

22 June 2015
English only

Economic Commission for Europe

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

Bureau

Thirtieth meeting

Geneva, 8 and 9 July 2015

Annotated provisional agenda

To be held at the Palais des Nations, room S1
from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on 8 July and from 9.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. on 9 July 2015

I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda
2. Financing
3. Implementation of the 2015–2016 workplan
 - 3.1 Assistance activities to support countries in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia
 - 3.2 Exchange of information
 - 3.3 Strategic partnerships
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4. Development of the Convention
 - 4.1 Activities by the Working Group on Development
 - 4.2 Terms of Reference of the Convention's subsidiary bodies
 - 4.3 Accession by Member States from outside the ECE region
5. Implementation of the Convention
6. Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents
7. Consultation of IAN Points of Contact
8. Long term goals and 2017–18 workplan
9. Ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
10. Proposed schedule of meetings
11. Other business
12. Closure of the meeting.

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

This provisional agenda was prepared by the secretariat of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents in consultation with the Chair of the Bureau. The Bureau will be invited to adopt its agenda as set out in the present document.

2. Financing

The secretariat will report on the overall financial situation of the trust fund, considering pledges indicated by Parties at the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP-8) and contributions received and expected. *Bureau members will be invited to report on efforts to mobilize additional financing sources within national government structures, including development cooperation. The Bureau will be invited to consider, in line with the sustainable financial mechanism, further efforts to actively encourage Parties to provide support at least at a level reflecting their economic strength.*

The Co-Chairs of the small group on financing will report on the outcome of the group's meeting held on 7 July 2015 and the envisaged next steps to ensure sustainable and predictable financing for this workplan period and beyond.

The Chair is invited to report on the outcome of the meeting of the Chairs of the governing bodies of ECE multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) on 13 April 2015. In follow-up to this meeting, the secretariat had circulated a revised information paper on a possible way forward to enhance the sustainability and predictability of financing for ECE MEAs, made available to all Parties.¹ Taking account of the proposed approach set out in the secretariat note and the outcome of the meeting of the small group on financing, *the Bureau is invited to consider necessary actions to bring about predictability and enhanced sustainability of financing including through a differentiation between core and non-core activities.*

Background documents:

Information note "Secretariats of ECE MEAs - the way forward"²

Chair's summary of the sixth informal meeting between representatives of ECE MEAs, 13 April 2015³

3. Implementation of the 2015–2016 workplan

The Bureau will be briefed on the status of implementation of activities under the current workplan and will be invited to discuss items requiring further guidance and decision.

Background document:

2015-2016 workplan on the implementation of the Convention (Annex II of the report of the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties)⁴

¹ http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/documents/2015/TEIA/WGD/2015_MEA_Financing.pdf

² http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/documents/2015/TEIA/WGD/2015_MEA_Financing.pdf

³ http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/MEAs/ChairSummaryMeeting_13Apr2015__final_.pdf

⁴ http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/documents/2014/TEIA/COP__Gva__3-5_Dec_14/ECE.CP.TEIA.30_Advanced_copy.pdf

3.1 Assistance activities to support countries in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia

Assistance Programme

The Chair of the Working Group on Implementation (WGI) will report to the Bureau on the Working Group's considerations regarding increasing the ownership of beneficiary countries and encouraging beneficiary countries to prepare and submit self-assessments and action plans. She will also share with the Bureau information on the updated self-assessments and action plans received since CoP-8.

Furthermore, the WGI Chair will share with the Bureau information on the activities of WGI to carry out an analytical review to determine whether the information available is sufficient to document and assess the Assistance Programme's effectiveness. *The Bureau will be invited to share its views on the approach to the analytical review and to consider its support to this effort led by WGI.*

The secretariat will provide an update on the implementation of Assistance Programme activities since the last Bureau meeting. The secretariat, in cooperation with lead Parties and hosting countries, will provide information with regard to the finalization of the Danube Delta Project (lead Party hazard management: Germany; lead Parties crisis management: Netherlands, Finland; hosting country for field exercise: Republic of Moldova). Furthermore, the secretariat will provide information on other planned assistance activities, and their financing.

