

**DECISION 2002/1**  
**ON STRENGTHENING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION**

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling the provisions of articles 18 and 23 of the UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents,

Recognizing that seventeen Parties and two other UNECE member countries reported on the implementation of the Convention according to its decision 2000/2,

Acknowledging the work done by the Working Group on Implementation to facilitate the review of the implementation of the Convention, including the analysis of the responses from the different countries and the compilation of the “First report on the implementation of the Convention”,

1. Endorses the “First report on the implementation of the Convention” as prepared and submitted by the Working Group on Implementation (CP.TEIA/2002/9);
2. Invites the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, with the support of the Chairperson of the Conference of the Parties, to contact the Governments of those Parties that have not submitted a report, i.e. Albania, Greece, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Monaco and Spain, in order to urge them to comply with their reporting obligations under the Convention;
3. Encourages in particular the member States of the European Union and the EU candidate countries that are not yet Parties to ratify or accede to the Convention and to implement it as soon as possible, as compliance with the “Seveso II” Directive in practice also implies, to a large extent, compliance with the Convention;
4. Requests all Parties to assign the highest priority to the identification, and notification to all potentially affected Parties, of the hazardous activities within their jurisdiction as a starting point for effective cooperation between neighbouring Parties;
5. Entrusts:
  - (a) The Bureau, together with the Working Group on Implementation, with undertaking initiatives to facilitate the implementation of the Convention, in particular in the fields highlighted in the “First report on the implementation of the Convention”, such as in: (i) collecting data on hazardous substances at hazardous activities; (ii) identifying hazardous activities, (iii) notifying neighbouring Parties, (iv) establishing bilateral cooperation, and (v) informing the public and enabling it to participate as required by the Convention;

(b) The Working Group on Implementation with clarifying the reporting format to be used for the next period of reporting by providing guidance on certain questions and taking into consideration other reporting activities in order to achieve maximum synergy;

(c) The Bureau, together with the Working Group on Implementation with drawing up a needs-driven internationally supported assistance programme, comprising partnership arrangements, workshops, training sessions and/or exchange of experts, to help countries with economies in transition, in particular the countries of the Caucasus and Central Asia, in acceding to and applying the Convention;

6. Requests:

(a) The joint ad hoc expert group on water and industrial accidents to review, and provide further guidance on, the location criterion related to the water path contained in the Guidelines to facilitate the identification and notification of hazardous activities for the purposes of the Convention (ECE/CP.TEIA/2, annex IV, appendix);

(b) The Bureau to make appropriate arrangements with the Bureau of the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention concerning the above request;

(c) The Convention's secretariat to coordinate testing of the UNECE Industrial Accident Notification System and to organize a consultation among the points of contact within its framework;

(d) The Convention's secretariat to make available individual country implementation reports through a password-protected site within the Convention's Internet home page for access and use by the competent authorities;

7. Elects, on the basis of nominations by the Parties, the following persons to serve as members of the Working Group on Implementation until the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties: Ms. A. Aleksandryan (Armenia), Mr. E. Malasek (Czech Republic), Mr. L. Iberl (Germany), Mr. L. Katai-Urban (Hungary), Mr. C. Piacente (Italy), Mr. S. Galitchi (Republic of Moldova), Ms. J. Karba (Slovenia), Mr. U. Bjurman (Sweden), Mr. B. Gay (Switzerland), and Mr. J. Wettig (European Commission)