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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

EXECUTIVE BODY FOR THE CONVENTION ON
LONG-RANGE TRANSBOUNDARY AIR POLLUTION

Working Group on Effects

REPORT ON THE SEVENTEENTH SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUP ON EFFECTS

Introduction

1. The seventeenth session of the Working Group on Effects took place in Geneva from 26 to 28 August 1998.
2. It was attended by representatives of the following Parties to the Convention: Austria; Belgium; Canada; Czech Republic; Denmark; Finland; France; Germany; Hungary; Italy; Netherlands; Norway; Poland; Spain; Sweden; Switzerland; United Kingdom; and the European Community (EC). A representative of the World Health Organization's European Centre for Environment and Health (WHO/ECEH) was also present.
3. The session was chaired by Mr. K. Bull (United Kingdom).

I. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

4. The Working Group adopted the agenda for its seventeenth session (EB.AIR/WG.1/1998/1) on the understanding that item 8 would be dealt with before item 6.

Documents prepared under the auspices or at the request of the Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution for GENERAL circulation should be considered provisional unless APPROVED by the Executive Body.
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II. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT ON THE SIXTEENTH SESSION

5. The Working Group adopted the report of its sixteenth session, as contained in document EB.AIR/WG.1/1997/2.

III. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE FIFTEENTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE BODY FOR THE CONVENTION ON LONG-RANGE TRANSBOUNDARY AIR POLLUTION, FROM ITS SPECIAL SESSIONS ON 19 MARCH 1998 AND 24 JUNE 1998, AND FROM THE TWENTY-SECOND, TWENTY-THIRD, TWENTY-FOURTH, TWENTY-FIFTH AND TWENTY-SIXTH SESSIONS OF THE WORKING GROUP ON STRATEGIES

6. The secretariat drew attention to the present status of the Convention and its protocols, and to relevant discussions held and decisions made by the Executive Body at its fifteenth session (ECE/EB.AIR/53) and its special sessions on 19 March 1998 (ECE/EB.AIR/55) and 24 June 1998 (ECE/EB.AIR/57), and by the Working Group on Strategies at its twenty-second, twenty-third, twenty-fourth, twenty-fifth and twenty-sixth sessions (EB.AIR/WG.5/46, 48, 50, 52 and 54), as well as to the activities of other subsidiary bodies of the Executive Body with relevance to the activities of the Working Group on Effects.

7. Special mention was made of the present status of the Convention and its protocols, in particular of the fact that the 1994 Protocol on Further Reduction of Sulphur Emissions had entered into force on 5 August 1998 and that the new Protocols on Heavy Metals and on Persistent Organic Pollutants had been adopted and signed by 34 Parties in Aarhus, Denmark on 24 June 1998. It was also stressed that the Ministers, in their Declaration on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution, also adopted in Aarhus on 24 June 1998, had expressed strong support for work under the Convention but voiced concern for the lack of mandatory funding of effect-oriented activities and other activities.

8. The Working Group on Effects took note of the decisions made by the Executive Body and of the deliberations of the Working Group on Strategies, and agreed to bear them in mind when discussing its future activities.

IV. FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE EFFECT-ORIENTED ACTIVITIES

9. The Chairman introduced a note with draft proposals for the further development of the effect-oriented activities, prepared by the Bureau in collaboration with the secretariat (EB.AIR/WG.1/1998/3). He stressed the recent decisions of the Executive Body and its Bureau concerning core activities, and future priorities for medium- and long-term work under the Convention, and the possible implications for the activities of the individual

Task Forces and international programmes. He noted that the final results of the ongoing external review of the effect-oriented activities, to be submitted to the Working Group on Effects at its eighteenth session, might also affect the future development of individual programmes.

10. While a number of delegations welcomed the document and supported its recommendations, they also stressed that the programmes could not continue their work and deliver results of a high scientific quality without adequate funding.

11. The Working Group agreed on the following amendments to the document:

(a) In paragraph 10 (c), "Additional tasks which would be undertaken" should read "Further tasks which it would be possible to undertake".

(b) In paragraph 13 (c), the fourth task should read "Application of modelling to assess and possibly predict forest conditions".

(c) In paragraph 18, the second task in subparagraph (a) starting "Organization of workshops ..." should be moved to subparagraph (b).

12. The delegation of Spain presented a "non-paper" on effect-related work needed for servicing the Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants, noting the importance of collaborating with international organizations with relevant experts.