The Bureau will be invited to take a decision on the carrying out of future assistance activities and to seek to ensure available funds. On the basis of the information shared by the WGI Chair and the secretariat, the Bureau will be invited to exchange its views on progress under the Assistance Programme in general and to discuss the future of the Programme.

Other assistance activities

Activities to address risk management at tailings management facilities (e.g., in Armenia and Ukraine) including at the subregional level

The Bureau member from Germany as lead Party representative will be invited to brief the Bureau on the progress made with regard to the carrying out of the above-mentioned activity.

3.2 Exchange of information

Exchange of experience and good practices among Parties and to promote the continuous organization of bilateral exercises for preparedness

In follow-up to the decision at the last Bureau meeting, the secretariat discussed and agreed with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) on the organization of a joint one-day seminar, back-to-back with the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP-9). The seminar could be focused on policy and governance issues, highlighting experiences and good practices from within and beyond the ECE region, and the work done by ECE and OECD to support country efforts to strengthen industrial accident prevention, preparedness and response. Other organizations were invited at the third inter-agency coordination meeting on industrial accidents (Paris, 7 May 2015) to indicate their interest in partnering and contributing to this seminar. *Bureau members will be invited to share their views on the joint ECE/OECD seminar.*

Bureau members will be invited to report on their efforts to further investigate the organization and financing of bi- or multilateral exercises for preparedness. The Chair is invited to report on considered options for Slovenia to act as a possible lead country for preparedness and response.

The Vice-Chair from Poland, in cooperation with the secretariat, will be invited to provide information on efforts made, amongst Belarus, Poland and Lithuania, to develop a project on transboundary exercises and a follow-up pan-European conference and to apply for financing under a European Union (EU) Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (ECHO) call for proposals on prevention and preparedness in the field of civil protection in the first quarter of 2016. *Bureau members will be invited to determine future steps to promote the continuous organization of bilateral exercises for preparedness.*

Guidance on the implementation of the Convention with regard to amended annex I on hazardous substances for the purpose of identifying hazardous activities

The Bureau will be briefed with regard to a possible way forward on the development of guidance on the amended annex I on hazardous substances for the purpose of identifying hazardous activities. Following the last Bureau meeting, a possible consultant from the United Kingdom has been identified and a possible approach to develop this guidance has been elaborated. *The Bureau is invited to reflect on the proposed way forward and the timeline for the development of this guidance.* It is invited to keep in mind linkages with the annex I capacity-building activities.

Background information:

ToR for the development of a guidance document on the implementation of the Industrial Accidents Convention with regard to the amended Annex I on hazardous substances for the purpose of identifying hazardous activities

Raising knowledge on industrial safety at universities

The Bureau member from Germany will be invited to report on envisaged activities under this workplan item for which Germany has the lead and was planning to provide in-kind financing. *The Bureau is invited to discuss the continuation of training of university students on industrial safety, building on the previous two summer schools that were organized.* In this context, the Bureau will be invited to consider possible synergies with other international organizations and initiatives.

3.3. Strategic partnerships

Strategic partnerships with other organizations

The secretariat will report on the third inter-agency coordination meeting on industrial accidents, hosted by OECD, and the strengthened and recently-initiated partnerships with other organizations. *The Bureau will be invited to discuss specifically the following strategic partnership opportunities:*

- **OECD:** The Bureau member from Norway, also Chair of the OECD Working Group on Chemical Accidents, will be invited, with the support of the secretariat, to report on opportunities for synergies in the implementation of the respective workplans.
- **Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW):** The secretariat will report on the initiated cooperation with OPCW which participated in and sponsored part of the annex I capacity-building workshop in Central Asia as well as on further opportunities for strengthening the cooperation.

