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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

**CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
TO THE CONVENTION ON THE TRANSBOUNDARY
EFFECTS OF INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS**

Working Group on Implementation

**REPORT OF THE TRAINING SESSION
ON DRAWING UP NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORTS**

(Warsaw, 12-13 September 2005)

Introduction

1. The training session on drawing up national implementation reports was held in Warsaw on 12 and 13 September 2005 and was hosted by the Main School of the Fire Service.
2. It was held under the auspices of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), within the framework of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents.

Objectives

3. The key objective of the training session was to improve the completeness and clarity of national implementation reports.
4. The participants shared good practices and experience in drawing up national reports and enhanced their understanding of some of the more complex questions in the reporting format. Finally, each participant received practical assistance from the members of the Working Group on Implementation in completing selected parts of the reporting format during the training session.

Participation

5. Experts from the following twenty-seven UNECE member countries participated in the training session: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Switzerland, Tajikistan, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. A full list of participants is available on the Convention's website at the following address: <http://www.unece.org/env/teia/training%20session.htm>
6. It is noteworthy that 17 out of the 19 East European, Caucasian and Central Asian and South-East European countries – potential recipient countries within the internationally supported assistance programme – were represented both at the training session and open-ended joint meeting of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties and the Working Group on Implementation, which was held on 14 September 2005.

Opening

7. Mr. Ryszard Grosset, Chairman of the Conference of the Parties, Rector of the Main School of the Fire Service, opened the training session and welcomed its participants and invited guests from the Headquarters of the State Fire Service. He was convinced that this hands-on training event would benefit both the recipients of the training and the Working Group in their future work related to the strengthening of the implementation of the Convention.
8. Mr. Krzysztof Biskup welcomed everyone to Warsaw and wished the participants a fruitful training session on behalf of the Headquarters of the State Fire Service.
9. Mr. Sergiusz Ludwiczak (UNECE secretariat) expressed appreciation to the Main School of the Fire Service for hosting the training session. He introduced the members of the Working Group on Implementation and thanked them for their work in preparing the training session.
10. In his introductory presentation, Mr. Ludwiczak gave an overview of the procedure of reporting on implementation under the Convention and expressed his view that countries should regard reporting as an opportunity rather than a burden. He concluded by saying that the main aim of the governing body and the Working Group is not to police implementation but to assist

countries in meeting their objectives. He then invited all UNECE countries to report on the implementation of the Convention and obstacles to it.

Organization of the training session

11. The Working Group on Implementation prepared and conducted the training session. Mr. Bernard Gay (Switzerland), the Group's Chairman, chaired it.

12. In his introduction, Mr. Gay recalled the session's key objectives and stressed its hands-on training dimension. He was pleased that the training session was so well attended and that its participants had prepared elements of their countries national reports beforehand. He hoped that at the end of the second day of training, each participant would have received guidance from the members of the Working Group on how to improve their reports. Finally, Mr. Gay proposed the programme of the training session.

Programme

13. The training session consisted of five sections corresponding to the main parts of the reporting format. A member of the Working Group introduced each section by presenting the main issues and clarifying the particular questions contained in the reporting format. Each introduction was followed by a question and answer session and then by a hands-on working session.

14. The detailed programme of the training session is annexed to this report.

15. All presentations made at the training session are available on the Convention's website at the following address: <http://www.unece.org/env/teia/training%20session.htm>

Concluding session – good practices in drawing up national reports

16. Based on the rapporteur's summaries, Mr. Gay made some general concluding remarks relating to each of the sections. A round-table discussion with the participation of many experts followed. The participants of the training session drew the following conclusions:

(a) The training session was considered useful as it raised awareness of the need for, and opportunities provided in, the process of reporting on implementation. It also clarified the questions contained in the reporting format and the type of answers expected by the Working Group on Implementation;

(b) Although not obliged, non-Parties should also report on implementation and on the difficulties encountered in acceding to and implementing the Convention;

(c) The handouts containing good practices for drawing up the implementation reports, prepared by the secretariat and made available to participants at the meeting, were considered to be helpful during the hands-on working sessions and for future work;

(d) Close cooperation among competent authorities, industry and the public was

necessary for the implementation of the Convention and their coordinated responses were needed when reporting on implementation;

(e) Attention should be given to include only relevant information in the reporting format, which will lead to increased quality of reporting and reduced workload of the Working Group on Implementation;

(f) Further capacity-building activities and guidance in such areas as: identification of hazardous activities, land use planning, and cross border cooperation, were requested from some of the EECCA and SEE countries present at the training session. This request should be taken into account in the implementation phase of the assistance programme.

Closing of the training session

17. Mr. Gay thanked the participants for their contribution in making the training session a success. In closing the meeting, he expressed his appreciation to the members of the Working Group on Implementation and the secretariat for their input in preparing and conducting the training session.

18. The participants of the training session, on the invitation of the Main School of the Fire Service, visited its emergency management simulation unit. A simplified training module was presented. Mr. Grosset indicated that the simulation unit could be made available for simulation training of points of contact within the framework of the UNECE Industrial Accident Notification System under the Convention.

Annex

Programme of the training session on drawing up national implementation reports

Introduction to the training session

Mr. Bernard Gay (Switzerland), Chairman of the Working Group on Implementation

Section I Implementation of the Convention (legislation, problems and obstacles in implementation and accession to the Convention)

Section leader: Mr. Pavel Forint (Czech Republic)
Rapporteur: Ms. Anahit Aleksandryan (Armenia)

Section II Identification of hazardous activities

Section leader: Mr. Leo Iberl (Germany)
Rapporteur: Mr. Nikolai Savov (Bulgaria)

Section III Measures for the prevention of industrial accidents

Section leader: Mr. Lajos Katai-Urban (Hungary)
Rapporteur: Mr. Tomas Trcka (Slovakia)

Section IV Measures for emergency preparedness for industrial accidents

Section leader: Mr. Bernard Gay
Rapporteur: Mr. Sergiusz Ludwiczak (UNECE secretariat)

Section V Participation of the public

Section leader: Mr. Massimo Cozzone (Italy)
Rapporteur: Mr. Bernard Gay

Concluding session – good practices in drawing up national reports

Discussion leader: Mr. Bernard Gay