13. The Working Group:

(a) Approved the note on the further development of the effect-oriented activities (EB.AIR/WG.1/1998/3) as amended and decided to submit it to the Executive Body for information. It was stressed that all three sets of priority tasks identified in the document were necessary, but due to actual levels of funding they might not all be feasible;

(b) Invited all Task Forces to consider the practical implementation of the proposed changes in the objectives and priorities of individual programmes at their next meetings, while preparing plans for future activities;

(c) Agreed to reconsider the further development of the effect-oriented activities at its eighteenth session in 1999, taking into account any changes in activities of individual programmes proposed by the Task Forces, the conclusions and recommendation of the ongoing external review, and the Executive Body's deliberations on its medium- and long-term activities;

(d) Recognized that short-term provisions/reviews of effects information could be done by ad hoc groups of experts, but recommended that effective collaboration with other international organizations would have important benefits for such review exercises;

(e) Invited its Bureau to consider possible means of attributing a relative weight to individual parts of the effect-oriented activities, taking into account the future needs of the Convention, for example economic assessment.

V. MAPPING OF CRITICAL LEVELS AND LOADS

14. Mr. H.-D. Gregor (Germany), Chairman of the Task Force on Mapping, reported on the progress achieved in mapping critical levels and loads since the sixteenth session of the Working Group (EB.AIR/WG.1/1998/4, annex VI), and on the results of the fourteenth meeting of the Task Force. He informed the meeting about workshops to be organized in 1999 dealing with: (i) critical levels for ozone: level II; and (ii) methods for calculating critical loads for acidity and eutrophication. He also provided information on the recent activities of the pilot sub-centre for mapping in Moscow.

15. Mr. M. Posch (Netherlands), the representative of the Coordination Center for Effects (CCE), reported on its recent activities, including the preparation of updated maps of critical loads of acidity and nutrient nitrogen, the investigation into uncertainties in critical load calculations, and the evaluation of the accumulated exceedance approach (EB.AIR/WG.1/1998/5). He also provided information on the outcome of the ninth CCE Workshop on mapping critical loads and levels, held in Kristiansand, Norway.

16. The Chairman welcomed the effort of CCE to ensure transparency in critical loads data, following the decision of the Executive Body on the Guidelines and procedures for data release. The Working Group also appreciated the detailed substantiation provided by the Parties that had recently changed their critical loads data (Austria, Germany, Ireland, Sweden, United Kingdom).

17. The secretariat drew attention to document EB.AIR/WG.5/1998/1 on integrated assessment modelling, prepared for the twenty-seventh session of the Working Group on Strategies, which described target-setting methods.

18. The delegation of the United Kingdom provided more detailed information on the ongoing studies on uncertainties and presentation of results, carried out as a contribution in kind in close cooperation with the national focal centres (NFCs) and CCE.

19. The Working Group on Effects:

(a) Took note of the progress report on the activities of the Task Force on Mapping and the Coordination Center for Effects (EB.AIR/WG.1/1998/4, annex VI);

(b) Approved the updated maps of critical loads of sulphur and nutrient nitrogen (EB.AIR/WG.1/1998/5), as amended, for submission to the Executive Body;

(c) Took note of the information on the recent activities of the pilot sub-centre for mapping and noted with concern that its work-plan for 1998-1999 was not available for consideration;

(d) Took note of the report provided by the United Kingdom on assessing uncertainties and presenting results of critical loads calculations;

(e) Noted the plans of the Task Force on Mapping and CCE to reconsider the objectives of the mapping activities and their methods of work;

(f) Welcomed the detailed explanations of Austria, Germany, Ireland, Sweden and the United Kingdom for changes to sensitive grid squares, some of which were binding in some integrated assessment modelling analyses, and requested CCE to provide this information when required to Parties to the Convention;

(g) Noted that next year there would be no update in the critical loads database, as it had been decided that the negotiations of the multi-pollutant multi-effect protocol should use data submitted in 1998 and approved by the Working Group on Effects at its present session. It was noted, however, that the development of critical loads data should continue;

(h) Took note of the target-setting methods (accumulated exceedances and maximum depositions) being used by integrated assessment modellers, and requested CCE to continue to provide advice on the implications and ensure necessary feedback for the Task Force on Mapping, the Working Group on Effects and the National Focal Centres, as appropriate;

(i) Took note of the plans for workshops on:

- Critical levels for ozone: level II (April 1999, Switzerland); and
- Methods for calculating critical loads for acidity and eutrophication (November 1999, Denmark).