Background document:

Background information on and possibilities for cooperation with OPCW

- **EU:** The Bureau member from the EU will be invited to share information on an EU- financed and implemented project on strengthening chemical accident prevention and preparedness in EU neighbourhood countries.⁵ The secretariat will provide further information on a brainstorming meeting organized by the EU Joint Research Centre (JRC) in which it participated (Ispra, Italy, 26–27 March 2015).⁶ *The Bureau will be invited to reflect on possibilities for cooperation with EU project activities in the EU neighbourhood region, i.e. Eastern Europe and the Caucasus, taking into consideration the financial implications. Furthermore, the Bureau will be invited to consider further synergies with the EU, including strengthening the linkages between the EU Civil Protection Mechanism and the Convention.*

Background document:

JRC project document “Strengthening chemical accident prevention and preparedness in European neighbour countries”⁷

- **EU Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law (IMPEL):** In follow-up to the suggestion made at the last meeting, the Dutch Bureau member and Vice-Chair of IMPEL will provide information about possibilities for IMPEL peer reviews to cover aspects related to the implementation of the Convention at the national level.
- **INDUSTRY:** *The secretariat and Bureau members will be invited to report on steps taken to strengthen synergies with industry associations, in follow-up to the discussion at the last Bureau meeting.*

Bureau members will be invited to suggest possible further actions to maintain and strengthen strategic partnerships with other international organizations, NGOs, industry associations and other ECE MEAs and programmes.

3.4 Involvement of Parties and other stakeholders

In follow-up to its previous meeting, the Bureau will be briefed on activities to promote the Convention. *The Bureau will be invited to consider further efforts to make use of and distribute information and promotion materials.* It may like to consider, among others, the possibility of printing the cartoons on the Convention and the necessary financing.

The secretariat will share information on a working visit to the EU to meet with representatives of the European Commission and participate in the EU Information Day on Civil Protection (Brussels, 13 February 2015). *Bureau members and the secretariat will share information on the outcome of working visits to other stakeholders, including:*

- Environmental Emergencies Forum organized by the Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit, Oslo, 1–3 June 2015
- IMPEL 11th Seminar on Lessons Learnt from Industrial Accidents, Lille, France, 2–3 June 2015

⁵ https://minerva.jrc.ec.europa.eu/EN/content/a93c18e3-b2ba-46c4-b467-3fe02773ec7e/seveso_capacity_building_in_eu_neighbour_countries

⁶ https://minerva.jrc.ec.europa.eu/EN/content/19211c4f-a8f6-4d89-ba9c-366edb121946/seveso_enpi_2015_workshop_materials

⁷ https://minerva.jrc.ec.europa.eu/EN/content/54114003-b942-43e2-89d7-4e9580f4bd28/year_2_enpi_strategy_report

- XVIII International Forum on Industrial Safety, St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, 2-5 June 2015

Bureau members will be invited to consider upcoming opportunities for working visits and raising awareness of the Convention, including:

- Global Chemical Safety and Security Summit, accompanied by Global Chemical Safety and Security Fair, Poland, 16–18 November 2015
- XIII meeting of the Inter-State Council on Industrial Safety of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), Astana, Kazakhstan, 17-18 September 2015.

4. Development of the Convention

4.1 Activities by the Working Group on Development

The Chair of the Working Group on Development (WGD) will brief the Bureau on the outcome of the Working Group's fifth meeting, report on inter-sessional work and plans for its sixth meeting. *The Bureau will be invited to share its views on the plans and next steps to ensure the desired progress in the consideration of amendments and preparation of guidance for CoP-9.*

Background document:

List of decisions taken at the fifth meeting of the Working Group on Development⁸

4.2 Terms of Reference of the Convention's subsidiary bodies

Bureau members will be invited to review and (possibly) to agree on the draft text of the Terms of Reference (ToR) of subsidiary bodies to be sent to WGI and WGD for discussion and feedback, as requested by CoP-8:

- Review of ToR of the Bureau—continued review by the Bureau (on the basis of latest version circulated by the secretariat on 10 April 2015, including previous comments exchanged by the Bureau at its June 2014 meeting and thereafter)
- Review of the ToR of WGI—by the Bureau, in cooperation with WGI, considering the views of WGD with regard to the compliance element. The WGI Chair will be invited to report on the outcome of the considerations by WGI with regard to the introduction of elements on compliance. The outcome of the Bureau and WGI reviews can then be shared with the sixth meeting of WGD for its further consideration regarding the introduction of a possible compliance mechanism
- Review of the ToR of WGD—by the Bureau. The version reviewed by the Bureau could be shared with WGD in advance of its sixth meeting.

