

## **Economic Commission for Europe**

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

#### **Bureau**

##### **Thirty-second meeting**

Ljubljana, 29 and 30 June 2016

### **Minutes of the thirty-second meeting**

#### **I. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda**

1. The meeting was held on the premises of the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning of Slovenia.
2. The following Bureau members were present:
  - Ms. Jasmina Karba (Slovenia), Chair and co-Chair of the small group on financing
  - Mr. Paweł Dadasiewicz (Poland), Vice-Chair
  - Ms. Svetlana Stirbu (Republic of Moldova), Vice-Chair
  - Mr. Chris Dijkens (Netherlands), Chair of the Working Group on Development and co-Chair of the small group on financing
  - Mr. Pavel Forint (Czech Republic)
  - Mr. Yashar Karimov (Azerbaijan)
  - Mr. Aléxandros Kiriazis (European Union)
  - Ms. Torill Tandberg (Norway)
  - Ms. Wivi-Ann Wagello-Sjölund (Finland)
  - Mr. Gerhard Winkelmann-Oei (Germany), co-Chair of the Joint ad hoc Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents.

Ms. Sandra Ashcroft (United Kingdom), Chair of the Working Group on Implementation, was also present upon invitation by the Chair of the Bureau.

3. The meeting was serviced by the secretariat to the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), represented by Mr. Sergiusz Ludwiczak, Mr. Nicholas Bonvoisin and Ms. Claudia Kamke.
4. The Bureau adopted the provisional agenda (CP.TEIA/2016/B.1/Agenda) without changes.
5. **The Bureau welcomed Ms. Wagello-Sjölund as a new member**, replacing Mr. Eero Kytömaa (Finland).
6. The secretariat informed the Bureau about developments related to the personnel in the secretariat, specifically the return of Mr. Bonvoisin as Secretary. The Bureau expressed its appreciation for the work of Ms. Franziska Ilg-Hirsch as Secretary for the past two

years. The secretariat explained that there were no plans to replace the Assistance Programme Manager, given the limited financial resources available.

## II. Development of the Convention

### A. Activities by the Working Group on Development

7. Ms. Stirbu, Vice-Chair, chaired this agenda item. Mr. Dijkens, Chair of the Working Group on Development, briefed the Bureau on the outcomes of the Working Groups' seventh meeting (Geneva, 12–14 April 2016). Regarding the activities of the Working Group, Mr. Dijkens highlighted the usefulness of the small groups of experts and the success in addressing key issues. The Bureau expressed its appreciation to Mr. Dijkens for his leadership; Mr. Dijkens in turn thanked the secretariat for the quality of the secretariat support.<sup>1</sup>

8. The secretariat informed the Bureau of the correspondence received from the European Union and its member States, Norway, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia and Switzerland, formally proposing the amendment of the Convention. The Executive Secretary of UNECE would be informing the Parties of the Proposal in accordance with the Convention. **The Bureau agreed.**

9. The Bureau asked Mr. Dijkens to present the activities of the Working Group to the Conference of the Parties, including the development of guidance on land-use planning, the siting of hazardous activities and related safety aspects. The Parties should be invited to consider the next steps regarding the finalization of the guidance, including perhaps entrusting the Bureau with this task, and possible follow-up activities. **The Bureau agreed on the text of the draft decision on amending the Convention.**

### B. Accession by United Nations Member States from outside the UNECE region

10. No information was shared under this agenda sub-item. **The Bureau decided to discuss this matter later in the meeting** (see chapter VII).

### C. Amendments to the terms of reference of the Bureau and the Convention's subsidiary bodies and the rules of procedure

11. The Bureau reviewed draft amendments to the terms of reference of the Bureau and the two working groups as well as to the rules of procedure for the meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention. The Bureau made a number of changes including to (i) achieve greater consistency between the documents, (ii) assure gender balance in the membership of the Bureau and Working Group on Implementation and (iii) equip the Working Group on Implementation to engage with Parties directly, in line with the conclusions of the Working Group on Development. Furthermore, the Bureau concluded that the provision to allow membership of delegates from non-Parties had