A. Assessment and monitoring of air pollution effects on forests

20. Mr. P. Splett (Germany), speaking on behalf of the lead country, introduced the progress report of the programme, including the results of the fourteenth meeting of the Programme Task Force (EB.AIR/WG.1/1998/4, annex I), and the strategy paper on the present status and proposed strategy for developing ICP Forests until the year 2001 (EB.AIR/WG.1/1998/7). He also reviewed activities undertaken by the programme and its Task Force in response to the relevant conclusions and recommendations of the sixteenth session of the Working Group on Effects.

21. Mr. M. Lorenz (Germany), head of the Programme Coordination Centre in Hamburg, presented the summary report on monitoring forest condition in Europe (EB.AIR/WG.1/1998/6), a technical report on the intensive monitoring of forest ecosystems in Europe, and a review of the scientific knowledge on cause-effect relationships in forest conditions. He also presented a progress report on the development of forest monitoring activities at level III.

22. In the ensuing in-depth discussion, a number of delegations expressed their appreciation for the successful efforts made by the programme to address the identified problems and welcomed the presented reports. Some delegations expressed their concern about the further expansion of the demanding programme activities and stressed the need to concentrate on the effects of air pollution.

23. The Working Group amended document EB.AIR/WG.1/1998/7 as follows:

(a) In paragraph 10 (b) the present text should be replaced by At present, the level I data provide a basis for the future upscaling of the level II monitoring programme to level I, and for a possible extrapolation of data from ICP Integrated Monitoring to the European scale;

(b) In the table in annex I, the two boxes on the right should read: "Level II Techn. Rep." and "Level II Special Studies", respectively.

24. The Working Group on Effects:

(a) Welcomed the effort of the programme to streamline its activities and resolve problems identified earlier; however, it felt that there were still opportunities for streamlining the reporting activities and urged the Programme Centre to continue to address this issue;

(b) Took note of the report on the progress of ICP Forests (EB.AIR/WG.1/1998/4, annex I) and welcomed the increased emphasis on level II results;

(c) Took note of the summary report on monitoring forest condition in Europe (EB.AIR/WG.1/1998/6) and appreciated the information provided on monitoring activities on level II;

(d) Approved the strategy paper on the present status and proposed strategy for further developing ICP Forests until the year 2001 (EB.AIR/WG.1/1998/7) as amended, and noted the revised objectives, proposed priorities for the years 1998-2001, and planned future actions for efficient implementation of the programme;

(e) Noted the report on further development of level III monitoring activities (carried out in cooperation with ICP Integrated Monitoring) and invited the Task Force on ICP Forests to keep it informed about the progress in implementing this activity;

(f) Took note of the report on the review of the scientific knowledge on cause-effect relationships in forest conditions and invited all Parties to provide additional comments on it to the Programme Coordinating Centre by the end of October 1998;

(g) Noted that a more integrated evaluation of level I results was needed and welcomed the plans of the Programme Centre to address this issue by developing statistical analyses to relate air pollution to level I parameters and by bringing together the necessary information from the various expert groups and relevant bodies outside of programme;

(h) Requested that, following the integration and evaluation exercises, the programme should assess its data collection needs, paying due attention to the possible needs of future evaluations of long-term trends, and submit plans for further possible streamlining to the Working Group for approval; this activity had commenced for level II but had yet to be initiated for level I.

B. Assessment and monitoring of acidification of rivers and lakes

25. Ms. B. Kvaeven (Norway), Chairwoman of the Task Force on ICP Waters, reported on progress in the implementation of the programme, including the results of the thirteenth meeting of the Programme Task Force (EB.AIR/WG.1/1998/4, annex II). With reference to the important results of the programme, in particular in assessing trends in water chemistry and biota as related to pollution, she stressed the need to continue national monitoring

activities and update the programme database with good-quality and site-specific data. She also pointed out that the programme's twelve-year report would be drafted in 1999.

