with possible participation of representatives from Morocco, Tunisia, Alger)

DMG16: 21-23 October 2015, London.

DMG17: 15-17 March, Copenhagen.