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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

**CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
TO THE CONVENTION ON THE TRANSBOUNDARY
EFFECTS OF INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS**

**MEETING OF THE PARTIES
TO THE CONVENTION ON THE PROTECTION AND
USE OF TRANSBOUNDARY WATERCOURSES AND
INTERNATIONAL LAKES**

INFORMATION NOTICE

**ON THE POLISH-RUSSIAN TRANSBOUNDARY RESPONSE EXERCISE
“KOTKI 2002”
AND THE INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON THE
PREPAREDNESS FOR AND RESPONSE TO INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS
AND THE MITIGATION OF THEIR TRANSBOUNDARY EFFECTS**

(Kętrzyn, Poland, 13-15 June 2002)

**Note by the delegations of Poland and the Russian Federation
and the Conventions' secretariats**

Introduction

1. The Parties to the UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents (Industrial Accidents Convention), in accordance with its articles 8, 10, 11 and 12, have, among other things, to take measures to establish and maintain adequate emergency preparedness, to inform neighbouring countries in the event of an industrial accident, to respond to them efficiently and to mitigate their transboundary effects, and, if possible, to provide mutual assistance in the event of an industrial accident.

2. The Parties to the UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention), in accordance with its articles 3, 14 and 15, have, among other things, to develop contingency planning, establish warning and alarm procedures and provide mutual assistance if a critical situation should arise.
3. Therefore, the Conference of the Parties to the Industrial Accidents Convention, at its first meeting in November 2000, agreed that experience should be shared and assistance provided in establishing and implementing preparedness and response measures and it encouraged the organization of bilateral and multilateral response exercises (ECE/CP.TEIA/2, annex IX, Part One, programme element 5.1).
4. In this connection, an International Workshop and Exercise on Industrial Safety and Water Protection in Transboundary River Basins was organized on 3-5 October 2001 in Tiszadány (Hungary). In one of the workshop conclusions, its participants considered response exercises to simulated accidents and relevant training as an important element of maintaining effective response capabilities and to this end recommended that further exercises should be organized within the framework of both Conventions in a transboundary setting (CP.TEIA/2001/6 –MP.WAT/WG.1/2001/4).
5. Following this recommendation, the Warmińsko-Mazurski Voivodeship and the District Starostship in Kętrzyn (Poland) and the Kaliningrad Region's Main Department of the Ministry for Civil Defence, Emergencies and Elimination of Consequences of Natural Disasters (Russian Federation) offered to organize a transboundary response exercise in conjunction with an international seminar. Members of the Bureaux of the Conference of the Parties to the Industrial Accidents Convention and of the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention, as well as the joint expert group on water and industrial accidents expressed their support for this initiative. They recommended that Parties to both Conventions and other UNECE member countries should take an active part in these events, which would be held jointly within the framework of both Conventions.
6. The present document contains information on the Polish-Russian Transboundary Response Exercise "Kotki 2002" and the International Seminar on the Preparedness for and Response to Industrial Accidents and the Mitigation of their Transboundary Effects to be held on 13-15 June 2002.

Objectives of the exercise and seminar

7. The key objectives are to:
 - (a) Strengthen the protection of human health and the environment against industrial accidents on both sides of the Polish-Russian border;
 - (b) Provide a forum for the sharing of experience in introducing and implementing joint cross-border preparedness and response measures;

(c) Provide a forum for the sharing of experience regarding civil defence organizations at the local level; and

(d) Demonstrate joint response systems and procedures for mitigating the consequences of industrial accidents and other natural disasters.

Dates and venue

8. The exercise and seminar will take place from 13 to 15 June 2002 at Kotki and Kętrzyn (Poland), respectively, both located in the Warmińsko-Mazurski Voivodship, at the invitation of the Government of Poland.

9. The exercise will be held at the refuelling terminal at Kotki (operated by “Eurochem Sp. z o.o”) while the seminar will take place at the Training Centre of the Border Guard in Kętrzyn.