26. Ms. M. Johannessen (Norway), head of the Programme Centre, introduced the executive summary of the report on critical loads and their exceedances at ICP Waters sites and summed up its conclusions (EB.AIR/WG.1/1998/8). She reviewed the results of the 1997 chemical intercalibration and provided information on the present status of the programme's database. She also informed the meeting on the preparations for the joint ICP Integrated Monitoring and ICP Waters workshop on biological assessment and monitoring to be held in October 1998 in Zakopane, Poland, in conjunction with the fourteenth meeting of the programme Task Force. She presented plans for the further development of the programme activities.

27. The Working Group on Effects:

(a) Took note of the report on the progress of the ICP Waters (EB.AIR/WG.1/1998/4, annex II) and its plans for further development;

(b) Took note of the executive summary of the report on critical loads and their exceedances at ICP Waters sites (EB.AIR/WG.1/1998/8) and welcomed the effective cooperation of ICP Waters with CCE in its preparation;

(c) Took note of the information concerning the present status and further development of the programme's database;

(d) Took note of the report on the evaluation of results of the 1997 chemical intercalibration;

(e) Took note of the preparations for the joint ICP Integrated Monitoring and ICP Waters workshop on biological assessment and monitoring (October 1998, Zakopane, Poland).

C. Effects of air pollution on materials, including historic and cultural monuments

28. Mr. V. Kucera (Sweden), Chairman of the Task Force on ICP Materials, reported on progress in the implementation of the programme, including the results of the fourteenth meeting of the Programme Task Force (EB.AIR/WG.1/1998/4, annex III). He presented the report on the analysis of data after eight years of exposure: dose-response functions and corrosion trends (EB.AIR/WG.1/1998/9), pointed out reports prepared by the programme's subcentres on individual material groups, ongoing and planned activities on

mapping corrosion damage and the plan to organize a workshop on this topic in cooperation with the mapping programme. He also summarized the results of the Workshop on quantification of effects of air pollution on materials, held in May 1998 in Berlin, Germany.

29. He also provided information on the objectives and scope of, and increased participation in, the new multi-pollutant exposure programme, which had started in October-November 1997.

30. The Working Group commended the important and useful results of the programme, in particular in deriving dose-response relationships, and welcomed the information on the new exposure programme. The Working Group also stressed the importance of the programme's activities in the economic evaluation of damage caused by air pollution to materials and buildings.

31. The Working Group on Effects:

(a) Took note of the report on the progress of ICP Materials (EB.AIR/WG.1/1998/4, annex III);

(b) Approved the report on the analysis of data after eight years of exposure: dose-response functions and corrosion trends (EB.AIR/WG.1/1998/9);

(c) Took note of the report of the Workshop on quantification of effects of air pollution on materials and its conclusions and recommendations;

(d) Took note of the plan for further developing the programme and especially welcomed the proposals on mapping activities (including a workshop on this subject in collaboration with the mapping programme) and economic assessment of air pollution damage to materials and buildings, whilst further noting the importance of these exercises for drawing attention to the extent of such corrosion damage;

(e) Invited the Task Force on ICP Materials to present a report on the progress in the implementation of the new multi-pollutant exposure programme to it in 1999;

(f) Noted the importance of identifying stock at risk and requested continued efforts from the programme in this area.

D. Effects of air pollution and other stresses on crops and non-wood plants

32. Ms. G. Mills (United Kingdom), Chairwoman of the Task Force on ICP Crops, reviewed the progress in the implementation of the programme, including the results of the eleventh meeting of the Programme Task Force (EB.AIR/WG.1/1998/4, annex IV). She presented the progress report on the incorporation of level II factors into the critical level of ozone for yield reduction in crops and its subsequent mapping (EB.AIR/WG.1/1998/10) and the 1998 annual status report on the achievements of ICP Crops. She provided information on the results of the Workshop on using artificial neural networks to model environmental data, held in January 1998 in Wageningen, Netherlands.

33. She also presented the updated objectives of the programme and plans for the further development of its activities, and she proposed to amend the name of the programme to reflect these.

34. Mr. G. Ball (United Kingdom), the representative of the programme's Data Modelling Centre, provided additional information, in particular on the progress in modelling and mapping level II critical levels for ozone on semi-natural vegetation and crops.

35. In the ensuing discussion, a number of delegations expressed their appreciation for the important achievements of the programme. Some delegations drew attention to the failure of the level I data to adequately reflect detailed predictions of crop damage. However, it was recognized that work on level II was not sufficiently advanced to provide input to the current discussions on the multi-pollutant protocol. It was also recognized that irrigation was an important level II factor which was difficult to address because of a shortage of data.

