



**Economic and Social
Council**

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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Group of Experts on Monitoring of Radiologically Contaminated Scrap Metal
(5-7 April 2004)

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FIRST SESSION

**to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
starting at 14.30 hours on Monday, 5 April 2004 ^{*/}**

^{*/} The present document serves as convocation to the expert group meeting. Participation is free of charge for duly accredited persons representing United Nations member States and interested international organizations. Hotel, public transport and other relevant information for delegates is available at: www.unece.org/trans/info.delegates. All sessions of the meeting will be provided with full simultaneous interpretation into English, French and Russian. Necessary equipment for computer and overhead projections as well as Internet access are available. Participating experts are requested to transmit background material relating to their presentations at least one week before the meeting to the UNECE secretariat to allow for reproduction. For further information: martin.magold@unece.org.

Very limited funds are available to cover mission costs of experts from countries with economies in transition that are prepared to provide a written report and make a presentation at the meeting. Costs will be covered in line with eligibility criteria applied within the UNECE. For further information: martin.magold@unece.org.

Further documentation as well as the programme of the meeting will be available as of March 2004 at www.unece.org/trans/radiation/radiation.html.

New accreditation procedures have been introduced for all delegates attending meetings held at the Palais des Nations. Delegates are therefore requested to complete the attached registration form also available from the Internet Web site of the UNECE Transport Division (<http://www.unece.org/trans/welcome.html>) and to transmit it to the UNECE secretariat, at the latest two weeks prior to the session, either by fax (+41-22-917-0039) or by e-mail (martin.magold@unece.org). Prior to the session, delegates are requested to present themselves at the Pass and Identification Unit of the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at the Villa Les Feuillantines, 13, Avenue de la Paix (a map is attached) for the issuance of an identification badge. In case of difficulty, please contact by telephone the UNECE secretariat (internal extension 72453).

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVE OF THE EXPERT GROUP MEETING

International trade and transport of radiologically contaminated scrap metal increasingly causes concern among Governments as it may have severe negative consequences for public health, the environment and for security. Therefore, its monitoring and control has become an important issue to be tackled at the international level.

In 2001, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) has published a report on the “Improvement of the Management of Radiation Protection Aspects in the Recycling of Metal Scrap”. The report recommended measures to avoid the introduction of radiation sources into the metal recycling stream (www.unece/trans/radiation/radiation.html).

In continuation of this work, the Government of the United States of America has proposed to the UNECE secretariat to convene an international expert group meeting to review and analyse existing policies and experiences made in the monitoring and interception of imported scrap metal for radioactive contamination at ports of entry and border crossing points.

In preparation of the above meeting, the UNECE secretariat has transmitted to Governments and international organizations a questionnaire with a view to documenting the current knowledge and experiences made in the monitoring, interception and managing of radiation contamination incidents, specifically related to scrap metal.¹

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1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Documentation: TRANS/AC.10/2004/1.

In accordance with the Commission's rules of procedure and established practice, the first item to be considered is the adoption of the agenda.

2. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

In accordance with the Commission's rules of procedure and established practice, the Group of Experts should elect a Chairperson for its session.

3. ISSUES AT STAKE AND NEED FOR ACTION REGARDING RADIOLOGICALLY

¹ Governments and international organizations that have not received the questionnaire are invited to obtain copies directly from the UNECE secretariat (E-mail: martin.magold@unece.org) or download it directly from www.unece.org/trans/radiation/radiation.html. The duly filled-in questionnaire should be returned to the UNECE secretariat as soon as possible.

CONTAMINATED SCRAP METAL

The issue of contaminated imported and exported scrap metal has become urgent due to increased international trade and changes in the economics of steel production, such as the use of electric arc furnaces. Through 2001, scrap yards and steel mills in North America recorded more than 4,000 detections of radioactive materials in incoming scrap metal as the result of accidents or inadvertent disposal and more such incidents are being reported with the increased use of sophisticated radiation detection equipment. With the notable exception of a few countries in Northern and Central Europe, there exists apparently no systematic monitoring for radiation of scrap metal at border crossing or entry points in UNECE member countries and, thus, the origin of the sources of radiation is often unclear and extremely difficult to trace.

Apart from the severe economic consequences of melting radioactive materials at steel mills (costs for the clean-up of individual incidents range from 12 to more than US\$ 100 million), the negative health and environmental consequences of such incidents could be enormous, let alone the loss of trust of business and consumers in products for which recycled materials have been used and the potential security risk that may arise from such imports.

For these reasons, it seems to be appropriate to (a) review existing monitoring and control mechanisms in this field, both at national and international levels, (b) to review compliance with relevant regulations and (c) to provide for effective and focused response procedures in case of incidents. The expert group may wish to have a brief exchange of views on the relevance of the issues based on a documentation prepared by the Russian Federation (TRANS/AC.10/2004/3) and the United States of America (TRANS/AC.10/2004/2).

4. EXPERIENCES IN THE MONITORING OF RADIOLOGICALLY CONTAMINATED SCRAP METAL

(a) Country experiences

The Group of Experts may wish to have a thorough exchange of views on practical experiences in the monitoring and control of imported and exported metal scrap for radioactivity. Country experts from border control agencies (Customs and others) as well as from competent radiation control agencies are expected to report on respective responsibilities, activities undertaken, experiences with radiation incidents and their resolution.

Attention should be given to the following issues relating in particular to radiologically contaminated scrap metal:

- Existing and planned national regulatory mechanisms;
- Monitoring of the movement of radioactive materials, particularly scrap metal, including training of staff involved in inspection and response;
- Dispositioning (removal) of detected radioactive materials;
- Contractual provisions governing trade in scrap metal products;
- Governmental and private sector response procedures and requirements;
- Inter-agency cooperation in monitoring and response;
- Good (and bad) practices and lessons to be learned.

(b) Regional and international experiences

The Group of Experts may wish to be informed of regional, particularly European Union, and international regulatory mechanisms and procedures covering the import, export and transportation of radiologically contaminated goods, particularly scrap metal. Information should also be provided on monitoring and compliance of such regulations at regional, national, and community/local levels.

International organizations, such as the European Community (EC), International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), World Customs Organization (WCO), United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) (for road, rail and inland water transport), International Maritime Organization (IMO) (for sea transport) as well as international authorities, such as INTERPOL and EUROPOL may wish to report on their expertise and experiences in this field.

5. ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

Following a thorough review of existing policies, regulatory mechanisms and procedures as well as common monitoring and control practices for radiation of imported and exported metal scrap, the Group of Experts may wish to consider whether further internationally coordinated measures and, possibly, standards should be established with a view to ensuring effective control.

This could cover issues, such as identification of sources of imported or exported radioactively contaminated scrap metal and other commodities, screening and detection methods at borders, scrap yards and melting facilities, international coordinated recovery plans as well as communication and training priorities.

6. ADOPTION OF RECOMMENDATIONS

The expert group may wish to adopt recommendations on the issues considered and agreed upon, in particular on possible follow-up actions to be taken at national and international levels. The adopted recommendations will be made available for participants at the close of the meeting.

Following the meeting, the UNECE secretariat will establish a final report and the proceedings of the meeting as well as an analysis of the results of the questionnaire distributed in preparation of the meeting. The report will be available in English, French and Russian. It will be transmitted to all participants as well as to countries and radiation monitoring experts and programme managers of ports of entry and border crossings around the world.



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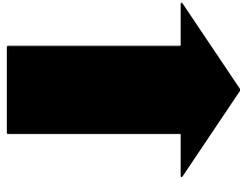
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