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## **Economic Commission for Europe**

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

#### **Bureau**

#### **Thirty-eighth meeting**

**Bern, Switzerland, 26-27 June 2018**

#### **Minutes**

#### **A. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda**

The thirty-eighth meeting of the Bureau under the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents was held in Bern, Switzerland, at the invitation of the Federal Office for the Environment.

The following Bureau members were present: Jasmina Karba (Slovenia), Chair; Wivi-Ann Wagello-Sjölund (Finland), Vice-Chair; Paweł Dadasiewicz (Poland), Vice-Chair; Michael Struckl (Austria); Pavel Forint (Czechia); Aléxandros Kiriazis (European Union); Gerhard Winkelmann-Oei (Germany); Torill Tandberg (Norway) and Martin Merkofer (Switzerland). Senad Oprasic (Bosnia and Herzegovina) excused himself for not being able to attend the meeting. Mr. Leo Iberl (Germany), Chair of the Working Group on Implementation (WGI), also attended the meeting. Mr. Rolf-Jan Hoeve (European Union), successor to Mr. Kiriazis as of 15 July, also attended the meeting as an observer, at the invitation of the Chair. The meeting was serviced by the secretariat to the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE).

The Bureau adopted the provisional agenda (CP.TEIA/2018/B.2/Agenda). It expressed great appreciation to Mr. Merkofer (Switzerland) for hosting the meeting. It also expressed its gratitude for Mr. Kiriazis (European Union) for his contribution to the Bureau and the work under the Convention during the previous four years.

#### **B. Preparations for the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and related updates and considerations**

The secretariat informed the Bureau about the proposed agenda and approach to the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Geneva, 4-6 December 2018). It shared information on the possible organization of two receptions (evening of 4 December and lunchtime of 6 December) - subject to their organization and financing by Parties; in this

respect, Slovenia and Austria have been approached. These receptions would provide for an opportunity for delegates to informally exchange information and to network, to highlight the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of JEG and the successful completion of the first Project under the Convention in Central Asia. The secretariat also reminded the Bureau of the envisaged organization of a side event by the EU Joint Research Centre in the margins of the seminar on risk assessment methodologies on 4 December. The Bureau member from EU informed the Bureau of the interest by the European Chemical Industry Council (CEFIC) in the organization of the side event. The Bureau welcomed this idea, recognizing that it may be a means to strengthen contacts with industry. It was suggested that such a side event could be held during lunchtime on the second day of CoP-10, 5 December 2018.

### **1. CoP-10 draft annotated provisional agenda and opening of the meeting**

The Bureau discussed the draft provisional agenda for CoP-10 and decided on the following:

- That a dedicated discussion on financing shall take place on the second day of the CoP (5 December 2018), including a roundtable with all Parties, announced in advance. To lead into the discussion, the secretariat shall deliver a presentation, outlining the following elements:
  - o The current situation, including the extra-budgetary (XB) resource requirements, including to implement core activities, the contributions by several Parties to finance the bulk of the financing required to fund the implementation of the workplans, and the immense fundraising/donor advocacy efforts by the secretariat, to support the efforts by Parties
  - o Good practices by Parties which provide financial or in-kind contributions
  - o The consequences of not receiving the financial resources required to implement the workplans, including the lack of planning/unpredictability, not being able to service intergovernmental meetings, and to implement core, or non-core activities
  - o Options/opportunities for Parties to provide financial or in-kind contributions, e.g. reaching to development cooperation agencies.
- That CoP-10 shall highlight the completion of actions requested to be taken by CoP-9, notably the development of the long-term strategy until 2030, and a communication, outreach and engagement strategy, supporting it
- That items to report on actions taken in the last biennium, which are for information/note-taking purposes mainly, be addressed on day 3 of the CoP (6 December 2018).

### **2. Seminar on Risk Assessment Methodologies**

The Bureau member from Switzerland presented information on the planning for the seminar on Risk Assessment Methodologies, notably the guidance note for speakers and the draft evaluation form. He also reminded the Bureau of the fact that further to a brief summary of the seminar, attached to the CoP-10 report, there will be a separate report, with a more detailed summary of the presentations delivered and discussions held.

