

First Interagency Coordination Meeting on Industrial Accidents

29 April 2013, Geneva, Palais des Nations

Meeting Minutes

1. Opening of the meeting and introduction of ECE's initiative to hold it

Mr. Sergiusz Ludwiczak of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) chaired the meeting. He recalled the rationale behind ECE's initiative to hold this meeting, stressing that the coordination of activities among the various actors had long been neglected but would allow to avoid duplication, better plan and to use limited resources more efficiently. For this to happen, the actors have to know each other, be aware of on-going and planned activities and be willing to share information and support each other and, finally, ready to enter into joint undertakings where appropriate. Good examples already exist and he referred e.g. to the cooperation between ECE, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) for the development of an online training course on industrial accidents in 2012/13.

Mr. Marco Keiner, Director of the ECE's Environment Division, welcomed the participants and stressed the importance of this meeting, in particular the need for stronger cooperation and coordination between actors in the prevention of, preparedness for and response to industrial accidents. He also expressed his appreciation to both international and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) present at the meeting and he invited them to contribute as equal partners.

The group adopted an agenda for its meeting (see [annex I](#)).

2. Introduction of participants and exchange of expectations from this consultation

The participants introduced themselves (see [annex II](#) for list of participants) and expressed their expectations from this meeting. From the tour de table it became evident that the participants were interested in learning about other organization's activities, avoiding the duplication of work and identifying synergies and possible joint activities.

3. Exchange of information on key areas of activity of each organization/programme

The following organizations informed about their key areas of activity: (i) ECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents; (ii) Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit; (iii) UNEP, Division of Technology, Industry and Economics, (iv) Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Working Group on Chemical Accidents; (v) World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe (WHO ROE); (vi) International Labour Organization (ILO); (vii) European Commission, Directorate-General Environment and the Joint Research Centre; (viii) Women in Europe for a Common Future (WECF); and (ix) European Process Safety Centre (EPSC) (represented by Mark Hailwood).

Following each presentation, the organization's name and key area(s) of activity were included into an overview table. As a result, the group identified seven joint key areas of activities and possible partners for each during the meeting (see [annex III](#)). The participants also started to discuss concrete opportunities for possible cooperation within the key areas, such as: (i) joint organization of capacity building activities (Ms. Emilia Wahlstrom), (ii) sharing of guidance material and best practice on prevention and preparedness, also through a web platform (Ms. Johanna Suikkanen); (iii) elaboration of an international training handbook compiling existing material (Mr. Mark Hailwood); (iv) exchange of experts or representation of more organizations through one expert at meetings (Mr. Mark Hailwood); (v) participation in the work of OECD on ageing of installations and changes of ownership which could, for instance, entail providing speakers and/or financial support to some EECCA and SEE countries (Ms. Mar Gonzalez); (vi) cooperation with WHO ROE on common methodologies for risk assessment (in view of the preparation of risk assessment guidelines by WHO ROE); (vii) creation, with EPSC, of a common approach to cooperate with EECCA countries, in particular Russia and Kazakhstan.

During the discussion, the group identified also gaps that should be addressed, such as: (i) lack of a hazard risk mapping tool (the various existing tools are based on the mapping of hazardous activities and not on a risk assessment methodology); (ii) need to raise public participation in areas capable of being affected by an industrial accident; (iii) need to improve involvement of NGO and industry representatives, especially at regional and local level. The participants also recognised that this and further coordination meetings would be a mechanism through which actors would be kept informed about on-going activities.

4. Identification of areas of common interest as a possible way forward

Based on the discussion, the group agreed to complete the remaining two columns of the overview table and send it for compilation to ECE. The group also agreed that it would be useful to complete the more detailed excel table circulated before the meeting which could become the template for organizations to share regularly information, for instance annually or twice a year, on on-going projects or activities. ECE agreed to compile this table based on data from the participants.

5. Future arrangements for consultations

The participants agreed that the meeting was useful and that future meetings should be held on a yearly basis, possibly in April of each year. Ms. Irina Zastenskaya from WHO ROE in Bonn offered to host the next meeting which the group welcomed.

The group also suggested seeking involvement of further partners for future meetings.

6. Closing

The Chair thanked the participants for their active contribution and closed the meeting.