36. The Working Group on Effects:

(a) Took note of the report on the progress of ICP Crops (EB.AIR/WG.1/1998/4, annex IV), and the 1998 annual status report;

(b) Approved the report on the incorporation of level II factors into the critical level of ozone for yield reduction in crops and its subsequent mapping (EB.AIR/WG.1/1998/10);

(c) Took note of the report on the Workshop on using artificial neural networks to model environmental data;

(d) Invited ICP Crops to consider further ways of incorporating irrigation into level II factors;

(e) Invited ICP Crops to continue its activities to realistically assess crop losses due to ozone pollution and to present a progress report to it in 1999;

(f) Recommended future collaboration between ICP Crops and the Task Force on Health Aspects in view of their possible common interest in heavy metals in food crops and methods of statistical analysis;

(g) Agreed on a new short name and abbreviation for the programme: ICP on Non-wood Plants and Crops (ICP NWPC).

E. Integrated monitoring of air pollution effects on ecosystems

37. Mr. H. Staaf (Sweden), Chairman of the Task Force on ICP Integrated Monitoring, reported on progress in the implementation of the programme, including the results of the sixth meeting of the Programme Task Force (EB.AIR/WG.1/1998/4, annex V). He reviewed the recent development in the programme activities and in updating its database and noted increased participation in the programme.

38. Mr. M. Forsius (Finland), head of the Integrated Monitoring Programme Centre, introduced the summary report on the EU/LIFE Project: development of assessment and monitoring techniques at integrated monitoring sites in Europe (EB.AIR/WG.1/1998/11), presented the programme's seventh annual report 1998 and the final version of the revised manual for integrated monitoring, prepared in close cooperation with ICP Forests and ICP Waters. He also reviewed the activities and tasks planned for 1998/1999 and those considered for further developing the programme.

39. In the ensuing discussion, several delegations noted the important impact of the EU/LIFE Project on the development of integrated monitoring activities both nationally and internationally. Some delegations also commented on the results of dynamic modelling, their presentation and effective use.

40. The Working Group on Effects:

(a) Took note of the report on the progress of ICP Integrated Monitoring (EB.AIR/WG.1/1998/4, annex V);

(b) Took note of the summary report on the EU/LIFE Project: development of assessment and monitoring techniques at integrated monitoring sites in Europe (EB.AIR/WG.1/1998/11);

(c) Took note of the seventh annual report 1998;

(d) Approved the revised manual for integrated monitoring;

(e) Welcomed the proposals of the Task Force to further develop the programme and noted the incorporation of relevant topics identified by the Bureau of the Working Group on Effects (EB.AIR/WG.1/1998/3) in its work-plan.

F. Common aspects of International Cooperative Programmes

41. In concluding the discussion on the recent activities and results of the International Cooperative Programmes and the Mapping Programme, the Working Group on Effects:

(a) Noted the important results of the International Cooperative Programmes and the Mapping Programme, and their substantive contribution to the effective implementation of the Convention and the preparation of the new multi-pollutant, multi-effect protocol on nitrogen oxides and related substances;

(b) Reiterated the importance of the support provided by the lead countries and coordinating centres;

(c) Stressed the importance of the work carried out by the national focal centres noting that the participation in research and data sharing are part of the obligations of Parties under the Convention (article 7 (d) and (f));

(d) Reiterated the continuing need for regular updating the objectives and methods of work of individual programmes, in view of the priorities of the Executive Body, and noted that the results of the ongoing external review of the effect-oriented activities, once considered and approved by the Working Group on Effects and the Executive Body (in 1999), might have an important impact on the future orientation, objectives, structure and scope of activities of the programmes;

(e) Noted the potential importance of using national and international research projects and "help in kind" to address specific tasks for which

funding proved difficult, but appreciated that careful selection and planning was needed to ensure the effective contribution of such a funding mechanism to the work under the Convention;

(f) Noted that many of the international programmes had developed, or were developing, World Wide Web sites to provide information on their work, objectives, etc., and requested the programme centres to provide the Internet addresses to the secretariat so that these could be made available to the Working Group.

VII. REVIEW OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE

A. 1998 Substantive report on air pollution: past and future trends

42. The Chairman introduced the draft summary of the 1998 substantive report on air pollution: past and future trends (see EB.AIR/WG.1/1998/4). He noted that while the report in its present form provided important results and information, it still required further elaboration. He proposed action for the finalization of the report and its publication, including organization of the work and time schedule.