The Bureau:

- Welcomed the guidance notes for speakers, and agreed with its circulation to all seminar speakers and Co-Chairs
- Welcomed the preparation of the draft evaluation form and agreed with it as such

- Expressed its thanks to the Swiss Bureau member in particular, and the other members of the small group on risk assessment, and the secretariat, for developing the above-mentioned documents, and for organizing the seminar
- Discussed the possibility of developing recommendations from the seminar (going beyond the mere exchange of information), and agreed to decide whether this would be feasible at the seminar itself, on the basis of the points raised and feedback from the audience
- Agreed that the seminar participants should also be asked for their opinions on possible follow-up activities (e.g. the preparation of new guidance, presentation of existing guidance, or development of specific recommendations), which the Bureau will review, along with the responses to the evaluation forms, at its first meeting in early-2019.

### **3. Representation and credentials**

The Bureau agreed that the report on credentials, traditionally delivered by one of the Vice-Chairs, on the basis of information prepared by the secretariat, be delivered by Vice Chair Pawel Dadaciewicz (Poland), who volunteered in this respect.

### **4. Activities of the Bureau since the ninth meeting of the COP**

The Bureau discussed, on the basis of a proposal from the Chair, the report by the Bureau to CoP-10, and agreed on the following:

- To keep the same principal structure as in previous years, by workplan area
- To highlight areas where the Bureau was in particular active during the biennium
- To supplement the report, in particular through the presentation by the Chair to CoP-10, with highlights on the achievements in this biennium, which the Bureau considered to be as follows:
  - o Advancing with the Convention's linkages with the Sendai Framework and the relevant SDGs, support to countries in the area of industrial accident prevention and preparedness and cooperation with UNISDR in this respect, increasing recognition of the Convention as a legal instrument for technological disaster risk reduction (DRR)
  - o Development of a revised, encompassing long-term strategy until 2030, and a supporting communication, outreach and awareness-raising strategy
  - o Initiation of activities to highlight the linkages with CBRN-E, safety and security
  - o Increasing attention to the Convention's role with respect to NATECH (to be continued in future bienniums)
  - o Achievements under the Assistance Programme (2 sub-regional workshops; first project in Central Asia)
  - o Addressing more "advanced" issues, including information-exchange among all Parties on land-use planning/siting and risk assessment
  - o The Convention's role with respect to policy-making and governance (beyond transboundary cooperation), and with respect to cooperation and peace-making between countries/societies beyond the technical information exchange

- Advancing with the support and advice provided to Assistance Programme beneficiary countries by the WGI, in line with the amended Terms of Reference (link with the report by the WGI to CoP-10).

It was agreed that the above-mentioned highlights will lead-in well to the presentation on the long-term strategy (the following CoP-10 agenda item), setting-out the further development of directions initiated.

The Chair and Vice-Chairs agreed to proceed with drafting the report and to share the draft report, agreed among them, with the secretariat by 6 August, for its review and possible adjustments, and subsequent circulation to the Bureau by 15 August, for its review and comments by 23 August.

## **5. Election of officers and other members of the Bureau**

The Chair and the secretariat reported on their considerations and actions to bring about a better balance of geographical regions in the future composition of the Bureau, and their informal outreach to the Russian Federation in this respect, following the discussions by the Bureau at its last meeting. The Bureau discussed the future composition of the Bureau and:

- Reiterated that a better geographical composition was required, and agreed that, in this respect, the Chair, in cooperation with the secretariat, reach out to Belarus, Serbia, and the Russian Federation, inviting their consideration with respect to Bureau membership in 2019-20
- Reiterated that further to geographical considerations, in accordance with the ToR of the Bureau, gender need to be a continued consideration.

The Chair also informed the Bureau of her approaching of the Bureau member from Norway, Ms. Torill Tandberg, asking if she was ready to take over the Chair of the Convention as of CoP-10, and that she had accepted to put forward her candidature. Ms. Tandberg mentioned the support by DSB for her candidature, her information-sharing with the secretariat of the OECD Working Group on Chemical Accidents, which she had chaired to date, and her readiness to take on the role as Chair of the Convention, if elected. The Bureau welcomed the candidature of Ms. Tandberg.

The secretariat recalled the new process, in line with the amended Rules of Procedures, adopted at CoP-9, requiring the nomination of candidates for Bureau membership in writing, 8 weeks in advance, i.e. by 9 October 2018. It clarified that an official communication from the competent authorities, putting forward the nomination of the candidate, to be sent to the secretariat, was required. A reminder with regard to the procedure of nomination of candidates for Bureau membership, to enable their election at CoP-10, had been sent to all Parties, as requested by the Bureau at its last meeting.

