

**Bureau of the Conference of the Parties (tenth meeting)  
Working Group on Implementation (sixth meeting)**

Joint meeting, 15-16 February 2007

**MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING**

**Introduction**

1. A joint meeting of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties (CoP) to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents and the Working Group on Implementation (WGI) was held in Geneva on 15-16 February 2007.

2. The following members of the Bureau and WGI attended the meeting: Ms. Giuliana Gasparrini (Italy), Chairperson of the CoP, Mr. Bernard Gay (Switzerland) and Mr. Lajos Katai-Urban (Hungary), Vice Chairpersons, Ms. Anahit Aleksandryan (Armenia), Mr. Aleksandr Dokuchaev (Belarus), Mr. Nikolay Savov (Bulgaria), Mr. Pavel Forint (Czech Republic), Mr. Gerhard Winkelmann-Oei and Mr. Leo Iberl (Germany), Ms. Judit Mogor (Hungary), Ms. Ausra Sablinskiene (Lithuania), Mr. Chris Dijkens (Netherlands), Mr. Gunnar Hem (Norway), Mr. Francisc Senzaconi (Romania), Mr. Tomas Trcka (Slovakia) and Ms. Jasmina Karba (Slovenia). Mr. Keith Bull (UNECE) Chief of Pollution, Prevention Team, Mr. Lukasz Wyrowski, officer in charge for the Industrial Accidents Convention and Ms. Virginia Fuse also attended. In addition, Mr Cristiano Piacente and Ms. Elisabetta Scialanca (Italy, support team for the Chairperson) participated in the meeting.

3. Mr. Tobias Biermann (European Commission), Mr. Massimo Cozzone (Italy), Ms. Anna Balakireva (Russian Federation), and Ms. Helena Nasslander (Sweden) were not able to attend.

**I. Working Group on Implementation – election of the Chairman**

4. The WGI members, according to the rules of procedure (rule 23 ECE/CP.TEIA/3), elected Mr. Gunnar Hem (Norway) as the Group's Chairman for the years 2007-2008.

**II. Assistance Programme**

***Further elaboration of the action plan***

5. Mr. Gay recalled the decision of the Conference of the Parties according to which the Bureau together with the WGI and with the assistance of the secretariat were entrusted to further elaborate the action plan under the Internationally supported Assistance Programme, based on document ECE/CP.TEIA/2006/4.

6. Ms. Aleksandryan, Mr. Dokuchaev, Mr. Savov and Mr. Senzaconi presented the priorities for assistance in their subregions. They mentioned, among others, the needs to: (i)

strengthen the cooperation between competent authorities and provide guidance on distribution of roles, (ii) transfer the knowledge on safety management system and tools for risk assessment and (iii) improve the identification of hazardous activities by applying annex I to the Convention.

7. Mr. Forint and the secretariat presented a project proposal aimed at organizing under the action plan a workshop sponsored by the Czech Republic in support of Moldova and its neighbouring countries on strengthening the safety measures at industrial facilities. This proposal was motivated by the fact that an oil terminal, which will be an important hazardous activity capable of causing transboundary effect in case of an accident, is under construction in Giurgiulesti and that therefore the knowledge of Moldovian inspectors on safety standards and best available safety technologies and management should be improved urgently. In addition Mr. Winkelmann-Oei showed some pictures of the site at which the terminal is constructed and informed about new developments regarding the change in the ownership of the terminal.

8. Mr. Dijkens introduced some ideas for a strategic planning under the Assistance Programme. The strategic planning should allow further development of the programme and should lead to ensure its sustainability. A guide on how to ensure the funds for the projects under the programme in the long term should be also incorporated in the plan.

9. Mr. Savov presented the results of the research whether and how the EU funding instruments could be used in financing the activities under the Assistance Programme. He concentrated on two instruments: an European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) and an Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA), providing information which countries are eligible for the funds under those instruments, who can apply for the funds and what are the focus areas.

10. Ms. Gasparri and Mr. Gay stressed the importance of providing rapidly assistance to the countries which were accepted to participate in the implementation phase of the Assistance Programme, according to the decision and commitment of the CoP in Rome. The Bureau and WGI extensively discussed the priorities for assistance in countries of EECCA and SEE, the project proposal for Moldova and its neighbouring countries as well as the strategic planning under the Assistance Programme and the use of possible EU funding instruments. They found that in order to maintain the momentum, first concrete assistance activities should be organized in a short term, while at the same time the Bureau together with the WGI and secretariat should be working on strategic planning in the long term.

11. The Bureau and WGI agreed to organize three activities to address the current, highest priority needs. As such were identified: (i) a workshop on strengthening the institutional framework in countries of EECCA and SEE to be organized preferably in first half of 2007, (ii) a workshop on strengthening the safety measures at industrial facilities in Moldova and its neighbouring countries to be organized in second half of 2007, and (iii) a training on the identification of hazardous activities that could take place in first half of 2008 after the newly amended annex I to the Convention is expected to enter into force. The Bureau and WGI mandated the secretariat to take operational decisions in order to implement the above activities consulting, when necessary, the Chairperson and the Vice Chairpersons of the Conference of the Parties as well as the Chairman of the WGI. The secretariat would also circulate the final programmes of the three activities.