43. Several delegations stressed the importance of the report for both the decision makers and the general public and recommended its speedy finalization if possible in two formats: (i) full technical report; and (ii) condensed report for the general public. It was also suggested that the report should be amended to take account of (i) the fact that programme monitoring sites might not be representative of Europe as a whole but might nevertheless show important trends; (ii) the effective collaboration between the programmes, which was not identified adequately at present, and (iii) streamlining of the Executive Summary to improve its readability.

44. The Working Group:

(a) Approved the draft summary of the substantive report (EB.AIR/WG.1/1998/4), taking note of the suggested amendments and additions;

(b) Agreed on the organization of the work and the time schedule for finalizing the substantive report on trends and requested its Chairman and the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology (United Kingdom) to continue to coordinate the work;

(c) Invited all Parties to submit additional comments to the secretariat before the end of October 1998;

(d) Requested its Extended Bureau to continue to develop the report and to present the final version to it at its eighteenth session;

(e) Requested its Bureau to explore ways and means of conveying the results of the substantive report on trends to policy makers, possibly making use of the contents of the Executive Summary.

B. Heavy metals and persistent organic pollutants

45. Mr. H.-D. Gregor, Chairman of the Workshop on critical limits and effect-based approaches for heavy metals and persistent organic pollutants (POPs), held in November 1997 in Bad Harzburg, Germany, introduced its summary report (EB.AIR/WG.1/1998/13) and presented its proceedings.

46. After considering the conclusions of the Workshop and discussing possible future action in this field, the Working Group:

(a) Took note of the summary report on the Workshop on critical limits and effect-based approaches for heavy metals and persistent organic pollutants (EB.AIR/WG.1/1998/13) and approved its conclusions;

(b) Expressed its appreciation to the host country for the speedy publication and distribution of the proceedings;

(c) Noted that POPs and heavy metals did not need to be considered collectively at workshops in the future and welcomed the proposal by Germany to host a workshop on heavy metals in late 1999;

(d) Noted that critical limits for POPs might be appropriate only for a limited number of chemicals, so workshops might not be appropriate for this issue, though risk assessment methods for POPs might still be an item for future consideration;

(e) Invited the Task Force on the Health Aspects of Air Pollution to consider the possibility of addressing the health effects of heavy metals and POPs in their future activities, and to participate actively in the preparation of future workshops on POPs and heavy metals;

(f) Invited all ICPs to continue to include into their activities, as feasible, the assessment of effects of heavy metals and POPs, and to report back to it.

C. Conference on nitrogen - the CONFER-N-s

47. The Chairman introduced the note on the Conference on nitrogen, held in March 1998 in Noordwijkerhout, Netherlands (EB.AIR/WG.1/1998/14), summing up its main results. A delegate of the Netherlands provided additional information and underlined the most important findings and conclusions of the Conference.

48. The Working Group took note of the presented document and agreed to consider its conclusions and recommendations when further developing and implementing the effect-oriented activities.

VIII. HEALTH EFFECTS OF PARTICULATE MATTER

49. Mr. M. Krzyzanowski, representative of the European Centre for Environment and Health of the World Health Organization (WHO/ECEH) and Chairman of the Task Force on the Health Aspects of Air Pollution, presented information on the establishment of the Task Force and the results of its first meeting, on 24-25 August 1998 in Geneva. Experts from ten countries and a representative of EMEP had attended.

50. On the basis of the draft mandate provided by the Bureau of the Working Group on Effects, the Task Force had prepared its terms of reference (annex I). Giving priority to particulate matter, the Task Force had considered possible approaches and necessary steps which would provide a realistic assessment of the health effects of long-range transboundary air pollution. To this end it had drafted a list of questions and information needs.

51. As a first step, the Task Force had agreed to prepare a report summarizing the information needs to assess the impact of the implementation of the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution and its protocols on the reduction of risk to health from particulate matter. The Task Force had agreed on the outline for the report, the distribution of the work and the timetable for its preparation for submission to the Working Group on Effects at its eighteenth session.

52. The Working Group welcomed the information, stressed the importance of the health aspects in the work under the Convention and pledged its full support to the activities of the Task Force.