## **6. Long-term strategy for the Convention until 2030**

The Bureau reviewed the revised draft long-term strategy (LTS), updated by the secretariat, in view of the comments by Bureau members exchanged at and in follow-up to the last meeting. It agreed:

- To only retain the square brackets with an explicit reference to the Convention's opening, and to take out all others, recognizing the fact that the Convention shall inspire – through its legal framework and tools – actions by UN member States, also in line with the Sendai Framework and the SDGs.
- To add a table of contents in the beginning of the document.
- To make reference to the Communication, Outreach and Engagement Strategy.

- To distribute the draft LTS to all focal points, for possible comments by 3 August, enabling the secretariat to finalize the document and prepare it for submission thereafter.

The Bureau noted that the LTS was rather lengthy, while recognizing the value of it being able to tell the “whole” story about the Convention, including its past achievements.

## **7. Communication, outreach and engagement strategy**

The Bureau reviewed the draft communication, outreach and engagement strategy, prepared by the secretariat, in cooperation with the small group on communications, taking up the comments exchanged by Bureau members at the last meeting. The Bureau revisited the objective of the Strategy, recalling the request by CoP-9 to “develop a targeted communications strategy to facilitate ensuring robust and sustainable financing of the Convention’s activities.” (ECE/CP.TEIA/32, chapter XII, para. 92). It agreed to rework the draft strategy, to highlight how this CoP-request was addressed, referring also to the fact that the responsibility for securing financing lies with the Parties, and recalling relevant provisions of the sustainable financial mechanism. At the same time, the document shall explain that the Bureau has gone beyond the CoP mandate with producing a document meant for all focal points, and other stakeholders, to facilitate their communication about the Convention, and aims at encouraging them to be more active in this respect, to support the reaching of the vision and objectives set out in the LTS. It was also agreed to give the donors more prominence in the document, as this would contribute to addressing the original mandate relating to sustainable financing.

Furthermore, the strategy highlights outreach and partnership opportunities for use by the Parties to engage with other stakeholders, communities, etc. The Bureau also stressed the need to highlight that the strategy sets out a toolbox of different communication options, available for use by focal points/Parties, and other interested stakeholders, while not being prescriptive. Similarly to the LTS, the Bureau agreed that a table of content be added. The Bureau noted that the strategy is lengthy and requested the secretariat to make it more concise where possible, especially the general introductory wording and descriptions of each target audience.

The Bureau requested the secretariat, in cooperation with the small group, to proceed with reworking the strategy, and to share an amended draft with the Bureau by 13 July, for the Bureau’s review and comments by 6 August 2018. The Bureau would then decide in which form to present the strategy to the Conference of the Parties.

## **8. Land-use planning and NATECH risk management**

The secretariat briefed the Bureau on the conclusions of the seminar on land-use planning and industrial safety (Mechelen, 16-17 May 2018). It presented the positive results of the participants’ evaluations, and the possible follow-up activities that were discussed with the co-organizers and co-chairs, also taking into consideration the recommendations for potential follow up activities in the participants’ evaluation forms. The Bureau took note of these conclusions.

The secretariat also shared information with the Bureau on the Convention’s ongoing and future activities related to NATECH, including aspects of the seminar on land-use planning and industrial safety (Mechelen, 16-17 May 2018), the upcoming seminar on risk assessment, its Assistance Programmes, guidance development, and its envisaged engagement in the UN/OECD workshop on NATECH risk management (NATECH-II workshop) (Potsdam, Germany, 5-7 September 2018). The secretariat put forward its envisaged activities to raise awareness of the Convention’s role in NATECH, including the creation of postcards on NATECH, a dedicated webpage on NATECH, the joint presentation at the abovementioned UN/OECD workshop in September 2018, and inputs

to the UNISDR Global Assessment Report (GAR19). The Bureau took note of these ongoing and envisaged activities.

## **9. Outreach, awareness-raising and strategic partnerships**

The secretariat shared information with the Bureau on its participation in the following meetings and their outcome:

- EU Community of Users for Safe and Resilient Societies (Brussels, 5-8 March 2018), back-to-back with the EU Seveso Expert Group meeting
- Working visits to the EU (7 March 2018 and 18 March 2018) and to Germany (26-27 April 2018)
- Inter-agency coordination meeting (Cardiff, UK, 18 May 2018)
- UNECE's cooperation with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNSIDR), and the envisaged contribution to the Global Assessment Report for Disaster Risk Reduction (GAR-2019)

The Chair shared information on her contribution as a nominated and selected expert to the UNISDR Global Risk Assessment Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (GRAF) and participation in the first meeting of the expert group on the GRAF, 13-14 June 2018 in Geneva.