12. In order to further develop the strategic plan under the Assistance Programme, the Bureau and WGI established a task force consisting of members of the Bureau and WGI from Netherlands, Bulgaria, Italy and Lithuania as well as the secretariat. The task force was asked to develop a basis for a strategic plan to be further discussed at the next joint meeting. The task force should also look into a possibility to work out a mechanism for use of EU funds for projects under the assistance programme as well as other potential funds.

#### ***Assistance to The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Bosnia and Herzegovina***

13. Ms. Gasparrini recalled the decision of the Conference of the Parties that a needs-driven guidance should be delivered to TFYR of Macedonia and Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as other possible countries to enable them to implement the basic tasks under the Convention. Mr. Wyrowski presented then a concept to render assistance as outlined in the report of the fact-finding team to TFYR of Macedonia. The concept foresees to (a) increase awareness of authorities on the tasks under the Convention and (b) help the authorities to prepare a plan of action for the implementation of the Convention, starting with the basic tasks, with the help of international experts.

14. The Bureau and WGI welcomed the concept and agreed that teams of experts should be sent on awareness-raising missions to TFYR of Macedonia and Bosnia and Herzegovina during which the roles and tasks of authorities to implement the Convention would be explained and the principle and scope of a plan of actions for the authorities to implement the basic tasks would be agreed. These plans of action would be then jointly drafted after a suitable preparation by experts and authorities.

15. The Bureau and WGI mandated the secretariat to organize the awareness-raising missions consulting when necessary the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the Conference of the Parties and the Chairman of WGI.

#### ***Remaining fact-finding missions***

16. Mr. Wyrowski reported on the preparation for the remaining fact-finding missions. He informed that the secretariat was in the process of consulting with Croatia, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan the dates for the missions. The secretariat was also in contact with Serbia and was awaiting confirmation from the Serbian authorities on the new period for the mission.

17. Mr. Wyrowski suggested to organize a pre-mission to Montenegro, as it was a new UNECE Member State and its representatives had not had many opportunities to participate in the activities under the Convention and thus might need awareness raising on the different tasks under the Convention and on the requirements and objectives of the assistance programme.

18. The Bureau and WGI welcomed the steps taken by the secretariat to organize the remaining fact-finding missions. They also agreed with the suggestion to organize the pre-mission to Montenegro. Mr. Katai-Urban offered to participate in the pre-mission.

### **III. Civil Liability Protocol**

19. Ms. Gasparrini and the secretariat reported on the outcome of the meeting of the core group established by the Bureaux to Industrial Accidents and Water Conventions to prepare the

workshop with the objective to review the developments, problems and concerns regarding the ratification of the Protocol on Civil Liability.

20. The workshop should be organized on 21-22 May 2007 in Budapest at the invitation of the Hungarian Ministry of Environment. It should bring together experts to share experience and information on liability and compensation for damage resulting from the effects of industrial accidents on transboundary waters.

21. The conclusions of the workshop should be reflected in a paper and submitted to the Bureaux of both Conventions for its finalization and endorsement. The paper should be then presented as an official document to the Belgrade Ministerial Conference (Belgrade, 10-12 October 2007).

22. The Bureau and WGI were presented an agenda outline drafted by the core group for the workshop and a questionnaire, which the core group prepared to be circulated among UNECE member countries prior to the workshop with the aim to facilitate the workshop's discussions.

23. The Bureau and WGI did not welcome the initiative of circulating the questionnaire prior to the meeting. They explained that most countries would be reluctant to provide replies in writing to the questionnaire, in particular the member states of the European Union, which follow the position of the Commission in this respect. Thus the exercise would not bring the expected result. Therefore they agreed that the questionnaire should not be sent out.

24. The Bureau and WGI agreed on the other hand with the proposed agenda outline, requesting to delete the parts that were linked to the questionnaire.

#### **IV. UNECE Industrial Accident Notification System and its communication procedure**

25. Ms. Fuse reported on the results of the subregional tests of the Industrial Accidents Notification (IAN) System carried out at the end of 2006 by the points of contact of Czech Republic and Estonia in English and Russian respectively. The results were not satisfactory, in particular in EECCA region, where many countries either did not acknowledge the receipt of the notification or the notification could not be delivered at all.

26. Mr. Wyrowski recalled the decision by the CoP on increasing the effectiveness of and enhancing the communication procedure within the IAN System by introducing web-based notification. To this end a prototype of a simple web-based notification should be developed into operational application. Mr. Wyrowski informed about the process needed to implement the CoP decision. The secretariat together with UNECE Information System Unit would select an IT consultant, whose task would be the delivery of the application for use of points of contact. The secretariat would also establish a steering group consisting of representatives of points of contact that would agree and finalize user requirements for application, draw up a list of standard replies used in notification, provide overall guidance and test the application before final release.

