



**INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANISATION**  
**AFI PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION REGIONAL GROUP (APIRG)**  
**AFI OPMET MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE FIFTH MEETING (AFI OPMET MTF/5)**  
*(Nairobi, Kenya, 8-10 July 2013)*

**Item 5: Future Developments with regards to OPMET information**

**FEEDBACK ON RODB MEETING IN BRUXCELLS**

(Presented by ASECNA)

**Summary**

The present note informs on the implementation plan of OPMET representation in XML format in the ASECNA's area.

**1. Introduction**

1.1. The preparation of effective migration from the representation of the OPMET (METAR, SPECI, TAF and SIGMET) data in the present alphanumeric format to the XML format was the subject of the meeting organized by ICAO for persons in charge of Regional OPMET data Banks. The meeting was held in EUROCONTROL (Brussels - Belgium), from 4 - 5 March 2013. The ultimate aim of this representation is the integration of MET into the future ATM system. .

1.2 The development of the pilot project on the OPMET representation in XML format started in November 2008 (WMO meeting ET - ODR). Conclusive transmission tests of XML coded METAR over the AFTN were made in July 2009 from Brussels (Belgium) to Hong Kong (China) via London (UK), Singapore and Bangkok (Thailand). At the WMO ET-ODR— meeting, the Group agreed that it was important to conduct tests to evaluate the effectiveness of exchange of OPMET data in digital format.

**2. Discussions**

2.1. In view of the satisfactory efforts made by some ICAO members in the framework of OPMET data representation in XML format, a roadmap was developed by ICAO for the migration from the current alphanumeric OPMET format codes to the XLM format for the period 2013 to 2019. The development stages were fixed as follows:

- 2010 : endorsement of XML for OPMET by ANC;
- 2010 – 2012 : finalization of « code tables » for XML ;
- 2013 : enabling clauses to use XML in Annex 3 ;
- 2014 : endorsement of XML by the MET/AIM DIV Meeting ;

- 2016 – 2019: mandatory use of XML in Annex 3. The long period of transition to accommodate developing countries.

2.2. Exchanges concerning the implementation mechanisms of this new OPMET representation revolved around deadlines set by the roadmap. Actions to be taken and within agreed deadlines be are listed in Appendix.

2.3 In line with the ICAO road map, ASECNA has developed an Action plan for the implementation of the OPMET in the XML format with the following stages:

- 1) To implement the XML format in the RODB of Dakar in the third quarter 2014 according to the standard version which will be published by ICAO from November, 2013;
- 2) To Make bilateral tests of exchange of the OPMET in the XML format with the Pretoria RODB and with the Toulouse IROG in October, 2014 then inform ICAO of the effective implementation of the XML format;
- 3) To extend the implementation of the OPMET alphanumeric in the XML format in the BCCs and NOCs of 17 members states of ASECNA ;
- 4) To exchange and coordinate with the neighboring non ASECNA centers (Kinshasa, Luanda, Monrovia, Lagos, etc.) on the modalities of exchange OPMET in the XML format.

### **3. Action by the meeting**

The meeting is invited to:

- a) Note the road map fixed by the ICAO, related to the passage of the XML OPMET format ;
- b) Encourage the passage to the XML format in the AFI region, according to the action plan agreed upon by the RODBs in Brussels in March 2013 ;
- c) Take note of the ASECNA' actions plan.

**Appendix: Actions agreed – RODB meeting**

No	Task	assigned	time
1.	RODB/ROC implementation of XML Steps needed:	RODB/ROC	2013-2014+
	Follow WMO documentation: Release candidate 2 Version 1	RODB/ROC	March 2013 July 2013
	Develop concept of operations (address items such as source, traceability, compression, inter-regional exchange and the rest of the questions* identified at the RODB meeting)	EUR DMG, Eurocontrol, WMO (TT-AvXML) and draft reviewed by MARIE-PT	Before July 2014
2.	Adapt regional OPMET groups (e.g. EUR DMG, APAC ROBEX WG, AFI OPMET/MTF) to include support to MARIE-PT for ROCs/RODBs to develop ability to exchange OPMET (METAR, SPECI, TAF and SIGMET) in XML (from TAC to XML and vice versa)	Regional OPMET groups (to be proposed to their respective MET sub-groups)	2013
3.	Provide all relevant SWIM material to participants to this meeting to avoid duplication of work and develop an understanding of SWIM in support to action item 1	Eurocontrol	May 2013
4.	Share regional progress on xml implementation (e.g. distribute relevant section of regional OPMET data group reports)	ICAO	April 2013
5.	Notification of updates to release candidates of IWXXM	ICAO	2013