The Bureau took note of this information. It particularly welcomed:

- The outreach by the secretariat and the EU Bureau member to different parts of the European Commission beyond Directorate-General (DG) Environment (including DGs European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) and European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations (NEAR)) and the EU CBRN-E Centre of Excellence Initiative
- The enhanced cooperation with UNISDR and the contribution by the Convention's work to the products developed under the Sendai Framework, notably the GAR-2019 and the GRAF. Bureau members agreed to contribute to the sub-section of GAR-2019 prepared by the secretariat of the chapter on industrial/chemical hazards, with the support of a consultant financed by the UN Regular Budget, GAR from their expert perspective.

## **10. Development of the Convention**

### **(a) Action by the Bureau**

The Chair reported on the fact-finding steps taken towards the Russian Federation, as agreed at the last meeting of the Bureau, in response to the letter received by the Russian Federation, namely the sending of a letter by her to Mr. Donskoi, former Minister of Natural Resources and the Environment. In the letter, the Chair responded to the offer by the Russian Federation to provide comprehensive comments on the matter, and offered to travel to Moscow for a meeting with the relevant representatives of the Russian Federation, in order to better understand the position of the Russian Federation and discuss a possible way forward. No response to the letter had been received. The secretariat informed the Bureau of its informal follow-up, through the Geneva-based permanent mission to the Russian Federation, in this respect. The Bureau discussed the next steps, taking into account the fact that it was important to have clarity on the positions of Parties in advance of CoP-10, in order to prepare well for the meeting.

The Bureau agreed to organize a preparatory meeting on the amendment to the Convention on the day preceding CoP-10, 3 December 2018 a.m., to which the Russian Federation and the Parties who had proposed the amendment would be invited (European Union, Norway, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Switzerland). At the same time, the

Bureau agreed to pursue with the informal follow-up with the Russian Federation, through the secretariat, and the Bureau member from Finland. The Chair announced wishing to send the letter inviting the above-mentioned Parties to the meeting on 3 December a.m. in September, and to include in the letter a kind request to share information early their respective positions, in order to enable a smooth preparation of CoP-10.

**(b) Decision on the amendment to the Convention**

The Bureau discussed the organization of the discussion on the amendment at CoP-10, and the different options that presented themselves, namely:

- To adopt the amendment, as proposed
- To adopt a part of the amendment only, including the part on the opening of the Convention
- To postpone the adoption of the amendment
- To reject the amendment
- To adopt the proposed amendment with modifications.

The Bureau agreed that the positions by Parties would determine the different options to be considered at the forthcoming CoP. The secretariat informed the Bureau that it would re-circulate the draft amendment, presented to CoP-9, with the letter announcing CoP-10, to all Parties, as CoP-9 had decided to revisit the issue at CoP-10.

**11. United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Industrial Accident Notification System**

The secretariat informed the Bureau of its plans for holding an online consultation of the Points of Contact in October/November 2018, and announced that it would send a prior message to the Points of Contacts, with a copy to the Focal Points, requesting to communicate any changes in the 24/7 points of contacts, if necessary. The secretariat also shared the information that a discussion with the European Commission's secretariat of the Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC) at DG ECHO had led to the conclusion that a joining of the training for the ERCC focal points from the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) Participating States and the Points of Contacts to the IAN system would not be sensible, in view of the different scopes of the respective notification systems and the differing membership.

## **12. Implementation of the Convention**

### **(a) Activities of the Working Group on Implementation**

The Chair of the Working Group on Implementation informed the Bureau of the intended structure of the Group's report to the CoP, which comprises the following items:

- The Working Group's engagement strategy to increasingly reach out to Assistance Programme beneficiary countries, preparation of country dossiers, and modus operandi (included as an annex to the report), in line with its new terms of reference;
- The Working Group's analysis of and conclusions drawn from the responses to the high-level letters sent by the secretariat, based on the request by the Bureau and the Working Group;
- The draft template for notification of hazardous activities, as reviewed and endorsed by the Working Group (included as an annex to the report), which the Conference of the Parties could take note of and recommend countries to make use of;
- The Working Group's deliberations on the way of reporting under the Convention.

The Bureau took note and welcomed the efforts by the WGI to increasingly reach out to beneficiary countries, in line with its amended Terms of Reference, and the intended information-sharing with CoP-10 in this respect. The Bureau decided to further discuss the responses to the high-level letters on the effectiveness of the Assistance Programme, joint with the WGI, at the first joint meeting in early-2019, and to discuss their relevance for the further work under the Assistance Programme and its further development, well in advance of CoP-11 in 2020, which shall evaluate the Assistance Programme's effectiveness, in line with the 3-step-approach decided by CoP-9 (ECE/CP.TEIA/32, para. 62).

