

REGIONAL ASSOCIATION VI

MANAGEMENT GROUP

Side-meeting to EC-66

26 June 2014

Geneva, Switzerland

REPORT

I. INTRODUCTION

I.1 Background

The Regional Association VI at its sixteenth session, held from 11 to 17 September 2013 in Helsinki, Finland re-established the RA VI Management Group (RA VI MG) with a revised composition and terms of reference through adoption of the Resolution 5.3/1 (RA VI-16) - RA VI Management Group.

The re-established Management Group held its first meeting in Helsinki, on 16 September 2013. A summary of meeting's discussions is available on the following web link:

http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/dra/eur/documents/RA6_MG1_SoD.pdf.

The second meeting of the RA VI MG was held on 14 and 15 May 2014, in Tallinn, Estonia. The meeting report & the related documents are available on the WMO Regional Office for Europe' web page and can be accessed through the following web link: <http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/dra/eur/MG-22014.htm>.

I.2 Dates and venue

An hour ad-hoc meeting of the Management Group was conducted on 26 June 2014, at WMO Headquarters in Geneva, as a side-event to the sixty-sixth session of the WMO Executive Council.

I.3. Participants

The meeting was attended by 11 participants, as listed below:

MG members:

1. Ivan CACIC, RA VI president and the chair of the Management Group
2. Gerhard ADRIAN, PR of Germany with WMO
3. Axel THOMALLA, Chair of the Working Group on Service Delivery and Partnership
4. Dominique BEROD, Co-chair of the Working Group on Climate and Hydrology
5. Maria HURTOLA, Leader of the Task Team on Regional Operating Plan

International advisers:

1. Alexander NURULLAEV, International Adviser to the PR of Russian Federation with WMO
2. Giovanni MARESCA, International Adviser to the PR of Italy with WMO

WMO Secretariat officers:

1. Rob MASTERS, Director, Development and Regional Activities Department
2. Natalia BERGHI, Programme Officer, Regional Office for Europe
3. Tommaso ABRATE, Scientific Officer, Basic Systems in Hydrology Division
4. Kuniuki SHIDA, Senior Programme Manager, Regional Coordination Office

I.4. Working arrangements and Agenda

Mr Ivan Cacic, the RA VI president and the chair of the Management Group chaired the meeting. It was noted that this is an ad-hoc side-meeting to EC-66; therefore, it will last one hour only. The chair introduced the agenda' items, as follows:

1. Report of the MG meeting, held in Tallinn, 14-15 May 2014
2. Review of the Action List
3. Planned regional events
4. Stand points for Congress-17
5. Information notes about:
 - EUMENET E-AMDAR Programme
 - EUMETSAT Jason-3 satellite
 - Catastrophic flood in Western Balkans
6. Any other business.

II. SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

II.1 Report of the MG's second meeting

The meeting started with the presentation of the RA VI Organigram (attached), which is the one of the main outcomes of the second MG' meeting, conducted on 14-15 May 2014 in Tallinn, Estonia.

It was pointed out that the number of Working Groups was not changed; while, the Task Teams' number has been reduced. The organisational structure takes account of the lessons learned from the previous inter-session period and also of the identified regional needs and priority areas.

II.2 Review of the Action List

Further on, the MG' Chair presented the RA VI Action List (see INF.4 on <http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/dra/eur/MG-22014.htm>). The RA VI Action List was compiled based on the RA VI -16 recommendations and actions agreed by RA VI MG. It was pointed out that the list includes still few continuing and on-going actions, started at the previous MG meetings.

The Management Group was gently reminded on the roles and responsibilities shared by the MG members, and namely: (1) Vida Auguliene, RA VI Vice-president and the RA VI MG' Vice-chair is in charge of the Regional Strategic and Operating Plan coordination, (2) Mr Gerhard Adrian is in charge of the financial and budgeting planning matters, (3) Mr Petteri Taalas is in charge of capacity-building matters, (4) Henia Berkovich is in charge of the SEE and Middle East related matters, (5) Alexander Frolov is in charge of the Commonwealth of Independent States' matters.

