



**Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and  
International Lakes**

**MEETING OF THE PARTIES**

**Seventh session**

Budapest, 17-19 November 2015

Item 4(h) of the provisional agenda

Water and Industrial Accidents

**Workplan for the  
Joint ad hoc Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents**

**Background**

The Joint ad hoc Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents (JEG), at its 12<sup>th</sup> meeting (Budapest, 6–7 October 2014), discussed possible activities that could be undertaken in the biennium 2015–2016. Following the discussion, JEG asked the secretariat to prepare a draft workplan for discussion and agreement by the Conventions' Bureaux, in accordance with the JEG Strategy of 2010.<sup>1</sup> The current document contains the workplan as agreed by the Bureaux, following a discussion by the Chairs of both Conventions and the JEG Co-Chairs in November 2014. The Conference of the Parties to the UNECE Industrial Accidents Convention and the Meeting of the Parties to the UNECE Water Convention are being informed about the activities of the JEG through the report of the co-Chairs and invited to consider inclusion of the elements in the respective programmes of work of the two Conventions. The Conference of the Parties to the Industrial Accidents Convention, 3-4 December 2014, took note of the workplan of JEG and decided to include the relevant activities into the Convention's workplan for the biennium 2015–2016 (ECE/CP.TEIA/30, annex II)<sup>2</sup>. The draft programme of work of the Water Convention (ECE/MP.WAT/2015/3) comprises the Joint Expert Group and its meetings, with a reference to co-funding with the Industrial Accidents Convention.

**Workplan for the biennium 2015–2016**

The following activities are envisaged by JEG in the biennium 2015–2016, with the understanding that Parties would provide expertise and lead country support, including financial support, to support their implementation:

**(a) Providing assistance to countries with economies in transition**

Countries with economies in transition often face challenges in implementing the provisions of the UNECE Industrial Accidents and Water Conventions. JEG could provide assistance to such countries with regard to aspects concerning accidental water pollution, e.g. through participating in and facilitating the organization of workshops, providing guidance and advisory services to countries etc. In the period 2015–2016 JEG is planning to provide assistance to the implementation of the crisis management component of the Danube Delta Project (between the Republic of Moldova, Romania and

<sup>1</sup> Available from: [http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/teia/water/JEG/Strategy\\_JEG.pdf](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/teia/water/JEG/Strategy_JEG.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> Available from: [http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/documents/2014/TEIA/COP\\_\\_Gva\\_\\_3-5\\_Dec\\_14/ECE\\_CP.TEIA\\_30\\_E.pdf](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/documents/2014/TEIA/COP__Gva__3-5_Dec_14/ECE_CP.TEIA_30_E.pdf).

Ukraine) which foresees the testing and finalization of a joint contingency plan for the Danube Delta during a table-top and field exercise in 2015. The checklist for contingency planning for transboundary waters, elaborated by JEG, could be used in the drawing-up of the contingency plan amongst the countries along the Danube Delta.

**(b) Supporting the application/use and promotion of materials produced by JEG**

Since its establishment, JEG has produced several guidance materials to respond to Parties' needs, including the safety guidelines and good practices for both pipelines (2006) and tailings management facilities (TMFs) (2008), and, more recently, the checklist for contingency planning for transboundary waters (2014). In the period 2015–2016 JEG will support the application, use and promotion of the above-mentioned safety guidelines and/or the checklist in countries in the UNECE region. This will be achieved, among others, by supporting projects aimed at applying the principles and recommendations of the safety guidelines and/or the checklist, through the participation of JEG members and the provision of advisory services, as and when needed. In this regard, JEG will in the biennium 2015–2016 support, inter alia, the following projects:

- (i) Danube Delta Project (crisis management component) – to promote and ensure the application of the checklist for contingency planning for transboundary waters in the drawing up of a joint contingency plan between the Republic of Moldova, Romania and Ukraine, e.g. by participating in the table-top and field exercise to be carried out in 2015 and to provide advisory services as needed (see item a);
- (ii) Project on addressing risk management at TMFs in Ukraine – to support the finalization of a draft checklist for TMFs by reviewing the draft checklist, on the basis of the safety guidelines and good practices for TMFs, by participating in a workshop on addressing risk management at TMFs in 2015 and by providing advisory services, as needed.

**(c) Promotion of response exercises in particular in the transboundary context**

The promotion of response exercises, in particular in the transboundary context, is of utmost importance to be able to effectively prepare for and respond to industrial accidents, including those that might cause transboundary water pollution. To this end, JEG could in the future further promote the organization of transboundary response exercises, e.g. by organizing workshops, seminars or webinars on lessons learnt from such exercises, participating in relevant international forums and conferences, etc.

**(d) Other possible future activities**

In the next biennium, JEG might support the implementation of further activities, such as the review of the locations criterion related to water paths (to be led by the Working Group on Implementation under the Industrial Accidents Convention), or other relevant activities. Future activities of the JEG should also be defined in light of the conclusions and recommendations of the seminar on the occasion of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Sandoz accident (Bonn, 8–9 November 2011),<sup>3</sup> such as with regard to new sources of risk, maintaining a high level of safety and risks arising from transport means.

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<sup>3</sup> Available from: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=25376#/>.