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<sup>1</sup> Mr. Dadasiewicz pointed out that the meeting report (ECE/CP.TEIA/WG.1/2016/2) incorrectly listed Poland among the participants; Poland had been represented only in the workshop on land-use planning held within the framework of the meeting. The secretariat clarified that the workshop had been held in the framework of the seventh meeting of the Working Group and a single list of participants had been produced for the meeting and workshop.

become obsolete as the Convention now had sufficient Parties to assure the membership of the Bureau. **The Bureau agreed on the text of the amendments.**

### III. Assistance Activities

#### A. Implementation of activities, including under the Assistance Programme

12. The secretariat presented a draft report on the implementation of assistance activities in 2015–2016. Mr. Winkelmann-Oei asked that the activities of the Joint ad hoc Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents be recognized in the document. He provided information on a planned project on tailings management facilities in Serbia, which could be kicked-off at a planned subregional workshop in Belgrade. Members of the Bureau, particularly Mr. Kiriazis, offered advice and support to the secretariat on the financing of the workshop, which was likely to be postponed from September 2016 because previous financial arrangements had fallen through. **The Bureau then asked the secretariat to finalize the report for presentation to the Conference of the Parties.**

13. The Bureau discussed the challenges and lessons learned from the Danube Delta project, noting in particular the importance of proper project preparation, ownership of the beneficiaries and sustaining results after the project has ended. Bureau members, including from the Republic of Moldova and the Netherlands, emphasized the success of the project and expressed their thanks to the donors and participants who had contributed to that success. Mr. Winkelmann-Oei noted the difficulty of UNECE taking on the dual role of secretariat and contractor for project implementation.

#### B. Effectiveness, results and options for the further development of the Assistance Programme

14. The Chair of the Working Group on Implementation, Ms. Ashcroft, briefed the Bureau on the results of the analytical review carried out by the Working Group, with the support of the secretariat, to determine whether the information available was sufficient to document and assess the Programme's effectiveness and to recommend whether, on this basis, an independent external evaluation of the Programme would be useful. The Working Group highlighted the usefulness of the compilation of information, which revealed trends and gaps. However, based on the information available, it could not establish a causal link between Programme activities and the level of implementation of the Convention in countries.

15. The secretariat presented a draft document on the effectiveness, results and options for the further development of the Assistance Programme. **The Bureau welcomed the paper, with amendments. The Bureau supported the proposal by the Working Group, communicated by its Chair, that the Working Group be allowed first to monitor the implementation of the Assistance Programme in line with its new terms of reference and report back to the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties in 2020.** There was no need for an external evaluation at this time, but that decision should be revisited in 2020. **The Bureau asked the secretariat to write to all beneficiary country ministers to ask what had been the impact of past activities and what the needs were now.** This information could be used to prepare for a high-level event, as follow-up to the 2005 high-level commitment meeting, for example in conjunction with the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in 2018.

16. The Bureau members suggested other means to allow the determination of the effectiveness of Assistance Programme activities, specifically the setting of SMART

(Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Timely) goals at the start of an activity or project and the application of the benchmarks at the end. Bureau members also suggested types of activities that might have a more tangible outcome, such as technology transfer, a technology fair and (joint) site inspections, and to reflect on the lessons learned from earlier activities to as to make future activities more effective.

### C. Activities related to accidental water pollution

17. Mr. Winkelmann-Oei, as co-Chair of the Joint ad hoc Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents (JEG), reported on recent JEG activities and its fourteenth meeting (Stockholm, 3 May 2016). He described the start of a German-funded project in Ukraine for enhancing knowledge among university students and teachers on industrial safety, including tailings management. He also presented a second German-funded project, expected to start later in the year, to address risk management at tailings management facilities in Georgia.

18. Mr. Winkelmann-Oei presented a draft workplan for 2017–2018 and provided the rationale for possible work on fire-water retention. The workplan would, besides the work on fire-water retention, include transboundary exercises in cooperation with the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River and International Commission of the River Oder. With respect to the output from the work on fire-water retention, Mr. Winkelmann-Oei explained that JEG had learned over the past five years that the best practice was to develop guidelines and to supplement them later, if necessary, with a checklist.

19. **The Bureau agreed with the workplan and the development of guidelines, which should take into account existing guidance and studies on the topic of fire-water retention.** The Chair of the Bureau expressed concern with regard to the amount of secretariat resources required for the project but not covered through it. The secretariat recalled that the workplan also needed the endorsement of the Bureau of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes.