Annex I Meeting agenda

1. Opening of the consultation (by a senior representative of ECE's management)
2. Introduction of ECE's initiative to hold this consultation
3. Short introduction of participants and an exchange of their expectations from this consultation
4. Exchange of information on key areas of activities, both substantively and geographically, of each organization/programme (subject to confirmation) (presentations of maximum 10 minutes):
 - (a) ECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents
 - (b) Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit
 - (c) UNEP, Division of Technology, Industry and Economics
 - (d) OECD Working Group on Chemical Accidents
 - (e) WHO
 - (f) ILO
 - (g) UNIDO
 - (h) European Commission, DG Environment
 - (i) European Commission, DG Europeaid
 - (j) European Commission Joint Research Centre
 - (k) European Commission DG ECHO
 - (l) Women in Europe for a Common Future (WECF)
 - (m) European Chemical Industry Council (CEFIC)
 - (n) European Process Safety Centre (EPSC)
 - (o) International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA)
 - (p)
5. Mapping of activities and identification of areas of common interest as a possible way forward
6. Future arrangements for consultations

Annex II List of meeting participants

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Annex III Overview table on key areas of activity (as of 24 May 2013)

| Key area of work | Organisation | Type of activity (e.g. capacity development, frameworks, guidelines, methodologies, tools, table-top and field exercises, mutual notification and assistance, case study projects, etc.) | Target region/countries |
|------------------------|--|--|--|
| Accident prevention | UNECE, JRC, (DG ENV), UNEP, OECD, ILO, WHO, EPSC | Capacity development (IHR and chemical emergencies trainings) | Individual countries (B&H) and sub-regions (SEE, Eastern Europe) |
| | | <p>Guidance Materials and Frameworks: Flexible Framework Guidance Implementation Support Package (ISP)</p> <p>Capacity Building/ Pilot projects: Supporting national governments to develop chemical accident prevention and preparedness programmes through “CAPP Programme Projects”- methodology described in ISP</p> | Global, developing countries: Until now the key countries have been Cambodia, China, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand; Mali, Senegal and Tanzania. The list is not exhaustive and will be expanded as countries request support |
| Emergency preparedness | UNECE, JEU, JRC, DG ECHO, (DG ENV), UNEP, OECD, ILO, WHO, EPSC | Development of tools (RIECO Project “Risk assessment of industrial accident and enforcement of cross-border obligations”) | Non-EU countries in WHO European Region |
| | | Capacity development (IHR and chemical emergencies trainings) | Individual countries (B&H) and sub-regions (SEE, Eastern Europe) |
| | | UNEP APELL Programme: APELL Handbook and materials; APELL practitioners network, APELL workshops and field exercises. | Global, developing countries: current project with ICCA in Ghana and Kenya |
| Emergency response | UNECE, JEU, (JRC), DG ECHO, (DG ENV), OECD, WHO, ILO | Development of tools (RIECO Project “Risk assessment of industrial accident and enforcement of cross-border obligations”) | Non-EU countries in WHO European Region |
| | | Capacity development (IHR and chemical emergencies trainings) | Individual countries (B&H) and sub-regions (SEE, Eastern Europe) |

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| Public awareness, information and participation | UNECE, UNEP APELL, WECF, (OSCE), JEU, (DG ENV), (OECD), WHO, EPSC | Development of tools (RIECO Project “Risk assessment of industrial accident and enforcement of cross-border obligations”) | Non-EU countries in WHO European Region |
| | | Capacity development (IHR and chemical emergencies trainings) | Individual countries (B&H) and sub-regions (SEE, Eastern Europe) |
| | | Capacity Building (workshops), tools (educational tools; Handbooks); train the trainer – multiplying effect; Trainings for Civil Society regarding Aarhus Convention; networking on public level and high level (multi-stakeholder processes) | Eastern Europe, Central Asia, Caucasus Region, and where needed due to our network |
| | | UNEP APELL Programme: APELL Handbook and materials; APELL practitioners network, APELL workshops and field exercises. | Global, developing countries |
| Land-use planning | UNECE, (JEU), JRC, ILO, EPSC | No active work, but guidance available in Flexible Framework Guidance Document | |
| Accident reporting and communicating lessons learned | UNECE, JEU, JRC, (UNEP), WECF, OECD, ILO, WHO, EPSC | WHO Event Management System (EMS) – daily reporting of events incl. chemical and annual analysis of tendencies with development of recommendations for priority actions | Globally |
| | | Capacity Building (workshops), tools (educational tools; Handbooks); train the trainer – multiplying effect; Trainings for Civil Society regarding Aarhus Convention; networking on public level and high level (multi-stakeholder processes) | Eastern Europe, Central Asia, Caucasus Region, and where needed due to our network |
| | | Flexible Framework Initiative: Activities on-going with Chinese Ministry of Environmental Protection to develop pilot format for sharing accident information and translating case studies of accidents, jointly with MAHB | China |
| Cross-border cooperation | UNECE, (JEU), (DG ENV), (OECD), WHO | Requirement of the International Health Regulations (obligation in case of events) | Globally |