

17 December 2012

English only

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## **Economic Commission for Europe**

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

### **Bureau**

**Twenty-fourth meeting**

### **Working Group on Implementation**

**Twentieth meeting**

Geneva, 29–30 January 2013

## **Annotated provisional agenda of the joint meeting**

**To be held in room S-4, Palais des Nations, Geneva,  
starting at 2 p.m. on 29 January 2013\***

### **I. Provisional agenda**

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda.
2. Confirmation of the membership of the Working Group on Implementation.
3. Financing and overall implementation of the workplan.
4. Involvement of Parties and other stakeholders.
5. Exchange of information.
6. Assistance Programme activities.
7. Strategic partnerships.
8. Amendment of the Convention.
9. Industrial Accidents Notification System.
10. Prevention of accidental water pollution.
11. Implementation of the Convention.
12. Eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
13. Other business.
14. Presentation of the main decisions taken and closing of the meeting.

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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.

## **II. Annotations to the provisional agenda**

The meeting will be preceded by a separate meeting of the Working Group on Implementation in the morning of 29 January 2013.

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, held in November 2012.

This provisional agenda was prepared by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) secretariat in agreement with the Chair of the Bureau.

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

The Chairs of the Bureau and the Working Group on Implementation will together chair the joint meeting.

The Chairs will invite the two bodies to adopt the agenda as set out in the present document.

### **2. Confirmation of the membership of the Working Group on Implementation**

The Conference of the Parties entrusted the Bureau to identify a tenth member of Working Group on Implementation and to inform Parties once it had done so. The Bureau is therefore expected to confirm its decision on the tenth member, as agreement has been reached by electronic mail in advance of the meeting.

### **3. Financing and overall implementation of the workplan**

The secretariat will report on contributions to and expenditure from the Convention's trust fund. The secretariat will also report on progress with the recruitment of an additional extrabudgetary staff member.

The Conference of the Parties requested the Chair of the Bureau to include an agenda item, in the informal meeting among officers of ECE multilateral environmental agreements, to seek a harmonized approach and general solutions for sustainable extrabudgetary financing of the agreements. The Chair of the Bureau might also discuss this matter with the meeting.

The meeting will discuss the implementation of the adopted sustainable financial mechanism, including the writing of letters to Parties inviting them to provide cash and in-kind contributions.

The Bureau is expected to examine and propose how to ensure sufficient funding for the implementation of the 2013–2014 workplan, given the priorities decided upon by the Conference of the Parties.

### **4. 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 is therefore invited to decide on how to address the Parties that were absent.

The meeting is also expected to discuss whether, and if so how, to implement activities on this priority area (involvement of Parties and other stakeholders), given the decision by the Conference of the Parties not to accord them a priority.

## **5. Exchange of information**

The meeting is expected to discuss whether, and if so how, to implement activities on this priority area (exchange of information), given the decision by the Conference of the Parties not to accord them a priority with the exception of the activity entitled “Raising knowledge on industrial safety at universities (follow-up to pilot project in Armenia)” and being led by Germany.

The meeting might examine the possibility of identifying lead countries or organizations, particularly those willing to organize activities in-kind.

The meeting might also discuss the representation of the Convention in forums, including:

- Second Europe and Central Asia Housing Forum, including a thematic session on land-use planning and industrial safety, 23 April 2013, Geneva;
- Fourth session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, 21–23 May 2013, Geneva;
- XI International Forum on Industrial Safety, 27–30 May 2013, St. Petersburg (Russian Federation).

## **6. 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:

- (a) The monitoring the implementation of the Strategic Approach;
- (b) The evaluation of the indicators and criteria as per the mandate from the Conference of the Parties;
- (c) The preparation of terms of reference for implementation of projects within the Assistance Programme.

Following the request of the Conference of the Parties, the secretariat will report on its invitation of Montenegro and Turkmenistan to join the Assistance Programme.

The meeting is expected to agree whether the Working Group on Implementation or the Bureau should write the countries benefitting from the Assistance Programme to remind them of their obligation to carry out self-evaluations and to submit action plans.