## IV. Outcomes of the eighth reporting cycle

20. Mr. Dadasiewicz, Vice-Chair, chaired this agenda item. The Chair of the Working Group on Implementation briefed the Bureau on the outcomes of the eighth reporting cycle (2014–2015) and presented the draft eighth report on the implementation of the Convention and draft decisions on strengthening implementation and on reporting requirements.

21. **The Bureau welcomed the eighth report and, having first agreed on an extended reporting cycle, agreed on the draft decisions on (i) reporting requirements under the Convention and (ii) strengthening the implementation of the Convention.** However, additional comments on the draft decision on reporting could be provided until 5 July 2016.<sup>2</sup> **Good practices identified during the latest reporting exercise should be made available on the website by the secretariat and included in the presentation of the eighth report to the Conference of the Parties.**

## V. Outcomes of the consultation of the points of contact

22. The secretariat reported on the results of the online consultation of the points of contact which took place on 15 February 2016.

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<sup>2</sup> No comments were provided.

23. The Bureau asked the secretariat to look into organizing a face-to-face meeting of the points of contact, though recognizing a lack of funds. Mr. Dadasiewicz reiterated Poland's previous offer to host such a meeting, if funds were made available. Mr. Kiriazis pointed out that continued engagement with the European Union's Emergency Response Coordination Centre might result in the arrangement of a joint event. A face-to-face meeting would also provide an opportunity for training on the use of the UNECE Industrial Accidents Notification System, among others. Mr. Winkelmann-Oei suggested that the Convention should support the development of transboundary river basin warning systems, where none existed at present, and this could be addressed in future workplans.

## VI. Financing and implementation of the 2015–2016 workplan

24. The secretariat reported on the use of financial resources and the implementation of the 2015–2016 workplan, considering the availability of funds and the human resources. The secretariat also described the overall financial situation of the trust fund, considering pledges indicated by Parties at the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and additional contributions received since then and expected for 2016. The secretariat pointed out that the extrabudgetary staffing level had dropped from three to two professional staff.

25. **The Bureau asked the secretariat for additional information on contributions.** The report on the use of financial resources should include a chart showing the evolution over time of the total cash and in-kind contributions and the number of Parties contributing. In addition, the Bureau should receive information on each Party showing the evolution over time of its contributions and a comparison of the amount contributed in a biennium with (i) the actual expenditure (cash and in-kind) in the biennium and (ii) the budget in the biennium. Further, the Bureau asked that the table listing financial and in-kind contributions, included in the report on the use of financial resources, should list all Parties, whether or not contributing.<sup>3</sup>

26. Mr. Dijkens, as a co-Chair of small group on financing, reported on activities of the small group and a brainstorming event on 11 and 14 April 2016, the outcome of which was draft elements for a marketing strategy for the Convention. The Bureau discussed the messages in the strategy, with Bureau members suggesting the strengthening of the economic and security dimensions of the messages. **The Bureau agreed that the idea of a strategy — better named a communications strategy — should be presented to the Conference of the Parties, with the proposal that it be developed in the next biennium.**

27. While discussing communication, **the Bureau asked the secretariat to encourage newcomers to the meeting of the Conference of the Parties to watch the recent video on the Convention, as an introduction.**

28. The secretariat presented draft elements for the report on activities of the Bureau since the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The Bureau considered that the report included unnecessary detail. **It was agreed that the Chair and Vice-Chairs would develop the report's final section, while the secretariat would shorten the report overall.** The report would then be sent to all Bureau members at the end of July for comments by mid-August and finalization by the end of August 2016.

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<sup>3</sup> This final point, on including all Parties in the list of contributors, was accidentally omitted from the official document (ECE/CP.TEIA/2016/16) but will be addressed in the presentation to the Conference of the Parties.

## VII. Long-term goals, future strategy and 2017–2018 workplan

29. The secretariat presented a document setting out draft priorities, workplan and resources for the Convention for 2017–2018 and including an activity, suggested by the Bureau earlier, on revising the long-term strategy and extending it until 2030. **The Bureau asked the secretariat to elaborate further the rationale of the workplan and the basis for its structure and the inclusion of activities.** Numerous revisions were made on the basis of earlier discussions about particular activities (e.g., the postponement of a workshop from 2016 and the decision not to carry out an external evaluation of the Assistance Programme) and on the basis of information provided by possible lead countries represented in the Bureau.

