

**UNECE Convention on the Transboundary  
Effects of Industrial Accidents**

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

**Joint ad hoc Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents**

**12<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE JOINT AD HOC EXPERT GROUP  
ON WATER AND INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS**

6–7 October 2014  
Budapest, Hungary

**Meeting Minutes**



UNECE 2014

## **1. Opening of the meeting**

The meeting was chaired by Mr. Peter Kovacs, co-Chair of the Joint ad hoc Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents (JEG) from the Water Convention, who opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. In addition to Mr. Kovacs, the following JEG members attended the meeting: Mr. Pavel Dobeš (Czech Republic); Mr. Gerhard Winkelmann-Oei (Germany) (on the first day only); Mr. Serik Akhmetov (Kazakhstan); Ms. Natalia Racovet (Republic of Moldova) and Mr. Claes-Hakan Carlsson (Sweden). In addition, a consultant supporting the JEG's work, Mr. Sandor Kisgyorgy, attended the meeting on the first day. The UNECE secretariat serviced the meeting and was represented by Ms. Claudia Kamke, Associate Environmental Affairs Officer to the Industrial Accidents Convention, and Mr. Nicholas Bonvoisin, Secretary to the Water Convention (on the second day only). The JEG members Mr. Francisc Senzaconi (Romania), co-Chair from the Industrial Accidents Convention, and Ms. Helena Nasslander (Sweden) had informed the secretariat that they would be unable to participate in the meeting.

## **2. Review of the mandate to elaborate the checklist/methodology for contingency planning for accidents affecting transboundary watercourses**

The meeting reviewed the current draft of the checklist/methodology against the mandate given to JEG in 2010 and 2012, concluding that the draft checklist/methodology corresponded to the original mandate. The meeting also concluded that the content of the document suggested calling it a "checklist" rather than a "methodology". It also recommended that countries should use the checklist as a tool for harmonized contingency planning between neighbouring States.

## **3. Discussion and provision of feedback on the draft checklist for contingency planning for accidents affecting transboundary watercourses**

Guided by Mr. Kisgyorgy, JEG provided detailed feedback on the different chapters of the draft checklist. On several points, it was suggested to add information (e.g. regarding the reference to past major accidents and a definition on contingency planning in the introduction) whereas in other cases, JEG requested the shortening of the main text to avoid the repetition of information in the annex (e.g. as regards mutual assistance and some guiding principles). The meeting agreed that the checklist in the annex should be for competent authorities, which were considered as the key actors in ensuring efficient and effective transboundary contingency planning, while at the same time the guiding principles for countries should remain in the text.

## **4. Next steps for the finalization of the draft checklist**

JEG requested Mr. Kisgyorgy to update the draft checklist based on the comments received at the meeting before sending it to the secretariat for circulation to the focal points to the Water and Industrial Accidents Conventions. JEG further requested Mr. Kisgyorgy, in cooperation with the secretariat, to finalize the checklist following the receipt of any comments by the Conventions' focal points, so that the checklist could be presented at the eighth Conference of the Parties to the Industrial Accidents Convention (Geneva, 3–5 December 2014). In addition, JEG recommended that the checklist be tested in practice, e.g. within the project on hazard and crisis management in the Danube Delta (Danube Delta Project) before presenting it to the seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention (Budapest, 17–20

November 2015) and publishing it thereafter. Mr. Carlsson indicated that Sweden could act as a lead country for the publication and application of the checklist.

The following time schedule for the finalization and testing of the checklist was agreed:

<b>No.</b>	<b>Action items</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
1.	Consultant to revise the checklist (based on the comments received at the meeting) and to send it to the secretariat for circulation to JEG	13 Oct 2014 (Mon)
2.	JEG to comment on the revised version of the checklist and to send the comments to the consultant, with a copy to the secretariat	20 Oct 2014 (Mon)
3.	Consultant to include JEG's comments and to send the checklist to the secretariat for circulation to focal points	27 Oct 2014 (Mon)
4.	Focal points of the Water and Industrial Accidents Conventions to comment on the checklist	7 Nov 2014 (Fri)
5.	Consultant to finalize the checklist based on the comments by focal points and to send it to the secretariat	14 Nov 2014 (Fri)
6.	Secretariat to make the document available on the UNECE webpage	18 Nov 2014 (Tue)
7.	Presentation of the checklist at the Industrial Accidents Convention's eighth Conference of the Parties	3-5 Dec 2014
8.	Testing of the checklist in the framework of the Danube Delta Project	First half of 2015
9.	Presentation of the checklist at the seventh meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention	17-20 Nov 2015
10.	Publication of the checklist	2016

## 5. Discussion on future activities of the JEG

In the light of the JEG strategy of 2010<sup>1</sup> and the Industrial Accidents Convention's draft workplan for 2015–16, JEG discussed its possible future activities. The meeting agreed that JEG focus in the next two years on promoting and ensuring the use or application of materials previously produced by the Group, such as the checklist for contingency planning for transboundary waters and the safety guidelines and good practices for both tailings management facilities (TMFs) and pipelines. To this end, JEG agreed to support the crisis management part of the Danube Delta Project in 2015 and the finalization of a draft checklist for TMFs by reviewing it, providing advisory services and possibly participating in a final workshop of the project on addressing risk management at TMFs in Ukraine (Kyiv, 19–20 May 2015). JEG also discussed its possible involvement in other activities, such as the promotion of transboundary response exercises, through participating in relevant international forums and conferences, etc.

Following the discussion, JEG requested the secretariat to prepare a draft workplan for agreement by the Conventions' Bureaux and presentation at the eighth Conference of the Parties to the Industrial Accidents Convention. The Chair offered to present the work undertaken and envisaged by JEG during the eighth Conference.

In addition, JEG requested the secretariat to circulate, for information and planning purposes, the provisional dates of activities and meetings in which JEG members could be involved in 2015.

<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).

**6. Any other business**

The secretariat reported that a teleconference between the Chairs of the Conventions' Bureaux and the JEG co-Chairs was planned for November 2014. JEG welcomed this consultation and requested that the draft workplan for JEG be shared with the participants for information.

JEG agreed that it be useful to meet again in 2015, possibly back-to-back with the field exercise in the Danube Delta Project scheduled for June 2015.

Mr. Akhmetov suggested that a subregional workshop on water and industrial accidents should be held in Central Asia in 2016, possibly with the participation of JEG experts. The secretariat informed JEG that a subregional workshop on the new annex I to the Industrial Accidents Convention was planned for the first half of 2015 in Central Asia and it suggested exploring possibilities to combine these two workshops. Mr. Akhmetov welcomed this proposal and offered his support in the organization of such an event.

**7. Closing of the meeting**

The Chair thanked the secretariat for the preparation of the meeting and the JEG members for their active participation and good discussions. He then closed the meeting.

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