

**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**

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

4 October 2016  
Dnipro, Ukraine

**Meeting Minutes**



**UNECE**

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## 1. Opening of the meeting

Mr. Gerhard Winkelmann-Oei, co-Chair of the Joint Ad Hoc Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents (JEG) from the Industrial Accidents Convention, chaired the meeting. The meeting was serviced by Ms. Claudia Kamke (UNECE Industrial Accidents Convention). The following participants attended the meeting:

- Mr. Gerhard Winkelmann-Oei (JEG co-Chair, Germany)
- Ms. Kristine Sahakyan (Eco Peace Armenia)
- Ms. Lubov Hertman (Belarus)
- Mr. Medetbek Omurbekov (Kyrgyzstan)
- Mr. Zoltan Torok (Research Center for Disaster Management in Romania)
- Mr. Dusan Kostic (Jaroslav Černi Institute for Development of Water Resources in Serbia)
- Ms. Claudia Kamke (UNECE Industrial Accidents Convention)

JEG members from Czechia, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Serbia and Sweden had informed the secretariat that they could not participate in the meeting. No information about the absence of the JEG members Mr. Senzaconi (Romania)<sup>1</sup> and Ms. Racovic (Republic of Moldova) was available at the time of the meeting.

## 2. Workplan and planned activities of the JEG in 2017–2018

The secretariat presented the draft workplan of the JEG in 2017–2018, agreed by the Bureau of the Industrial Accidents Convention and awaiting consideration by the Bureau of the Water Convention at its meeting on 17 October 2016. Participants agreed with the workplan and thanked Mr. Winkelmann-Oei and the secretariat for having finalized it, based on the discussion at the last meeting.

## 3. Development of guidance on fire water retention in 2017–2018

Mr. Winkelmann-Oei provided an update on the planned development of guidance on fire-water retention, reporting that 2 to 3 meetings were planned for 2017, with the first two planned for January 2017 in Geneva and another one in June 2017. The secretariat informed the JEG about some nominations received to date for the small expert group developing the guidance and presented a draft scoping study for discussion. JEG members provided comments on the scoping study and requested the secretariat to circulate the updated scoping study with a request for expert nominations and further information on the objectives of the guidance to the Focal Points of the Water and Industrial Accidents Conventions.

Mr. Torok reported that there were guidelines available in Romania regarding fire-water retention and offered to share them with the Group. Other experts were encouraged to double-check whether similar guidelines exist in their countries and share them with the secretariat for compilation.

## 4. Organization of a side event of accidental water pollution

Mr. Winkelmann provided an update on the preparations of the side event on accidental water pollution, to be held during the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Industrial Accidents Convention (Ljubljana, 28–30 November 2016) under Germany's leadership. The secretariat presented the flyer and draft programme prepared for the event.

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<sup>1</sup> Mr. Senzaconi informed the JEG co-Chair Mr. Winkelmann-Oei after the meeting that Mr. Zoltan Torok would replace him as a member from Romania in the Joint Expert Group.

The JEG welcomed the initiative and requested the secretariat to invite also the JEG members Ms. Lubov (Belarus) and Mr. Omurbekov (Kyrgyzstan) to attend the side event.

**5. Publishing of the checklist for contingency planning for accidents affecting transboundary waters**

The secretariat informed JEG members about the progress made regarding the publishing of the checklist, led by Sweden, reporting that the checklist would be available in English, French and Russian for the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in November in Ljubljana. The JEG welcomed the excellent Swedish leadership, particularly of Mr. Claes-Hakan Carlsson, in this activity and requested the secretariat to provide hard copies of the final publication to JEG members in the first half of 2017.

**6. Review of outstanding action items from the last JEG meeting**

Mr. Winkelmann guided the meeting participants through the outstanding action items from the previous meeting and JEG members reported back on their actions taken. Among others, the following issues were discussed:

**(a) Follow-up projects on tailings safety in Georgia and Ukraine**

Mr. Winkelmann-Oei reported that there were delays in the planned follow-up project in Georgia which could now only start in the second half of 2017 due to the lack of available funds. He stressed that there was a possibility for JEG experts to participate in the planned events. Regarding the on-going project on tailings safety in Ukraine, Mr. Winkelmann-Oei mentioned that JEG experts could also support these activities, including the final project workshop planned for the second quarter of 2017. JEG experts took note of these developments and expressed interest in supporting the events in both countries. Mr. Winkelmann-Oei was requested to circulate the terms of reference of the project in Georgia, once available, and to inform about the dates for the final workshop of the project in Ukraine.

**(b) Existence of national database on tailings management facilities in JEG countries**

Mr. Torok reported that there was a national database on tailings management facilities (TMFs) in Romania, however, that the database was from 2007 and would need to be updated. Mr. Omurbekov informed participants that a national database on TMFs was established 2 years ago in Kyrgyzstan. Mr. Kostic reported that no national database on TMFs was available in Serbia but that different competent authorities had such an overview. Other JEG members, e.g. from Belarus, agreed to double-check whether a national database existed and to report back on this at the next meeting. Those JEG members interested in a follow-up project were also encouraged to start preparing a list with TMFs in their countries, containing information on the name of the facility, the rough location (near which city/village), capacity, relevant waste, etc. Mr. Omurbekov (Kyrgyzstan) and Mr. Kostic (Serbia) agreed to do so.

**7. Any other business**

JEG members evaluated the on-going implementation of the training workshop on tailings safety in Dnipro (3-7 October 2017) and provided valuable feedback on how to improve further activities of this kind. The meeting also discussed possible future projects on tailings safety in South-Eastern Europe and Central Asia with JEG support. Mr. Winkelmann-Oei informed the JEG about two projects planned in Romania and Serbia which could be

implemented in cooperation with ICPDR and contain an on-site training on TMFs in each country. He also proposed that a follow-up project on tailings safety could be implemented as of 2018 in Kyrgyzstan, with the participation of other experts from the region. He mentioned that the above projects could be financed through the German Federal Environment Agency and encouraged participants to submit applications. JEG members welcomed these initiatives and agreed to liaise directly with Mr. Winkelmann-Oei on the necessary requirements for the application and implementation of these projects.

The JEG agreed to hold its next meeting back-to-back with the final workshop of the project on tailings safety in Ukraine in mid-May 2017.

#### **8. Closing of the meeting**

The Co-Chair thanked the secretariat for the preparation of the meeting and the JEG members for their active participation, before closing the meeting at 1 pm.