### **13. Assistance to countries in the Caucasus, Central Asia and Eastern and South-Eastern Europe**

#### **(a) Progress report on Assistance Programme activities carried out in 2017–2018**

The secretariat presented information on the activities under the Assistance Programme carried out since the last Bureau meeting, of which the Bureau took note. It furthermore presented the outline for the progress report on Assistance Programme activities planned to be prepared for CoP-10, in line with previous practice, and suggested to focus in the report, in particular, on the impact of the activities carried out. It highlighted that, as in the past, the report will contain a section on “other assistance activities”, completed with information provided by the implementing organizations for carrying them out and the lead Party. The Bureau took note of and welcomed the intended structure of the progress report.

The Bureau agreed with the secretariat’s proposal to organize a panel discussion with donor and beneficiary countries under the CoP-10 agenda item on the Assistance Programme. It suggested to keep the length of the agenda item on the Assistance Programme, and the other assistance activities to 1 hour. The panel should follow a brief recap of the highlights of the progress report, with a short presentation by the secretariat, following by short presentations on the Projects funded in-kind by Germany.

#### **(b) Progress report on other assistance activities carried out in 2017-2018**

The Bureau member from Germany reported on the assistance activities funded by the German Environment Agency and implemented by the NGO Eco-Peace in 2018 under the Convention’s workplan 2017-2018, notably the Project “Improving the Safety of Tailings Management Facilities in the Caucasian Region – Trainings and legislative options,” and suggested that a brief presentation be held by Eco-Peace to present on this Project during CoP-10. He stressed the importance of synergies between this Project and the Project on TMFs in Kazakhstan, which Germany intended to also support for specific activities (such as a sub-regional workshop in fall 2019), in view of these synergies and possible future follow-up activities in Central Asia. He also mentioned that the checklist methodology developed under the German-funded TMF Project in Ukraine, and now being applied in the Caucasus was a “living document,” which could be further improved.

The German Bureau member also suggested that the National Mining University, Dnipro, Ukraine, report at CoP-10 on the finalization of the Project (final Workshop) on Raising Knowledge among Students and Teachers on Tailings Safety and its legislative review in Ukraine (Dnipro, Ukraine, 16-17 May 2017), also financed by the German Environment Agency and implemented under the Convention’s workplan. The Bureau agreed with both proposals, while stressing that the presentations should be brief and highlight only key points, while a full reporting of the information will be included in the above-mentioned progress report.

### **14. Prevention of accidental water pollution**

The JEG Co-Chair from Germany presented the draft safety guidelines and good practices for the management and retention of firefighting water (in two parts), sharing information on the fact that they had taken up the comments received, which had been addressed by the Expert Group on Firewater Retention, in cooperation with the secretariat. The Bureau welcomed the preparation of the safety guidelines and highlighted their preparation as a major step ahead. The Bureau agreed that the language for the CoP’s note-taking of the safety-guidelines shall be inspired from previous CoP-reports, and that the secretariat change the draft guidelines accordingly.

The secretariat presented its proposals for the approach to the organization of this agenda item at CoP-10, including:

- A presentation from the JEG Co-Chair for the Industrial Accidents Convention of the activities carried out during 2017-2018 and the development of the above-mentioned safety guidelines
- A presentation, delivered by the secretariat, on the achievement of JEG during the past 20 years of its existence (as the Co-Chair for Water Convention, who will prepare and deliver this presentation at the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Water Convention will only be able to attend the first day of the CoP).

The Bureau agreed with this approach.

The secretariat also presented its proposal for communication products on JEG, including the development of a brochure, lead by the Co-Chair of the Water Convention (Hungary) and the envisaged development of a postcard on the safety guidelines and good practices for the management and retention of firefighting water. The Bureau recommended that the postcard as a promotional material only be developed, following the presentation of the draft safety guidelines to CoP-10, and its note-taking of it.

The Bureau decided to discuss the proposal for enhancing cooperation, through the JEG, with river basin commissions, at the next meeting of the Bureau in early-2019.