30. The Bureau considered that the proposed revision of the long-term strategy should, at the same time, address the opening of the Convention to countries outside the UNECE region, including the necessary financial safeguards. A table listing activities needing additional resources for their implementation was deleted from the workplan document. **The Bureau asked for the inclusion of an activity to develop an online system for national implementation reporting,** based on a recommendation by the Working Group on Implementation. **The Bureau supported the inclusion of two extrabudgetary professional staff in the listing of required resources, subject to the availability of the necessary financial contributions; this number could be increased if justified and funded by additional projects.**

31. **The Bureau decided that comments on all draft documents for submission to the Conference of the Parties could be provided until the end of July 2016,** with the exception of the draft decision on reporting and the Bureau's report to the Conference of the Parties, for which other deadlines had been set. **The documents should then be finalized by the secretariat.**

32. The secretariat reported on its efforts to establish a database of industry contacts, including of industry associations, and presented a draft listing of industry contacts. **The Bureau asked that this be maintained by the secretariat and that, at its next meeting, it be presented with a list sorted by organization.** The secretariat also reported on the presentation of the Convention by Mr. Vitalii Mutaf, of the Republic of Moldova, in the Fourteenth International Forum on Industrial Safety (St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, 24–27 May 2016). **The Bureau asked the secretariat to share Mr. Mutaf's presentation with its members.**

## VIII. Future membership of the Bureau

33. The Chair invited Bureau members to express their interest in remaining in the Bureau, with reference to paragraph 1 of the draft amended terms of reference of the Bureau and the draft amended rule 22 of the rules of procedure. She also volunteered to contact focal points in Parties to elicit nominations for new members, taking into account the need for a balanced representation of the different geographical subregions of UNECE and of gender.

## IX. Ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties

34. The Chair of the Bureau shared information on the organization of the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in Ljubljana on 28–30 November 2016, including on the likely venue and the arrangements being funded by Slovenia as host country (including the venue, equipment, meals and some financial support of participants). The venue would be fixed by the end of August 2016, with invitations to Ministers following immediately.

35. The secretariat presented the draft provisional agenda of the meeting of the Conference of the Parties. **The Bureau reviewed, discussed, amended and agreed upon the provisional agenda and on the organization of the November meeting.** In particular, the Bureau wished to ensure that Parties would have the opportunity to express their views and concerns regarding any adverse budgetary implications related to the opening.

36. **The Bureau agreed that the side-events would be held on the second and third days of the meeting,** at lunchtime and without interpretation. The first side-event would be led by the European Commission's Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs, the second by the Joint ad hoc Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents.

37. The Bureau discussed a reorientation of the start of the meeting and the joint UNECE/OECD seminar on fostering implementation of the sustainable development agenda for industrial accidents prevention, preparedness and response, being held on the first day. **It was agreed that the seminar begin with a high-level panel, which would form an extension of the opening of the meeting of the Conference of the Parties.** Bureau members made numerous suggestions for panellists and other speakers. **The Bureau agreed that a small group — comprising Ms. Ashcroft, Mr. Dadasiewicz, Mr. Dijkens, Ms. Karba, Ms. Stirbu and Ms. Tandberg — would continue the elaboration of the seminar programme in cooperation with OECD.**

38. **The Bureau agreed on a draft decision on financial support for the participation of experts,** on the basis of a draft provided by the secretariat. The use of the term "developing countries" was to be checked by the secretariat. Bureau members expressed concern that the financial support being offered was to change again (back to tickets and daily subsistence allowances) so soon after agreement on the previous approach (which allowed for lump-sum payments). The change was the consequence of the United Nations Secretariat's move to Umoja, its new financial and administrative system.

## **X. Proposed schedule of meetings for 2016**

39. **The Bureau agreed to meet again on Sunday, 27 November 2016, in the afternoon,** in Ljubljana to allow for the review of the final arrangements for the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

## **XI. Other business**

40. On the basis of a paper by the secretariat, **the Bureau discussed the topic of gender and industrial accidents and agreed to address gender if mandated to review the long-term strategy.**

## **XII. Closure of the meeting**

41. The Chair closed the meeting on 30 June at 5.30 p.m.

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