

19 January 2015
English only

Economic Commission for Europe

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

Bureau

Twenty-eighth meeting

Geneva, 2 December 2014

Minutes of the meeting

I. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

1. The following members of the Bureau attended the meeting: Mr. C. Dijkens (Netherlands), Chair; Mr. G. Hem (Norway), Vice-Chair; Ms. J. Karba (Slovenia), Vice-Chair; Ms. S. Stirbu (Republic of Moldova); Mr. P. Forint (Czech Republic) and Mr. A. Kiriazis (European Union).
2. Mr. Martin Merkofer (Switzerland) participated on behalf of Mr. Bernard Gay. Ms. A. Aleksandryan (Armenia); Mr. G. Winkelmann-Oei (Germany) and Mr. C. Piacente (Italy) were unable to attend the meeting.
3. Ms. S. Ashcroft (United Kingdom), Chair of the Working Group on Implementation, participated also in the meeting which was serviced by the secretariat represented by Mr. Sergiusz Ludwiczak, Ms. Franziska Ilg-Hirsch, Ms. Claudia Kamke, Ms. Virginia Fusé and Mr. Nikolay Savov.
4. The Bureau adopted the agenda (CP.TEIA/2014/B.2/Agenda) without changes.

II. Preparations for the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties

5. The main purpose of the meeting was to review and adjust, as necessary, the final arrangements for the meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP), being held on 3-5 December 2014.

(a) Representation and credentials

6. The secretariat reported on registration by Parties and others, indicating the number of registered participants and identifying Parties that had not registered. The secretariat also reported on the copies of credentials received and advised the Bureau that sufficient Parties had registered for COP to take decisions.

(b) Nominations of officers and members of the Bureau and of members of the Working Group on Implementation

7. The Chair reported on the availability of individuals or Parties proposed by the Bureau to serve in the Bureau following the eighth COP meeting.
8. The Chair of the Working Group on Implementation reported on the availability of Parties to serve in the Working Group following the eighth COP meeting. The Bureau and

the Chair of the Working Group finalized and confirmed their proposal to COP on the future membership of the Working Group. The members of the Bureau commended the composition of the two bodies, especially in view of the geographical representation.

(c) Provisional agenda

9. The Bureau reviewed the provisional agenda of the eighth COP meeting (ECE/CP.TEIA/29) and for each item:

(a) Confirmed that the information necessary for the COP to take decisions had been made available to delegates;

(b) Confirmed that members of the Bureau, the Chair of the Working Group on Implementation, the secretariat and others were prepared to present the necessary information to COP.

10. Bureau members discussed in particular the development of the Convention with regard to possible amendments and CoP guidance.

11. The meeting also discussed the financial situation of the Convention's trust fund. Bureau members recognized that while the implementation of the sustainable financial mechanism was increasingly successful, in terms of a broadened financial basis of contributions, this has not yet resulted in any significant increase of financial contributions. The secretariat reported on the indications by Parties received with regard to their contributions to the 2015-2016 workplan. Selected Bureau members indicated the contributions they as Parties would provide for the implementation of the 2015-2016 workplan: The Czech Republic would contribute with USD 11,600 annually, the EU with EUR 35,000 annually.

III. Small group on financing

11. The Chair, supported by the secretariat, reported on the discussions at and follow-up to the meeting of the Small group on financing (Geneva, 22 August 2014). The meeting had reviewed the practices of other organizations and networks and discussed next steps in light of financing needs. The meeting discussed ways and approaches to attract increasingly resources from larger donors including the EU and other development cooperation agencies in order to meet the financing needs. The meeting decided to create a dedicated website on potential financing sources for the Assistance Programme, and a flowchart for developing and implementing projects, presented by the secretariat.

12. The Bureau welcomed the efforts by the members of the small group on financing, the outcome of the meeting and the creation of the webpage. It also recognized the need to continue with dedicated efforts to attract longer-term sustainable financing sources in order to support the continued development and implementation of the Convention.

IV. Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents

12. The Chair of the Bureau, supported by the secretariat, reported on a teleconference held with the Chair of the UNECE Water Convention and the Co-Chairs of the Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents (JEG) on 12 November 2014.

13. The secretariat presented the draft workplan agreed by JEG for the biennium 2015–2016 and it informed about JEG's proposal to incorporate its activities in the Convention's workplan. The Bureau welcomed and agreed on the workplan. The Bureau also welcomed the focus that the Group planned to give to implementation of previous outputs, among others in testing the Checklist for contingency planning for transboundary waters, which was presented at the eight meeting of the Conference of the Parties as unofficial document.

The Bureau also supported the idea to propose to the Conference of the Parties to incorporate the activities of the JEG's workplan in the Convention's 2015-2016 workplan.

14. The Bureau welcomed the nomination of Mr. Gerhard Winkelmann-Oei as co-Chair for the JEG for the Industrial Accidents Convention for the period 2015–2016.

V. Confirmation of the date and venue of the next Bureau meeting(s)

15. The Bureau confirmed its next meeting to be held jointly with the Working Group on Implementation in Geneva on 28–29 (a.m.) January 2015 (1 ½ days), back to back with a meeting by the Working Group on Implementation on 29 (p.m.)-30 January (1 ½ days).

16. The Chair thanked the Bureau members for their involvement and cooperation during the three bienniums in which he held the position of Chair. He also thanked Mr. Gunnar Hem, who was to retire after the meeting of the Conference of the Parties, for his long support to the work of the Convention as delegate at first, as member of the WGI, as Chair of the WGI and finally as Vice-Chair of the Bureau.

17. The Chair thanked the secretariat for the organization of the Bureau meeting and closed the meeting.