Also, the MG' Chair encouraged both the Chairs of the RA VI WGs and the Leaders of the Task Teams to make sure that the actions, requiring their specific attention, are included in the Working Groups' Programme and that the required follow-up steps are taken to address the needs accordingly.

The Chair of the WG-SDP (Axel Thomalla), the Co-chair of the WG-CH (Dominique Berod) and the Leader of the RA VI Task Team on Regional Operating Plan (Maria Hurtola) were invited to clear up the foundation of the proposed working structure. The regional priority areas, the limited human, technical and financial resources and the common expected results were listed among the main factors leading to the proposed working structure. The participants were invited to familiarize themselves with the Work Plans of each Working Group to get a better idea of how the roles and responsibilities are shared.

The Leader of the Task Team on Regional Operating Plan (TT/ROP) informed the participants that the Task Team held its second meeting as a side-meeting to the EC-66, on 25 June 2014 and agreed:

- To monitor and evaluate first of all the status of the Key Outcomes and the Key Performance Indicators of the current Regional Operating Plan 2012-2015, and

- To consider the Working Groups' Plans for 2014-2017 with the view to develop the first draft of the Regional Operating Plan for 2016-2019 with the Key Outcomes and the Key Performance Indicators.

The Leader of the TT/ROP noted that the Team will mainly work on-line with a face-to-face meeting by the end of the year.

II.3 Planned regional events

Further on, the following list of regional events, which are more advanced in planning, was presented for information:

1. RA VI WG/CH meeting, 23 September 2014, Warsaw
2. RA VI Hydrology Forum, 24 - 26 September 2014, Warsaw
3. Communication Workshop for Information and Public Affairs Focal Points, back to back with EMS/ECAC, October 2014, Prague
4. Regional Consultation Meeting with the users for the SEE back to back with the SEECOF, November 2014, Turkey (tbc)
5. The Directors Conference on the future of meteorological service provision to civil aviation in Europe (Resolution 2 of the RA VI-XVI session), May 2015, Barcelona, Spain (tbc)
6. Training-Workshop for International Advisers, September 2015, Turkey

It was pointed out that more details on the planned events will become available in due course.

II.4 Stand points related to the seventeenth session of the WMO Congress.

No specific issues for the Congress -17 were identified at this stage; however, the MG members were invited to propose suggestions for consideration at the next meeting.

II.5 Information notes about:

- EUMETNET E-AMDAR Programme
- EUMETSAT Jason-3 satellite
- Catastrophic flood in Western Balkans

The Chair informed the participants about the potential expansion of the EUMETNET E-AMDAR programme in the region.

It was also noted that the contribution to the EUMETSAT Jason-3 Programme from the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has been approved by the US Congress. Jason-3 Programme will ensure continuation of the series of measurements made by the Jason-2 satellite, and its predecessors, in support of meteorology, operational oceanography and, in particular, the monitoring of the sea-level trend, and a key indicator of climate change. The Jason-3 satellite launch is planned for March 2015.

Regarding the May 2014 catastrophic flood in the Western Balkans, the three countries, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia, who mostly suffered will provide to the WMO Secretariat a joint report on the post-disaster situation in the countries, asking for a financial assistance in mobilizing the required resources to address the needs.

The Chair requested the RA VI Hydrology Adviser to assist in addressing the existing needs as result of the catastrophic floods, using the regional hydrological expert resources through the existing regional subsidiary bodies, such as the Working Group on Climate and Hydrology and the RA VI Hydrology Forum.

II.6 Any other business.

Rob Masters informed the participants that the recruitment process for the post of the Chief of WMO Regional Office for Europe is in the progress. The conduction of interviews is planned for next month and it is expected that the post could be filled as early as September 2014.

III. Closure.

It was recalled that the PR of Turkey with WMO expressed the interest to host the next MG meeting in Turkey in spring (March-April) 2015.

The Chair thanked all the participants and closed the meeting.