
Economic Commission for Europe

Conference of the Parties to the
Convention on the Transboundary
Effects of Industrial Accidents

Bureau

Twenty-sixth meeting

Working Group on Implementation

Twenty third meeting

Bootle, United Kingdom, 27–28 November 2013

Annotated provisional agenda of the joint meeting

To be held in Bootle, at the Health and Safety Executive*, from 2 – 6 pm
on 27 November 2013 and from 10 am – 3 pm on 28 November 2013**

I. Provisional agenda

1. **Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda.**
2. **Financing and overall implementation of the workplan.**

Key items:

- a. Status of contributions and expenditures (Laura).
- b. Letters sent and next cycle of letters to be sent (Laura).
- c. Work of the small group on financing (Chris).

Documents: financial updates.

3. **Involvement of Parties and other stakeholders.**

Key items:

- a. Strengthening COP participation (Laura).
- b. Re-engagement of the Russian Federation (Laura).

Documents: Letter from the Russian Federation. Concept note on cooperation with the Russian Federation.

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** Members of the Bureau and the Working Group on Implementation are requested to confirm their participation to Convention secretariat, at the latest two weeks prior to the meeting.

4. **Exchange of information.**

Key items:

- a. Report of Armenia meeting posted on the web (Laura).
- b. Activity Follow-up to Armenia (Gerd).
- c. Information on on-going activities of the IA Convention sent to focal points and posted on the web (Laura).
- d. Information materials developed with the support from Switzerland (Laura).
- e. Progress made regarding the publication of safety guidelines and good practices for tailing management facilities and the reprinting of the safety guidelines on pipelines (Virginia).

Documents: concept note on follow-up to Armenia workshop, table of on-going activities under the IA Convention, links to ZOI materials, latest version of publications.

5. **Assistance Programme activities.**

Key items:

- a. Report of the Chair of the Working Group on Implementation on the Assistance Programme (Sandra).
- b. The preparation of terms of reference for implementation of projects within the Assistance Programme (Virginia).
- c. Summary of activities carried out in 2013: DDP-Odessa (Virginia/Laura), Kyrgyzstan (Virginia), Serbia (Suzana), Croatia (Hrvoje), Macedonia (Emilija), Georgia (Serge, Jasmina).
- d. Proposed activities for 2014 (Laura).
- e. New Party: Bosnia and Herzegovina (Virginia).

Documents: TORs for projects, proposed activities for 2014.

6. **Strategic partnerships.**

Key items:

- a. Development of a guide on methodology for hazard rating (Virginia).
- b. Sharing good practices for safety and land-use planning. (Laura).
- c. Development of guidelines on transboundary risk assessment, possibly including the characterization of exposure risks (RIECO project), (Svetlana and Chris).
- d. Risk management at tailings management facilities: development of a checklist and practical exercises – report on the first steering committee meeting (Gerd).
- e. Cooperation with partners: Interagency table (Serge).
- f. E-MARS system: ISPRA outcomes (Laura).
- g. Cooperation with UNECE MEAs (Chris).
- h. Adding Green Cross, European Environmental Bureau and UN ISDR to the list of strategic partners (Laura).
- i. On-line training platform, developed jointly with UNEP and OCHA (Laura).

Documents: table of interagency meeting and link on our website plus link to the on-line training platform.

7. **Amendment of the Convention.**
 - a. Outcomes of the third meeting of the Working Group on Development (Laura).
 - b. Issue of the possible opening of the Convention (Chris).
Documents: WGD-3 report, advanced-unedited version.
8. **UNECE Industrial Accident Notification System.**
Progress made on the upgrading of the IAN system (Laura).
Documents: Progress report.
9. **Prevention of accidental water pollution.**
Update on progress made on the scheduled teleconference and proposal for a JEG activity (Virginia-Chris).
Documents: proposal and comments received.
10. **Implementation of the Convention.**
Update on reporting format (Sandra).
11. **Proposed schedule of meetings for 2014.**
 - a. Dates and venue for the COP (Laura).
 - b. Frequency of joint WGI/Bureau meetings (Chris).
12. **Other business.**
Next steps for non-reporting, as per the COP mandate to the WGD (Laura).
13. **Closure of the meeting.**

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

The meeting will be preceded by a separate meeting of the Working Group on Implementation which will conclude on the 27 November at 1 pm.

The Bureau and the Working Group on Implementation are each expected to plan their work for the period up to the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties, following the mandates received from the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting, in November 2012.

This provisional agenda was prepared by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) secretariat in consultation with the Chairs of the Bureau and the Working Group on Implementation.

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

The Chair of the Bureau will open the meeting and invite participants to adopt the agenda as set out in the present document.

2. Financing and overall implementation of the work-plan

The secretariat will report on contributions to and expenditures of the Convention's trust fund and discuss progress made towards the implementation of the adopted sustainable

financial mechanism, including letters sent to Parties inviting them to provide cash and in-kind contributions as well as letters of appreciation sent to Parties to acknowledge their contributions. The meeting will also benefit from an update from the work of the small working group on financing.

The Bureau is expected to examine and propose how to ensure sufficient funding for the implementation of the 2014 work plan, taking into account priorities decided upon by the Conference of the Parties. This agenda item is linked to agenda item 6, in particular to activities proposed for the Assistance Programme in 2014.

3. Involvement of Parties and other stakeholders

The Conference of the Parties regretted the absence of 11 Parties at its seventh meeting and entrusted the Bureau with trying to ensure participation by all Parties in future meetings of the Conference of the Parties. The meeting will be informed of the Bureau's proposed way forward on this issue, as agreed at its last meeting, in June 2013. The meeting will also be briefed on progress made vis a vis the re-engagement of the Russian Federation.

