

**UNECE Convention on the Transboundary
Effects of Industrial Accidents**

Steering Group Meeting under the Industrial Accidents Notification (IAN) System

Meeting 30 July 2008

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Introduction

1. A steering group meeting with the aim to: (a) finalize a general scenario to serve as a basis for performing comprehensive analytical exercises on response to and notification on possible industrial accidents with transboundary effects; (b) prepare a schedule for comprehensive exercises and communication tests to be performed until the fourth consultation for points of contact; and (c) make an evaluation of the data format used under the IAN System, was held in Geneva, at Palais des Nations, on 30 July.
2. The following representatives of points of contact participated to the steering group meeting: Mr. Artavazd Davtyan (Armenia), Mr. Marijan Bajt (Croatia) Ms. Irma Gurguliani (Georgia), Ms. Kristina Virmontois and Ms. Sabine Dorn (Germany), Mr. Stefano Smaniotto (Italy), Mr. Ruud De Krom (Netherlands) and Mr. Dominique Rauber (Switzerland). Mr. Lukasz Wyrowski, and Ms. Virginia Fusé, UNECE secretariat, also attended.

I. Finalization of a general scenario for performing comprehensive analytical exercises on response to and notification on possible industrial accidents with transboundary effects

3. Mr. Ruud De Krom introduced a draft general scenario for performing comprehensive analytical exercises on response to and notification on possible industrial accidents with transboundary effects. The scenario contains steps for performing exercises, hints to be followed by “countries initiating the exercise” and by “other countries participating in it”. The scenario presents 2 possible situations: (a) industrial accident involving substance that may have impact when released into air and (b) industrial accidents involving substance that may have impact when released into water. The aim of the scenario is to support the testing of notification between countries and the effectiveness in using the Industrial Accidents Notification System for this purpose.
4. The steering group welcomed the draft scenario and appreciated the work of Mr. de Krom. It then discussed the document and agreed to add some supplementary information and clarification how to use the scenario. The countries have two possibilities: (a) to use any of the two situations described in the scenario, even if fictive for a country, with the aim to test notification exchange and the use of the IAN System or (b) to use any of the two situations of the scenario as a basis for a country to develop its own scenario reflecting a possible real situation. The group also agreed that the document should contain a checklist on elements to be included in the report of the exercise, as well as that the document should contain a long-term vision of the scale and aims of the exercises, (where a final step is to organize an exercise reflecting a possible real situation and into which all possible response stakeholders/actors are involved).

5. The steering group decided that the revised version of the scenario, containing the additions as agreed under item 4, will be circulated by 15 September among the members of the steering group with the aim to finalize it by 15 October 2008.

II. Schedule for comprehensive exercises and communications test

6. The steering group agreed that the Fourth consultation for points of contact should be held not later than last quarter of 2009. Its main objective should be discussion and analysis of the exercises' and tests' results and the elaboration of possible recommendations to the Conference of the Parties on improving the IAN System effectiveness. In view of it, the steering group found useful to organize a preparatory meeting in order to start to discuss proposals for the recommendations. Such a preparatory meeting could take place in late June 2009.
7. The secretariat invited the steering group members to explore with their authorities the possibilities of hosting the next consultation for points of contact. Should this be possible, this could be announced at the upcoming meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Geneva, 25-27 November 2008)
8. Taking into account the planning for Fourth consultation of points of contact and its preparatory meeting, the steering group agreed that 3-4 comprehensive exercises should be held preferably in the first half of 2009, so that their results can be taken into consideration by representatives of points of contact at the preparatory meeting.
9. The steering group also agreed to continue the communication tests the same way as prior to the introduction of the web-based application, that is subregional tests performed twice a year
10. Mr. Marijan Bajt informed the steering group that Croatia, together with Slovenia, will organise a comprehensive exercise. Ms. Irma Gurguliani and Mr. Artavazd Davtyan also announced that their countries are planning to carry out together the comprehensive exercise. Mr. de Krom and Mr. Rauber announced that they will look into the possibilities that their countries also perform the exercises with their neighbours.

III. Evaluation on data format used under IAN System

11. The steering group looked into the data format for notification as elaborated for exchange of information on nuclear and radiological incidents under the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). It agreed that the detailed comparison between formats of both systems should be done after the IAN System's comprehensive exercises are performed so that it is known whether any proposals for changes to IAN reports and their formats are suggested based on the experience from the exercises. Should it be the case, the detailed analysis of the formats could be carried out at the preparatory meeting for the Fourth consultation for points of contact.

IV. Closing of the steering group meeting

12. Mr. Wyrowski thanked the participants for active participation and closed the meeting.