

DECISION 2004/3

AMENDING THE UNECE INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENT NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling the provisions of articles 10, 12 and 17 of the Convention,

Taking into account the recommendations of the task force to review the procedures and reports used within the UNECE Industrial Accident Notification (IAN) System.

Acknowledging the efforts to harmonize the three different assistance request reports used by the points of contact within the UNECE IAN System, within the Joint United Nations Environment Programme/Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNEP/OCHA) Environment Unit and within the Civil Protection Unit of the European Commission's Directorate-General (DG) Environment,

1. Amends the UNECE IAN System, as contained in CP.TEIA/2004/8, 1/ for notifying, at the national level, a major accident which causes or is capable of causing transboundary effects or an imminent threat thereof;

2. Requests the Parties to the Convention and invites other UNECE member countries to:

(a) Ensure that points of contact, designated or established according to article 17, paragraph 2, of the Convention, use the UNECE IAN System or an equivalent system for the transmission of early-warning, information and assistance request reports in the event of a major accident or during tests;

(b) Transmit the above reports by facsimile and/or e-mail and acknowledge receipt by facsimile or telephone, using one of the official UNECE languages, taking into account which of these languages the authorities in the affected countries are most likely to understand, unless the countries concerned have agreed otherwise;

1/ The brackets around the words "European Commission Civil Protection Co-operation Mechanism" were deleted.

(c) Address the early-warning and information reports, as appropriate, to UNECE member countries having an interest in the accident, whether affected or not, and to the UNECE secretariat;

3. Encourages and supports the establishment, at local and regional levels, of bilateral or, as appropriate, multilateral agreements for industrial accident notification as a supplement to the UNECE IAN System;

4. Requests the UNECE secretariat to maintain a list of points of contact on the Convention's Internet home page with restricted access;

5. Invites the Convention's secretariat to issue the amended UNECE IAN System as a publication.