

Report on the Activities of the Bureau 2009-2010

Mr. Chris Dijkens

Chair of the Conference of the Parties

Members of the Bureau in the term 2009-2010:

- Mr. Chris Dijkens (Netherlands) - Chair
- Mr. Bernard GAY (Switzerland) - Vice-Chair
- Mr. Cristiano Piacente (Italy) – Vice-chair
- Ms. Cathy Bieth (France) / Loic Malgorn
- Ms. Irma Gurguliani (Georgia)
- Mr. Gerhard Winkelmann-Oei (Germany)
- Mr. Altynbek Yegizbaev (Kazakhstan)
- Ms. Suzana Milutinovic (Serbia)
- Ms. Jasmina Karba (Slovenia)
- Mr. Tobias Biermann (European Commission)

Meetings of the Bureau:

- Fourteenth meeting 26-27 January 2009, The Hague, as a joint meeting with WGI,
- Fifteenth meeting 13-14 July 2009, Geneva, as a joint meeting with WGI,
- Sixteenth meeting 27-28 January 2010, Bratislava, as a joint meeting with WGI,
- Seventeenth meeting 15-15 June 2010, Harstad.
- Teleconference with the Bureau of the Water Convention (22 September 2010)

Tasks of the Bureau entrusted to it by the Conference (ECE/CP.TEIA/15) of the Parties (fourth meeting) were related to:

- Reporting on implementation
- Assistance Programme
- UNECE Industrial Accidents Notification System
- Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents
- Protocol on Civil Liability
- Review of long-term programme of work

The work carried out within the reporting:

- Review of the modified reporting format and welcoming it – 15th meeting – for use in the 5th round of implementation.
- Review of the advanced draft of the Fifth report

The work carried out within the Assistance Programme (jointly with WGI):

- To provide guidance, as appropriate, in helping countries participating in the Assistance Programme in the implementation of the basic tasks required under the Convention
- To review request for assistance and implement relevant assistance activities
- To support the Programme-participating countries in applying the cyclic mechanism of the Strategic Approach by preparation of a form for data collection within the mechanism and the development of performance indicators and criteria for self assessment on progress made in the implementation of the Convention

Preparatory phase, assistance in implementing basic tasks:

- Visits to Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan to discuss the commitment and implementation of basic tasks

Result: acceptance (jointly with WGI) of Uzbekistan to the implementation phase

- Awareness-raising missions to Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina / review of reports and action plans

Result: acceptance (jointly with WGI) of Albania to the implementation phase

Implementation phase, support to the countries

- Review of request of assistance (project proposals) and acceptance of :

10 projects accepted

6 projects implemented / 4 for subsequent implementation

Details will be reported in the progress report on the Assistance Programme, agenda item 7a

Implementation phase, form for collecting information / form for NAP / performance indicators and criteria

- Establishment of a task force consisting of Bureau and WGI members (14th meeting)
- Monitoring of the task force's work - comments and feedback

Approval of the document (17th meeting) and submission to the Conference of the Parties for adoption (agenda item 7b)

Industrial Accidents Notification System

Monitoring of the work of a task force on IAN consisting of representatives of points of contact and established to:

- (i) ensure the organization of a number of analytical exercises in 2009;
- (ii) collect and make a preliminary evaluation of the results of the analytical exercises to discuss them at a fourth consultation for Points of Contact;
- (iii) organize the fourth consultation for Points of Contact; and (iv) make an evaluation on the compatibility of the IAN and CECIS Systems

Review of the outcome of the Fourth Consultation for Points of Contact designated under the IAN System (Zagreb, Croatia, 25-26 March 2010); (17th meeting)

Details will be discussed under agenda item 8

Activities of the JEG / work in the area of accidental water pollution

- Elaboration together with the Bureau of the Water Convention of a strategy for JEG and its adoption at 15th meeting in Geneva
- To look for priority tasks for JEG, acceptance to organize a workshop on joint management of transboundary emergencies involving international waterways (Slubice, PL, 8-10 Sept 2009)
- Communication on priority task for JEG, survey carried out by Water Bureau,

Details will be discussed under agenda item 9a (workshop) and 9b JEG

Protocol on Civil Liability

The goal: to explore ways to further the entry into force of the Protocol

Cooperation with the Water Bureau

- review of communication from EC
- communication on ideas towards helping non-EU member states to implement/ratify the Protocol (exchange of ideas and electronic consultation)
- teleconference with Water Bureau (28 Sept 2010, discussion of way forward)

Details will be presented under the agenda item 9c

Long-term programme of work

- Review of the long-term programme of work
- Conclusion of review: need for strategic document to give a framework to build on successes and for addressing challenges
- A small task force was established consisting of members of the Bureau and WGI
- Work on the strategy – several brainstorming sessions, many drafts, many consultations with the Bureau and WGI
- A advanced version presented at 17th meeting, Bureau's decision to submit the strategy to the CoP-6 for adoption with prior circulation of the strategy for consultation with the Parties

The draft long-term strategy will be presented and discussed under agenda item 6

Seminar on land use planning around hazardous industrial sites

- Decision of the Bureau to address safety and land use planning in international seminar
- Strategy's task force brainstormed on goals and concept for the seminar
- Committee on Housing and Land Management invited to work jointly on the seminar
- Interesting seminar's programme developed:
 - session I to build understanding on priorities and interests of different stakeholder, including game simulation
 - session II to build cooperation, review of good practices and challenges
- Seminar date and venue – back to back with CoP-6, 11-12 November 2010, The Hague, The Netherlands

Others

- Support to the secretariat in fundraising, first brainstorming on components' of 'robust' financing mechanism
- Preparation of a sound work plan 2011-2012 based on long term strategy (for discussion under item 10)
- Work towards better visibility of the Convention's work
 - internal paper on communication developed
 - website was redesigned at the initiative of the Bureau
 - internal paper was used in discussions on the strategy