Background documents: Draft updated Terms of Reference of the Bureau, WGI and WGD (version circulated 10 April 2015)

4.3 Accession by Member States from outside the ECE region

The fifth meeting of WGD highlighted the need to continue the debate on the opening of the Convention and requested the secretariat to outline possible approaches on how to address the budgetary implications. Bureau members will be invited to share their views on possible elements to be considered in taking this issue forward before further discussion at the sixth meeting of WGD.

⁸ <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=36736#/>

CoP-8 had also invited the secretariat to maintain its contacts with the other United Nations regional commissions and international organizations to promote awareness of the Convention. The secretariat will brief the Bureau on such contacts and future possibilities. In this context, *the Bureau will be invited to consider the Convention's presence in other regions and the invitation of representatives from outside the ECE region to participate in activities under the Convention, including CoP-9.*

5. Implementation of the Convention

The WGI Chair will report on planned activities of the Working Group and the implementation of decisions taken by CoP, including on the initiation of the next reporting round and the simplification of the reporting format and guidelines.

6. Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents

The Co-Chair of Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents (JEG) (Germany, for the Industrial Accidents Convention) will brief the Bureau on the carrying out of activities as per the JEG workplan adopted by the Bureau in December 2014. He will provide information on a JEG meeting, held back-to-back with the final project workshop on improving the safety of tailings management facilities (Kyiv, 20 May 2015), and the plans for future meetings and activities. Furthermore, he will provide information on JEG activities to support the use or application of safety guidelines and checklists developed under its auspices and to provide assistance to countries in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. *The Bureau will be invited to take note of planned future JEG activities and to provide guidance, as necessary.*

7. Consultation of IAN Points of Contact

The Bureau is invited to consider the implementation of the decisions by CoP, notably the request to the points of contact to discuss the results of the regular tests and exercises at their next consultation. *The Bureau is further invited to advise on the organization of a consultation of the points of contact to review the effectiveness of the IAN system and to discuss preparedness and response for disaster risk reduction, considering its financing (presently not assured) and priority activities.*

8. Long term goals and 2017–2018 workplan activities

In 2010, CoP-6 adopted the long-term strategy of the Convention (ECE/CP.TEIA/22, annex I)⁹ to give direction for further work under the Convention. The biennial workplans have since then been structured along the strategy's five priority areas.

Looking ahead, the Bureau is invited to engage in a brainstorming exercise:

- a) to consider the need for a dedicated discussion on the long-term goals of the Convention and the Bureau's role in this regard;*
- b) to identify strategic and pertinent policy issues which merit being addressed in the workplan for the period 2017–2018;*

⁹ <http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/documents/2010/teia/ece.cp.teia.22.e.pdf>

c) *to discuss structural elements for the future workplan, including a differentiation between core and non-core activities, to ensuring the sustainability and predictability of financing*, with reference to the discussion on this aspect under item 2 on financing.

9. Ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties

The Bureau is expected to discuss possible practical arrangements for CoP-9, in particular the location. In determining the location and other practical details, the Bureau will be invited to keep in mind the organization of a joint ECE/OECD seminar, back-to-back with CoP-9.

10. Proposed schedule of meetings for 2015

The Bureau will be invited to confirm the date and location of its next meeting. Considering cost implications, the Bureau may like to consider meeting back-to-back with the sixth meeting of WGD, for example, on 3–4 December 2015. All meeting dates for 2015 are included in the calendar of meetings on the Convention website.¹⁰ For 2016, the secretariat has, in line with the meeting planning procedures of the United Nations Office at Geneva, provisionally reserved the week 11–14 April 2016 for the seventh meeting of WGD, including a workshop on safety and land-use planning (jointly with the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) and its Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment) and 28–30 November 2016 for CoP-9, should it be held in Geneva.

11. Other business

The Conference of the Parties had entrusted the Bureau with monitoring the application of the guiding principles for financial support (ECE/CP.TEIA/30, para. 86, and decision 2014/3, ECE/CP.TEIA/30/Add.1). Against this background, the secretariat will inform the Bureau of the application of the financial support system in 2015.

Members of the Bureau wishing to raise other business are invited to contact the secretariat as soon as possible.

12. Closure of the meeting

The Chair is expected to close the meeting on 9 July at 4.30 p.m.

¹⁰ <http://www.unece.org/environmental-policy/conventions/industrial-accidents/meetings-and-events.html#/>