4. Exchange of information

The meeting will be informed about actions taken to share the report of the final workshop of the pilot project in Armenia, on raising knowledge on industrial safety at universities, with focal points.

In follow-up to the Armenian pilot project, a concept note developed by Germany, entitled "*Aspects of risk management and ensuring environmental safety in industrial enterprises*", will be introduced during the meeting.

The meeting will be briefed on some information materials developed by the secretariat, such as a table summarizing on-going activities as well as maps and educational cartoons, developed with the support from Switzerland and of the potential of webinars as a cost-effective tool to communicate and share experiences with focal points.

Progress made towards the publication of safety guidelines and good practices for tailing management facilities and the reprinting of the safety guidelines on pipelines will also be discussed under this agenda item.

5. Assistance Programme activities

The Chair of the Working Group on Implementation is expected to report on the decisions taken by the Working Group concerning the Assistance Programme management and in particular on: the submission of Uzbekistan's self-assessment and action plan and the review of the Benchmark document (ECE/CP.TEIA/2010/6).

The meeting will also be briefed on reminders sent to countries benefitting from the Assistance Programme, regarding their obligation to carry out self-assessments and to submit action plans. The meeting is expected to identify ways to assist countries with their application.

The meeting is also expected to adopt the Terms of Reference for implementation of projects within the Assistance Programme, as modified by the secretariat following the decisions at the previous joint meeting and comments received by the members of both groups through e-mail consultation.

The meeting will review the status of activities under the Assistance Programme identified in the adopted work-plan. Members of the Bureau and/or of the WGI, with the support of

the secretariat, will present updates or reports on activities organised in 2013, in particular on the following:

Danube Delta Project (Ukraine, Moldova, Romania) and the development of safety guidelines and good practices for oil terminals as well as activities organized in Serbia, Croatia, Macedonia, Kyrgyzstan and Georgia.

The secretariat will introduce provisional list (compiled taking into account the programme of work and country needs) of proposed activities for 2014, including potential partners, timelines and estimated financial resources required to implement activities.

6. Strategic partnerships

The meeting will examine the implementation of the following work plan activities:

- (a) Progress made on the development of a guide on methodology for hazard rating, in collaboration with partners.
- (b) Updates merging from the ISPRA workshop in November 2013, regarding the sharing of good practices for safety and land-use planning.
- (c) The delivery of the workshop on the development of guidelines on transboundary risk assessment (RIECO), possibly including the characterization of exposure risks (lead country: Republic of Moldova).
- (d) Risk management at tailings management facilities: development of a checklist and practical exercises – report on the first steering committee meeting.
- (e) Cooperation with partners: Inter-agency meeting and table compiled by the secretariat reflecting cross cutting activities.
- (f) E-MARS: the Conference of the Parties encouraged all Parties and other ECE member States to report on major accidents using the European Union's major accident reporting system (eMARS), and requested the European Commission and the secretariat to facilitate reporting. The meeting is expected to review actions taken to facilitate reporting.
- (g) Cooperation with UNECE-Multilateral Environmental Agreements.
- (h) Addition of new organizations to the list of strategic partners: European Environmental Bureau, Green Cross International and the UN ISDR.
- (i) On-line training: the secretariat will report on the release of the on-line training platform providing an introduction to industrial accidents, developed jointly with partners.

7. Amendment of the Convention

The Chair of the WGD-3, supported by the secretariat, will provide an update of the work of the third meeting of the Working Group on the Development of the Convention, held on 3–4 September 2013. The issue of the proposed 'opening of the Convention' will also be discussed.

8. Industrial Accident Notification System

The secretariat will provide an update on the status of the UNECE IAN System, including recent upgrades which have been carried out with support from Switzerland.

9. Prevention of accidental water pollution

The Conference of the Parties reviewed the work of the Joint ad hoc Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents and asked that the Expert Group's current draft guidelines on contingency planning be presented to the Bureau and the Working Group on Implementation.

At its meeting on 29–30 January 2013 in Geneva, the Bureau requested the Joint ad hoc Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents (JEG)¹ to invite national focal points and other experts to comment on the draft of guidelines on contingency planning for transboundary waters, specifying any necessary adjustments.

The Bureau expressed concern about the latest developments and suggested that the Chair of the Industrial Accidents Convention should initiate a teleconference with the Chair of the Water Convention and both JEG co-Chairs to discuss future work of the guidelines on contingency planning for transboundary waters, including whether to hire a consultant. The Bureau recognised the need for strengthening the expert capacity of the JEG and underlined its importance as an interface between two ECE environmental Conventions.

The meeting will be informed about progress made regarding the above-mentioned teleconference and on the status of a proposal on possible future activities for the JEG.

10. Implementation of the Convention

The Chair of the Working Group on Implementation will update on the actions taken to initiate the new reporting round.

11. Eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties

Meeting participants will be briefed on the date and venue for the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The issue of the frequency of joint Bureau/WGI meetings will also be discussed.

12. Other business

The Conference of the Parties requested the Working Group on Development to consider possible remedies for non-compliance with the reporting requirement of the Convention. It is envisaged that this issue will be on the agenda of the next meeting of the WGD, in April 2014. The Bureau will discuss key elements to be taken into account for the discussion next meeting of the Working Group on Development.

Members of the Bureau or the Working Group on Implementation wishing to raise other business should contact the secretariat as soon as possible.

13. Closure of the meeting

The Bureau and Working Group on Implementation are expected to decide on the date and location of their next meetings, up to the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

¹ A joint body under the Conference of the Parties to the Industrial Accidents Convention and the Meeting of the Parties to the ECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes.

