



# Economic and Social Council

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## Economic Commission for Europe

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

#### **Eighth meeting**

Geneva, 3–5 December 2014

Item 5 of the provisional agenda

#### **Implementation of the Convention**

### **Draft decision on strengthening the implementation of the Convention**

#### **Submitted by the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties and the Working Group on Implementation**

*The Conference of the Parties,*

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

*Recognizing* that only 18 out of 41 Parties reported on the implementation of the Convention within the set deadline during the seventh (2012–2013) reporting round, while 16 more Parties reported after the deadline but still in time for the Working Group on Implementation's assessment,

*Also recognizing* that two committed countries<sup>1</sup> not yet Parties to the Convention reported on the implementation of the Convention in the seventh reporting round,

*Taking into account* and recognizing with appreciation the work done by the Working Group on Implementation to analyse and evaluate the national implementation reports and to compile the seventh report on the implementation of the Convention,

*Recognizing with appreciation* the valuable work carried out by the Working Group on Implementation and by members of the Bureau both in monitoring the implementation of the Strategic Approach and in the preparation of tools to support countries' efforts,

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<sup>1</sup> Countries from Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia participating in the Assistance Programme and having committed to enhance industrial safety, through their participation in the Assistance Programme and the implementation of the Convention, as well as to submit national implementation reports (CP.TEIA/2005/10).



1. *Adopts* the seventh report on the implementation of the Convention as prepared and submitted by the Working Group on Implementation (ECE/CP.TEIA/2014/4);
2. *Reiterates* the need for Parties to comply in a timely manner with their reporting obligations, with the understanding that, starting from the future reporting round, only reports received within the deadline will be assessed by the Working Group on Implementation;
3. *Calls on* committed countries to submit national implementation reports, and invites other non-Parties to submit such reports on a voluntary basis;
4. *Encourages*, in view of article 2, paragraph 1, and article 15 of the Convention, Parties, committed countries and other reporting countries to share through the national implementation reports information and weblinks on good practices as well as guidelines on the different working areas of the Convention prepared for national use, even if not specifically related to the transboundary aspects of the Convention. Those Parties and reporting countries with well-established practices in industrial accidents prevention, preparedness and response are especially encouraged to provide such information;
5. *Decides*, with a view to facilitating accession to the Convention, to also make national implementation reports available, through a password-protected web-page, to non-Parties having submitted such reports;
6. *Requests* the Working Group on Implementation, in cooperation with the secretariat, to make the information referred to in paragraph 4 above widely available;
7. *Also requests* the Working Group on Implementation to update the structure of the reporting format before the eighth reporting round to enable Parties and reporting countries to better describe areas for improvement and progress achieved in the past biennium. In carrying out this task, the Working Group should strive not to increase the burden for reporting on Parties and reporting countries;
8. *Recommends* that Parties, committed countries and other reporting countries highlight in their national implementation reports areas for improvement and progress achieved since the last reporting round;
9. *Also recommends* that Parties, committed countries and other reporting countries intensify their efforts to implement the Convention's provisions on notification of hazardous activities to neighbouring countries and land-use planning or decision-making on siting with regard to hazardous activities, which were identified by the Working Group on Implementation as areas needing further attention;
10. *Further recommends* that Parties, committed countries and other reporting countries strengthen joint exercises on preparedness and response, as well as increase efforts to establish bilateral agreements, especially to facilitate interventions in the event of an accident with possible transboundary consequences;
11. *Encourages* the organization of activities addressing preparedness and response and the consultation of points of contact, as included in the workplan under the Convention for 2015–2016 (see ECE/CP.TEIA/2014/7);
12. *Urges* all Parties that have not done so, and invites committed countries, to nominate competent authorities in accordance with article 17 of the Convention;
13. *Also urges* all Parties that have not done so, and invites committed countries, to nominate points of contact in accordance with article 17 of the Convention for notification of industrial accidents as well as for mutual assistance;

14. *Calls on* countries that have not done so to nominate a focal point for communication between themselves and with the Convention secretariat, and to make the focal points aware of their roles and responsibilities;

15. *Welcomes* the activities conducted under the Assistance Programme in the period 2012–2013, as outlined in the document “A decade of assistance to countries in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia: lessons learned and future prospects” (ECE/CP.TEIA/2014/5);

16. *Reminds* committed countries to use the Strategic Approach for the Assistance Programme (ECE/CP.TEIA/2008/5) and its tools, the self-assessment and action plans, and to take advantage of the more user-friendly version of the indicators and criteria reviewed and presented at the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. It is hoped that the user-friendly version of the indicators and criteria will improve the understanding and use of the Strategic Approach and its tools, and that it will contribute to the submission of sound project proposals based on good-quality self-assessments and action plans;

17. *Calls on* Parties and other donors to make available financial and in-kind resources for the implementation of the Assistance Programme and mandates the Bureau to make all efforts to ensure the availability of financial and in-kind resources for the implementation of the Programme;

18. *Mandates* the Working Group on Implementation to monitor the implementation of the Strategic Approach and its tools.

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