
Economic Commission for Europe

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

Bureau

Twenty-third meeting

Stockholm, 13 November 2012

Minutes of the meeting

I. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

1. The Bureau of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents held a meeting in Stockholm on 13 November 2012 at the invitation of the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency.
2. The following members of the Bureau attended the meeting: Mr. Chris Dijkens (Netherlands), Chair of the COP; Ms. Jasmina Karba (Slovenia) and Mr. Bernard Gay (Switzerland), COP Vice-chairs; Mr. Gerhard Winkelmann-Oei (Germany); Ms. Olga Shashkina (Georgia); Mr. Cristiano Piacente (Italy); Ms. Suzana Milutinovic (Serbia); and Ms. Jill Michielssen (European Commission). Mr. Pavel Forint (Czech Republic) and Mr. Sergey Kozlenko (Russian Federation) did not participate.
3. In addition, Mr. Massimo Mari (Italy), Mr. Gunnar Hem (Norway), Chair of the Working Group on Implementation, and Ms. Ann-Sofie Eriksson (Sweden) participated with the prior agreement of the Chair.
4. The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) secretariat was represented at the meeting by Mr. Sergiusz Ludwiczak, Deputy Director of ECE's Environment Division, Mr. Nicholas Bonvoisin, Secretary to the Convention, and Ms. Virginia Fusé.
5. The Bureau adopted the provisional agenda (ECE/CP.TEIA/2012/INF.5, or COPB46), which had been prepared by the secretariat in agreement with the Chair.

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

6. 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 at the same venue on 14–16 November 2012.

A. Practical arrangements

7. The focal point in the host country, Sweden, provided an update on the practical arrangements for the COP meeting, including regarding catering and transport. The secretariat provided additional information regarding, among other issues, expenditure,

security, the availability of documentation and the celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention.

B. Representation and credentials

8. The secretariat reported on registration by Parties and others, indicating the number of 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.

C. Nominations of officers and members of the Bureau and of members of the Working Group on Implementation

9. The secretariat reported whether the individuals or Parties proposed by the Bureau had confirmed their willingness to serve in the Bureau following the seventh COP meeting. The Bureau regretted that the Russian Federation would not be represented in the COP meeting and had not confirmed its willingness to be represented in the Bureau. Mr. Kozlenko, representing the Russian Federation in the Bureau, had left the Ministry without responding to repeated inquiries from the secretariat. The Bureau finalized and confirmed its proposal to COP on the future Chair, Vice-Chairs and other members of the Bureau.

10. Similarly, the secretariat reported whether the individuals or Parties proposed by the Bureau and the Chair of the Working Group on Implementation had confirmed their willingness to serve in the Working Group following the seventh 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.

D. Provisional agenda

11. The Bureau reviewed the provisional agenda of the seventh COP meeting (ECE/CP.TEIA/23) and for each item:

(a) Confirmed that the information necessary for COP to make 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;

(c) Discussed the anticipated decisions to be taken by COP and their consequences for the Convention, focussing on the anticipated decisions on the proposed sustainable financial mechanism, the workplan and budget, the possible amendment of the Convention, including reviewing the rules of procedures and the terms of reference of the subsidiary bodies, and the next steps to support ratification of the Protocol on Civil Liability and Compensation for Damage Caused by the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents on Transboundary Waters.

III. Recent developments under the current workplan

12. The Chair, Mr. Winkelmann-Oei, Ms. Stirbu and the secretariat provided an update on the implementation of the project on hazard and crisis management in the Danube Delta, noting the successful September 2012 meeting of the project's management group. The

secretariat reported on the also successful holding of a training session on on-site inspection for Croatia, the Republic of Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

13. The secretariat provided an update on the development of strategic partnerships, reporting on its participation in meetings of the EU Seveso Directive expert group (September 2012), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Flexible Framework Expert Working Group (October 2012) and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Working Group on Chemical Accidents (also October 2012). Mr. Ludwiczak informed the Bureau of the support of the Working Group on Chemical Accidents for a proposal by ECE to host an interagency meeting on industrial accidents early in 2013.

IV. Closing of the meeting

14. The Bureau decided to meet again on 29–30 January 2013, in Geneva, jointly with the Working Group on Implementation.

15. The Chair closed the meeting at 5 p.m.