53. The Working Group:

(a) Took note of the information on the establishment of the Task Force on Health Aspects of Air Pollution;

(b) Approved the terms of reference of the Task Force, its short-term priorities and its plan of action for 1998/1999;

(c) Invited all interested Parties to nominate their experts and actively participate in the work of the Task Force;

(d) Expressed its appreciation to the European Centre for Environment and Health of WHO for its important role in initiating the activities of the Task Force.

IX. FINANCING OF EFFECT-ORIENTED ACTIVITIES

54. The secretariat introduced the note on the financing of the effect-oriented activities (EB.AIR/WG.1/1998/15). Special mention was made of the priority tasks in the international coordination of the individual programmes and, in particular, of the 1997 voluntary contributions towards financing the essential international coordination of the effect-oriented activities, and of the present status in 1998 voluntary contributions. The progress made in the use of non-earmarked voluntary contributions was also pointed out.

55. In the ensuing discussion, some delegations, while appreciating the presented note, suggested that future reports on voluntary contributions towards financing of the effect-oriented activities should provide more complete information on all kinds of support provided by Governments (for example, costs of organizing Task Force meetings and workshops).

56. Some representatives of lead countries or countries hosting the coordinating centres noted that voluntary contributions made directly to the coordinating centres, while in some cases officially reported to the secretariat, were not yet properly reflected in the presented lists of contributions.

57. The Working Group also made the following amendments to the document:

(a) Subparagraph 7 (c) should read: "Develop ozone flux models for crops";

(b) Subparagraph 7 (d) should read: "Develop methodologies for investigating ozone sensitivity in natural vegetation".

58. The Working Group:

(a) Approved the note on the financing of the effect-oriented activities (EB.AIR/WG.1/1998/15), as amended, and decided to submit it to the Executive Body;

(b) Confirmed that the estimated 1999 essential coordination costs of different elements of the effect-oriented activities as provided in document EB.AIR/WG.1/1997/14 were still valid;

(c) Invited the Bureau in collaboration with the secretariat to establish a transparent method for recording and presenting all kinds of voluntary contributions;

(d) Noted that the burden of funding the effect-oriented activities was still primarily carried by the lead countries of individual programmes, and/or by the countries hosting the programme coordinating centres, and reiterated the need to share the coordinating costs more equally;

(e) Reiterated its invitation to all countries which had not yet done so to consider without undue delay providing voluntary contributions towards sharing the costs of the international coordination services for the ICPs and the Mapping Programme and the Task Force on the Health Aspects of Air Pollution.

59. Voluntary contributions should be sent to:

UBS S.A.
Case postale 2770
1211 Genève 2

Account title: United Nations General Fund
Account No.: CO-590,160.0 for contributions in Swiss francs
Account No.: CO-590,160.1 for contributions in US dollars

These contributions should be clearly earmarked: **Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Convention, Sub-account for Voluntary Contributions towards Funding of Effect-oriented Activities under the Convention, Allotment account No.: LUC-25-270, year** (for which the contribution is made) **and the specific programme/coordinating centre** (if applicable)".

Alternatively, contributions may also be made by cheque made payable to "UN Economic Commission for Europe" and clearly earmarked as indicated above, addressed to:

Administrative and Conference Service Unit (Office 333)
Office of the Executive Secretary
Economic Commission for Europe
Palais des Nations
1211 Geneva 10

Whatever the method of payment, a communication should be sent to UN/ECE, specifying the amount contributed, the date and purpose of the payment.

X. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

60. The Working Group was informed that Mr. J. Kämäri (Finland) had been entrusted by his Government with tasks which would prevent him from continuing to serve as Vice-Chairman.

61. Mr. K. Bull (United Kingdom) was re-elected Chairman. Mr. B. Achermann (Switzerland), Mr. V.N. Bashkin (Russian Federation), Mr. G. Fenech (Canada), Mr. R. Guardans (Spain) were re-elected Vice-Chairmen, and Mr. T. Johannessen (Norway) was elected Vice-Chairman.

62. The Chairman expressed his gratitude to Mr. J. Kämäri for his contribution as Vice-Chairman of the Working Group on Effects and welcomed Mr. T. Johannessen to the Bureau.

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

63. The Chairman introduced the Guidelines and procedures for data release, as approved by the Executive Body at its special session on 19 March 1998 (Decision 1998/4). The Working Group took note of the decision and invited all programmes to apply it when sharing data.