27. The Bureau and WGI welcomed the initiative to establish the steering group of representatives of points of contact and agreed with the process.

28. Mr. Wyrowski informed that the secretariat was consulting Parties for the organization of the third consultation for the points of contact, at which the effectiveness of the System would be

reviewed and which could be combined with a training session on the use of the web-based application for the notification.

29. Mr. Senzaconi informed that the Ministry of Administration and Interior of Romania would be ready to organize together with the secretariat the third consultation for points of contact.

30. The Bureau and WGI welcomed the Romanian offer and requested the secretariat to take the necessary steps to organize consultation for points of contact and a training session together with Romania.

#### **V. Funds to implement the workplan (fundraising)**

31. The Bureau and WGI discussed the steps to be taken in order to receive the necessary funds to implement the workplan for 2007-2008 as adopted by the CoP. They invited the secretariat to send a letter to the competent authorities with a request to explore the possibilities of making financial contribution to the Convention's trust fund. They also suggested that a good possibility for promoting the activities under the Convention and especially those under the assistance programme would be through addressing the representatives of EU member countries at their next meeting of the Committee of Competent Authorities (CCA) to Seveso II Directive taking place in Potsdam (Germany) on 8-9 May 2007.

32. The Bureau and WGI invited the task force established for the strategic planning under the Assistance Programme to look into different funding possibilities for the planned activities.

#### **VI. Activities under the Joint Expert Group (JEG)**

33. Mr. Winkelmann-Oei informed that the JEG would concentrate its efforts on developing safety guidelines and good practices for tailing dams. To this end it would organize, preferably still in 2007, a workshop in one of the countries of EECCA at which experts would be able to exchange information on good practices in designing, constructing and operating tailing dams as well as how to manage the risks and prevent failures of tailing dams and prepare risk contingency plans. Mr. Winkelmann-Oei informed also that the JEG would promote and organize a transboundary response exercise to a simulated industrial accident and would work on establishing guidance to draw up cross-border contingency plans. The Group would also organize a visit to a hazardous activity to study the implementation of the conclusions and recommendations of the Hamburg seminar.

34. Ms. Aleksandryan informed about the interest of her Ministry in the safety of tailing dams and invited the JEG to organize the workshop in Armenia.

35. The Bureau and WGI thanked Mr. Winkelmann-Oei for his report on the planned activities under the JEG. They also invited Ms. Aleksadryan, as representative from Armenia, Mr. Winkelmann-Oei, as the co-chairman of the JEG, and the secretariat to work together to organize the workshop on safety on tailing dams.

#### **VII. CEP meeting with the Conventions' Bureaux**

36. Ms. Gasparrini reported on the meeting between the Bureau of the Committee on Environmental Policy (CEP) and the Governing Bodies of the UNECE Conventions, which took

place on 12 February 2007, in particular on the discussion regarding the paper being prepared by the UNECE secretariat on the implementation of the UNECE Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) as a document for discussion at the Ministerial Conference in Belgrade.

37. Ms. Gasparrini informed that the meeting requested the UNECE secretariat to redraft the paper to focus mainly on implementation and compliance of the five UNECE MEAs. She also informed that the redrafted paper would be circulated for comments and invited the Bureau to provide them in given time.

### **VIII. Future meetings of the Bureau and WGI**

38. The Bureau and WGI decided to hold its next joint meeting on 23-24 October 2007 in order to discuss the developments under the Assistance Programme.

39. Mr. Hem offered to hold the joint meeting in Norway. The members of the Bureau and WGI welcomed this offer.

### **IX. Other business and closing**

#### ***Publications***

40. Given the potential interest of pipeline experts in the safety guidelines and good practices for pipelines the secretariat invited the Bureau and WGI to consider publishing these guidelines. The secretariat also invited to decide whether the Convention with the amended annex I should be republished or rather an addendum to the Convention should be issued.

41. The Bureau and WGI welcomed the idea of publishing the safety guidelines and good practices for pipelines and requested the secretariat to take necessary steps to publish the guidelines both in hard copy and on the internet. They also decided not to republish the Convention with the amended annex I but to issue an addendum.

#### ***Venue for the fifth meeting of the CoP***

42. The Bureau and WGI discussed ideas of possible venues for the fifth meeting of the CoP and decided to consult possibilities to organize the next meeting in South Eastern Europe.

#### ***Others***

43. Mr. Dokuchaev invited the members of the Bureau and WGI to participate in the IV International Scientific and Research Conference “Emergencies: Prevention and Elimination” to be held on 6-8 June 2007 in Minsk, Belarus. The Bureau and WGI took note of the Conference.

44. Ms. Gasparrini closed the joint meeting.