10. The exercise and seminar will be held under the auspices of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), within the framework of the Conference of the Parties to the Industrial Accidents Convention and the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention and in cooperation with the Council of the Baltic Sea States.

11. The exercise and seminar will be organized jointly by Poland, through the Kętrzyn District Starostship, the National and the Kętrzyn District Headquarters of the State Fire Service, and “Eurochem Sp. z o.o”, and by the Russian Federation, through the Kaliningrad Region’s Main Department of the Ministry for Civil Defence, Emergencies and Elimination of Consequences of Natural Disasters. The two events will be held under the patronage of the Minister of the Interior and Administration and the Minister of the Environment of Poland and with the support of the Minister of Civil Defence, Emergencies and Elimination of Consequences of Natural Disasters of the Russian Federation.

12. The exercise and seminar will be sponsored by the Polish National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management and by the Provincial Fund for Environmental Protection in Olsztyn.

Programme of the seminar and concept of the exercise

13. The programme of the international seminar is given in annex I to this information notice, and a description of the concept of the exercise in annex II. The detailed programme of the seminar, including the exact titles of the presentations and the names of speakers, will be made available at a later date.

Working languages

14. The seminar will be conducted and the commentary to the exercise will be provided in English, Russian and Polish.

Participation

15. The exercise and seminar are open to representatives and experts from all UNECE member countries. Experts representing countries with economies in transition, in particular Parties to the Conventions, eligible for financial support (see ECE/CP.TEIA/2, annex X, decision 2000/8 on the resources for 2001-2002, appendix II) could receive such support to participate in the exercise and seminar. Requests for financial support should be submitted together with the registration form (see annex II to this information notice) to the Conventions' secretariat as soon as possible **but not later than 30 April 2002**.

Registration of participants

16. Each participant should complete a registration form (see annex III) and return it to the following address **not later than 30 April**:

Ms. Joanna Plichta
National Headquarters of the State Fire Service
38 Podchorazych Street
00-914 Warsaw 74, Poland
Tel: +4822 5233007
Fax: +4822 523 3927
E-mail: jplichta@kgpsp.gov.pl

17. At the same time a copy of the registration form should be sent to:

Ms. Evelina Rioukhina
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
Environment and Human Settlements Division
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland
Tel: +41 22-917-1499
Fax: +41 22-907-0107
E-mail: evelina.rioukhina@unece.org

Arrival of participants, transport and hotel accommodation

18. Participants arriving at Warsaw International Airport on Wednesday, 12 June 2002 will be transferred to Kętrzyn by bus. Transport back to the airport will also be provided on Saturday and Sunday, 15 and 16 June, respectively. The cost of this transfer is US\$ 20.

19. Accommodation will be reserved by the organizers for registered participants.

20. The cost of accommodation (per night) with full board, including an outdoor evening event at the lakeside on Thursday, 13 June, is US\$ 110.

21. Participants will be requested to pay the equivalent of US\$ 110 for accommodation per night and US\$ 20 for the bus transfer from and to the airport in any convertible currency, at the registration desk upon arrival at Kętrzyn. Those arriving by their own means of transport will be requested to pay US\$ 110 per night for accommodation and board only.

22. Participants wishing to stay in the Kętrzyn District until Sunday and take part in a boat trip on one of the Mazurian lakes on Saturday afternoon are requested to indicate this on their registration form. They will be transferred to the airport in Warsaw on Sunday morning. Participants wishing to extend their stay after the exercise and seminar in Warsaw are responsible for making their own bookings for their extended stay in Warsaw.

Visas

23. Participants are responsible for obtaining a visa, if required. Further information can be obtained from the nearest diplomatic representative of the Government of Poland.

Annex I

**PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR
ON THE PREPAREDNESS FOR AND RESPONSE TO INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS
AND THE MITIGATION OF THEIR TRANSBOUNDARY EFFECTS**

First day:

- A. Opening and welcome addresses and election of officers
- B. Session 1 – Promotion of transboundary cooperation, aimed at increasing the safety of local communities, by multilateral and bilateral agreements and programmes

The UNECE Conventions on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents and on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes as a legal framework for the development of cross-border cooperation and related activities such as the regional programme for the cooperation on civil defence of the Council of Baltic Sea States as well as other programmes and bilateral agreements.