64. The secretariat presented a provisional list of meetings for 1998/1999 (annex II) and invited all Parties and programmes to communicate to the secretariat without undue delay any amendments or new information.

65. The Chairman informed the Working Group that its eighteenth session was tentatively scheduled to be held from 25 to 27 August 1999, starting on Wednesday, 25 August 1998 at 10 a.m.

Annex I

**TERMS OF REFERENCE
FOR THE JOINT TASK FORCE OF WHO/ECEH AND THE EXECUTIVE BODY
ON THE HEALTH ASPECTS OF LONG-RANGE TRANSBOUNDARY AIR POLLUTION**

Objectives:

To support the Working Group on Effects and the Executive Body in preparing/substantiating new and/or updated protocols, the Task Force will evaluate and assess the health effects of long-range transboundary air pollution and provide necessary information on the subject.

Method of work:

Giving top priority to the health aspects of particulate matter, the Task Force will:

- (a) Collate and assess available knowledge and data;
- (b) Identify information and data needed for the assessment;
- (c) Collect this information and these data;
- (d) Quantify the contribution of long-range transboundary air pollution to human health risks; and
- (e) Define priorities that may serve as a guide for monitoring and abatement strategies.

Organization of work:

The Task Force, consisting of experts nominated by the Parties to the Convention, will be led by the WHO European Centre for Environment and Health; the ECE secretariat will service its meetings. The Task Force will report to the Working Group on Effects.

Annex II

PROVISIONAL LIST OF MEETINGS FOR 1998/99

31 August - 4 September 1998 Geneva	Working Group on Strategies (twenty-seventh session)
7-9 September 1998 Geneva	EMEP Steering Body (twenty-second session)
8-11 December 1998 Geneva	Executive Body for the Convention (sixteenth session)
25-29 January 1999 Geneva	Working Group on Strategies (twenty-eighth session)
22-26 March 1999 Geneva	Working Group on Strategies (twenty-ninth session)
31 May - 4 June 1999 Geneva	Working Group on Strategies (thirtieth session)
1-2 July 1999 Geneva	Working Group on Abatement Techniques (seventh session)
25-27 August 1999 Geneva	Working Group on Effects (eighteenth session)
30 August - 3 September 1999 Geneva	Working Group on Strategies (thirty-first session)
6-8 September 1999 Geneva	EMEP Steering Body (twenty-third session)
6-9 December 1999 Geneva	Executive Body for the Convention (seventeenth session)
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12-13 October 1998 Zakopane (Poland)	Joint ICP Waters and ICP Integrated Monitoring Workshop on biological assessment and monitoring

14-16 October 1998 Zakopane (Poland)	Programme Task Force, ICP on Assessment and Monitoring of Acidification of Rivers and Lakes (14th meeting)
January 1999 Bilthoven (Netherlands)	Task Force on Health Aspects of Air Pollution (2nd meeting)
26-29 January 1999 Beaumaris, Anglesey (United Kingdom)	Programme Task Force, ICP on Effects of Air Pollution and Other Stresses on Crops and Non-wood Plants (12th meeting)
Spring 1999 (United Kingdom) (tentatively)	Programme Task Force, ICP on Integrated Monitoring of Air Pollution Effects on Ecosystems (7th meeting)
11-15 April 1999 Gerzensee (Switzerland)	Workshop on critical levels for ozone; level II
May/June 1999 Prague (Czech Republic)	Tenth CCE Mapping Workshop
May/June 1999	Task Force on Mapping of Critical Loads and Levels (15th meeting)
29 May - 2 June 1999 Vilnius (Lithuania) (tentatively)	Programme Task Force, ICP on Assessment and Monitoring of Air Pollution Effects on Forests (15th meeting)
9-11 June 1999 Toronto (Canada)	Programme Task Force, ICP on Effects of Air Pollution on Materials, Including Historic and Cultural Monuments (15th meeting)
Autumn 1999	Programme Task Force, ICP on Assessment and Monitoring of Acidification of Rivers and Lakes (15th meeting)
Autumn (November) 1999 Island Vilm (Germany)	Workshop on heavy metals (Bad Harzburg follow-up workshop, organized by the Task Force on Mapping)
Autumn (November) 1999 (Denmark)	Workshop on critical loads for acidity and eutrophication: criteria, concepts and biological indicators