#### **Draft decision amending the guidelines to facilitate the identification of hazardous activities for the purposes of the implementation of the Convention**

The Bureau member from the EU informed the Bureau of the update of the location criteria, and the accompanying draft decision, which he prepared, in cooperation with the Chair of JEG and the Chair of the WGI. The Bureau welcomed the update and agreed:

- that the updated draft guidelines be accompanied by an informal document showing tracked-changes
- that the draft decision and the updated draft guidelines shall be presented as part of the agenda item on the Bureau report, as it was an initiative by the Bureau
- that the proposed para, tasking the Bureau, in cooperation with the WGI and the JEG, to review the guidelines on the location criteria further, in particular with reference to effect and risk assessment (and in view of the experiences exchanged at the risk assessment seminar) be retained, in order to present another update of the location criteria to a future CoP, for a subsequent update.

#### **15. Use of financial and in-kind resources in 2017–2018**

The secretariat suggested that the report on the use of financial and in-kind resources under the Convention in 2017–2018 be structured in the same way as the report in previous bienniums, taking account of past decisions by the Bureau in this respect. The Bureau agreed with this proposal.

Furthermore, the secretariat highlighted the additional resources received since the Bureau's last meeting and still expected for 2018. The Bureau noted that the % rate of the funding provided for the implementation of the activities set out in the workplan, as adopted by CoP-9 (45 %) had not changed since the last Bureau meeting. The Bureau requested that information on the contributions received, including both financial and in-kind contributions received by Parties, be shared by the secretariat, with the Bureau members.

## 16. Financing

The Chair of the small group on financing, supported by the secretariat, presented the updated draft decision on strengthening the implementation of the Sustainable Financial Mechanism, discussed and agreed among the members of the small group during the preceding meeting on 25 June. The Bureau agreed with the updated draft, noting that it addressed the comments exchanged by the secretariat at the past Bureau meeting, and comprised a more positive tone. The Bureau member from the EU suggested that more thought could be given to highlighting the objectives for the draft decision in the preambular paragraphs, further the text contained in the summary box.

The Bureau requested the secretariat to consider combining the last two paras and to ensure consistency in terminology, when referring to countries with economies in transition, between this draft decision and the draft decision on guiding principles for financial assistance. It requested the secretariat to finalize the updated draft, and share it with the Bureau for information, before issuing it as an official document. It agreed that this draft decision would not be shared with focal points in advance.

## 17. Priorities, workplan and resources under the Convention for 2019-2020

The secretariat presented the draft workplan 2019-2020 for the Bureau's review and discussion. It highlighted that the draft workplan took account of the Bureau's previous comments to produce a more realistic cost estimate, and that, to this effect, cost estimates had been reviewed and revised accordingly. The overall resource requirements have been reduced, compared to the previous workplan, by about USD 700,000. The Bureau reviewed the draft workplan and suggested various modifications to it, including moving the preparation of an Implementation Guide<sup>1</sup> to table 3, and reformulating the item on the SDGs and the Sendai Framework, to clarify that the support provided by the Convention pertained to the area of industrial accident prevention and preparedness. The Bureau member from Germany also suggested adding another assistance activity on TMFs along the Danube, planned to be funded by Germany in-kind under the Convention's workplan, in cooperation with the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR).

The Bureau agreed with the principle that table 2 should contain activities which are envisaged to be able to be implemented with the envisaged pledges and contributions for 2019-2020<sup>2</sup>, and in which possible lead and contributing Parties have expressed an interest. The Bureau requested the secretariat to update the draft workplan, and to share it with all Parties or organizations along with the official letter announcing CoP-10, along with the provisional agenda.

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<sup>1</sup> An Implementation Guide for all Parties would provide for a means to present the legal interpretation of the various provisions of the Convention, drawn on the various decisions taken by previous CoPs, and the results of the negotiations in the framework of the Working Group on Development, while presenting good practices on the Convention's provisions. Implementation guidance aiming to support all Parties in the implementation of its provisions exist for other MEAs, including the Aarhus and Water Conventions. A comprehensive implementation guide for the Industrial Accidents Convention could build on the guidance for the implementation of the Convention for countries in Central Asia, developed under the Russian-funded project on Strengthening Industrial Safety in Central Asia, with a limited budget and scope.

<sup>2</sup> As the pledges will only be officially be communicated at CoP-10, the secretariat will base its estimates for the workplan implementation on the past experience and informal expressions by donors with regards to the envisaging the continuation of pledges and regular financial contributions.

**C. Other business**

No other business was proposed and discussed.

**D. Closing of the meeting**

The Bureau confirmed the date and location of its next session, in Geneva during the afternoon of 3 December 2018, back-to-back with CoP-10, before the Chair formally closed the session, thanking the Bureau membership for their contributions and the secretariat.

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