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English only

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## **Economic Commission for Europe**

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

### **Bureau**

**Thirty-fifth meeting**

### **Working Group on Implementation**

**Thirty-second meeting**

Geneva, 31 January 2017

## **Annotated provisional agenda of the joint meeting**

To be held at the Palais des Nations, room S-4, from 1 to 6 p.m. on 31 January.

The joint meeting will be preceded by a meeting of the Bureau and followed by a meeting of the Working Group on Implementation.

### **I. Provisional agenda**

1. Opening of the joint meeting and adoption of the agenda
2. Introductions
3. Exchange of information
4. Assistance activities
  - (a) Improving the effectiveness of the Assistance Programme
  - (b) Implementation of activities, including under the Assistance Programme
  - (c) Activities related to accidental water pollution
5. Other business
6. Closure of the joint meeting.

## **II. Annotations to the provisional agenda**

### **1. Opening of the joint meeting and adoption of the agenda**

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

The meeting will be chaired jointly by the Chair of the Bureau and the Chair of the Working Group, who is expected to be elected immediately before the joint meeting.

### **2. Introductions**

The members of the Bureau and Working Group on Implementation will introduce themselves briefly.

### **3. Exchange of information**

The joint meeting will be invited to discuss planned activities relating to online reporting, an implementation guide, good practices and a possible seminar on risk assessment. These activities were included in the workplan adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its ninth meeting, though no Party or organization has offered to finance them.

The workplan foresees the development of an online system for national implementation reporting, with the support of the Working Group on Implementation. The joint meeting will be invited to discuss the financing and execution of this activity.

The workplan also foresees the development of an implementation guide, though no Party or organization has offered to lead this activity. The joint meeting will be invited to discuss whether and how this activity might be implemented.

In addition, the workplan includes an activity on the exchange of experience and good practices among Parties, though again no Party or organization has offered to lead this activity. The workplan suggests that risk assessment methodologies could be the focus of such an exchange and that, should the exchange be carried out in the framework of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, cost implications would be minimized. The joint meeting will therefore be invited to discuss possible arrangements for such an exchange.

### **4. Assistance activities**

The joint meeting will be invited to discuss assistance activities, including under the Assistance Programme and related to accidental water pollution.

#### **(a) Improving the effectiveness of the Assistance Programme**

The Conference of the Parties, at its ninth meeting, endorsed three steps to improve the effectiveness of the Assistance Programme:

(i) Step 1: The Working Group on Implementation should pursue in its next term a more rigorous approach to monitoring the Assistance Programme, in accordance with its updated terms of reference, to collect further information on and improve the implementation of the Convention by beneficiary countries;

(ii) Step 2: The Bureau, in cooperation with the Working Group, should request high-level feedback from beneficiary countries of the Assistance Programme with regard to their progress made and specific needs for future assistance. Based on this feedback and the conclusions and observations set out in the note on the effectiveness, results and options for the further development of the Assistance Programme (ECE/CP.TEIA/2016/15), the Bureau, in cooperation with the Working Group, should consider the further development of the Assistance Programme with regard to its design and appeal for both beneficiary countries and donors, including the possibility to organize a high-level meeting in the framework of the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

(iii) Step 3: Following the implementation of steps 1 and 2, the Conference of the Parties could revisit the issue at its eleventh meeting in autumn 2020.

The meeting will be invited to discuss how to take steps 1 and 2.

In addition, the meeting will be invited to discuss how to improve financing of Assistance Programme activities, especially those stemming from the national action plans submitted under the Strategic Approach.

Further, the meeting might wish to discuss how to ensure that the communications strategy for the Convention, to be developed by the Bureau, addresses adequately the Assistance Programme.

**(b) Implementation of activities, including under the Assistance Programme**

The secretariat will provide an update on planned assistance activities under the current workplan. The meeting will be invited to discuss measures to strengthen implementation of these activities.

**(c) Activities related to accidental water pollution**

The co-Chair of the Joint ad hoc Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents will provide an update on the activities relating to accidental water pollution included in the workplan. In particular, he will report on the establishment of an expert group on fire-water retention. The meeting will be invited to discuss this information, as appropriate.

**5. Other business**

Members of the Bureau or the Working Group on Implementation wishing to raise other business are invited to contact the secretariat as soon as possible.

**6. Closure of the joint meeting**

The Chairs of the two bodies are expected to close the meeting on 31 January at 6 p.m.

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