

Preface

In the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution, the Parties are given an active role in developing the convention further. This becomes quite clear if one reads Article 7 on Research and Development, and Article 8 on Exchange of Information. This principle of active Parties should then also apply to EMEP, as a programme under the convention.

Over the years the activities in EMEP gradually became more and more concentrated to the EMEP technical centres. The EMEP Steering Body was not a good forum for scientific interaction and debate. Workshops were held regularly, but the meteorological and modelling workshops were generally separate from workshops on chemical measurements and their interpretation, in focus as well as in attendance. This limited the interaction between these two fields, and did not encourage the Parties to carry out any comprehensive analysis of their own transboundary air pollution situation.

To obviate this deficiency, the Task Force on Measurement and Modelling (TFMM) has been set up as a scientific/ technical forum for the Parties and the EMEP technical centres. One of the first tasks of TFMM has been to carry through an assessment of the whole of EMEP from the start of the programme up to the present times. The idea was that this task should be based, as far as possible, on assessments carried out by the Parties themselves. This was, of course, a risky plan, one could not be sure that there were sufficient resources available in the countries to carry out such a large and demanding task.

In the following part 2, 20 national assessments are presented. They are different, as they should be, but they all have clear messages and contain a vast amount of interesting information and analysis. This forms a very important basis for the European-wide assessment given in Part 1. I think EMEP should be proud of this outcome. EMEP is now again much more than the work of the EMEP technical centres, clearly a better situation than some time ago. The challenge is now to develop it further in this direction. Keep up the good work!

Oslo, 5 August 2004,
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