Similarly, the meeting is expected to agree whether the Working Group on Implementation or the Bureau should carry out an evaluation of the indicators and criteria, following the suggestion from the Working Group, and to find ways to assist countries with their application.

The meeting will review the status of activities under the Assistance Programme identified in the adopted workplan.

In addition, following a request made by the delegation of Kyrgyzstan to the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the meeting will be invited to discuss Kyrgyzstan’s proposal for a seminar in Kyrgyzstan involving all relevant national departments, plus representatives of Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation. The seminar would discuss the rationale of the country joining the Convention.

## **7. Strategic partnerships**

The meeting is expected to discuss whether, and if so how, to implement activities on this priority area (strategic partnerships), given the decision by the Conference of the Parties to accord some, but not all, of them a priority. In particular, the meeting might examine the implementation of the following workplan activities:

- Development of a guide on methodology for hazard rating, with partners;
- Sharing of good practices for safety and land-use planning;
- Development with partners of guidelines on transboundary risk assessment, possibly including the characterization of exposure risks (lead country: Netherlands);
- Risk management at tailings management facilities: development of a checklist and practical exercises (lead country: Germany).

The secretariat will request the meeting's agreement that it participate in meetings organized by key partners, such as the European Commission, the United Nations Environment Programme and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. The meeting is also expected to discuss the organization by ECE of an inter-agency meeting on industrial accidents.

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 the actions taken to facilitate reporting.

The meeting might also agree on inputs to an ad hoc expert meeting being held in Brussels, on 1 February 2013, in view of developing methodology to allow a timely and consistent implementation of Article 4 of European Union's "Seveso III" Directive 2012/18/EU.

The secretariat will report on the release of the on-line training platform providing an introduction to industrial accidents, developed jointly with partners. The meeting will be invited to make proposals supporting its promotion and follow-up.

## **8. Amendment of the Convention**

The Conference of the Parties requested the Bureau to identify a chair of the Working Group on the Development of the Convention and to make arrangements for its expected two meetings, the first of which is proposed to be held in Geneva on 3–4 September 2014. The secretariat will describe its proposal for a detailed background paper, as also requested by the Conference of the Parties.

## **9. Industrial Accidents Notification System**

The Conference of the Parties decided to maintain the ECE Industrial Accidents Notification System as it stands and to carry out further tests and exercises using the System. The secretariat will report on the status of the System and on planned tests.

The Conference of the Parties reminded Parties of their obligation to designate points of contact. The secretariat will report on which Parties and other ECE member States have designated points of contact and indicate whether they appear to be operational at all times. The meeting will decide on actions to ensure that Parties comply with these obligations.

The meeting will discuss arrangements for a meeting of the points of contact.

## **10. 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 of guidelines on contingency planning be presented to the Bureau and the Working Group on Implementation. The meeting is expected to agree on next steps for this work.

The Conference of the Parties agreed to carry out case studies based on realistic potential accidents to understand the implications including the benefits of implementing the Protocol on Civil Liability and Compensation for Damage Caused by the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents on Transboundary Waters, and/or other instruments, subject to the availability of funding. The meeting is expected to agree on actions to be taken.

The secretariat will report on the planned publication of the safety guidelines on tailings management facilities, as requested by the Conference of the Parties.

## **11. Implementation of the Convention**

The Chair of the Working Group on Implementation will report on the Working Group's earlier discussion concerning the simplification of reporting and the addition of questions concerning emergency response. The Chair of the Working Group will also report on the calendar for the implementation of the decisions taken by the Working Group to allow a timely start of the next reporting cycle.

## **12. Eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties**

The meeting is expected to discuss possible practical arrangements for the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in particular the location.

## **13. Other business**

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

## **14. Presentation of the main decisions taken and closing of the meeting**

The meeting is expected to agree on the main decisions taken.

The Bureau and Working Group on Implementation are expected to decide on the date and location of their next meetings in 2013 and 2014, up to the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

The Chairs are expected to close the meeting at about 4 p.m. on 30 January 2013.