- C. Session 2 – Identification and control of risk in industrial facilities – practical elements for transboundary safety planning

Duties and obligations of national and local authorities, industry, local communities and specialized services in identifying and controlling existing risks and drawing up preparedness measures, with special emphasis on off-site contingency plans in a transboundary context and on informing the public.

- D. Session 3 – Operational and technical issues of responding to the transboundary effects of major accidents

The role of national and local authorities, and, in particular, specialized services in implementing response measures, with special emphasis on transboundary assistance.

Second day:

- E. Session 4 – Civil defence organizations at local level and the implementation of preparedness and response measures

The role and tasks of civil defence organizations at the local level related to the mitigation of the consequences of major industrial accidents and diminishing their harmful effects to the public and the environment.

- F. Introduction to the Response Exercise (at the seminar venue); the Polish-Russian Transboundary Response Exercise at the refuelling terminal at Kotki (see annex II)

Third day:

- G. Concluding session

- Information on the key elements for a bilateral agreement for transboundary cooperation between Poland and the Russian Federation on the preparedness for and response to major industrial accidents;
- Review and evaluation of the exercise;
- Adoption of overall conclusions and recommendations of the seminar.

- H. Closing of the seminar

The closing of the seminar is foreseen before lunch on Saturday, 15 June 2002 in order to facilitate the transfer of participants to Warsaw in the afternoon.

Annex II

CONCEPT OF THE POLISH-RUSSIAN TRANSBOUNDARY RESPONSE EXERCISE „KOTKI 2002”

Principal activities to be carried out during the exercise by the units of the State Fire Service, Voluntary Fire Brigades, Border Guard, Police, medical and infrastructure services (including ambulance, technical and power engineering services and EUROCHEM Sp. z o.o.)

1. The main aim of the exercise is to mitigate and clean up the damage caused by a terrorist attack on the trans-shipping terminal in Kotki in which tank cars filled with liquid fuel, oil and gas transported from the Kaliningrad region to Poland are blown up. For the purpose of the exercise the terminal is used as both a freight and a passenger railway station. At the moment of the attack there are two trains in the station: a passenger train and a freight train. The freight train consists of six tank cars from the Kaliningrad region and the passenger train of five carriages from Poland.
2. As a result of the explosion: one tank car is damaged, and another is derailed, there is a leak of fuel and a fire. The explosion also damages the passenger train. 20 passengers are injured. Polish fire and rescue services: evacuate the passengers from the train, evacuate all bystanders from the danger area, and give first aid to the injured.
3. As the Polish fire and rescue services do not have enough manpower, it is necessary to call on a rescue unit from the Kaliningrad region. The rescue unit from the Kaliningrad region arrives by train and: puts out the fire on the fuel tank car and the passenger train with foam. The rescue units seal the damaged tank car and pump the fuel from the damaged tank car to temporary tanks.
The rescue train puts the derailed tank car back on the track with a crane.
4. For crisis management purpose, regional (powiat) and provincial (voivodship) structures are involved in receiving and transferring information. They use their own decision-making procedures. Regional and provincial crisis management structures inform the national (central) structures – the National Centre for Coordination of Rescue and Protection of Population, which receives the request for additional rescue forces from the Kaliningrad region (rescue train).



Annex III
UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Registration form for the Polish-Russian Transboundary Response Exercise “KOTKI 2002” and the International Seminar on the Preparedness for and Response to Industrial Accidents and the Mitigation of their Transboundary Effects

Each participant should complete this form in duplicate and send one copy to each of the addresses below as soon as possible, but **no later than 30 April**:

Mrs. Evelina Rioukhina

Environment and Human Settlements Division
UN Economic Commission for Europe
Palais des Nations, 8-14, avenue de la Paix
Tel: +41 22-917 1499
Fax: +41 22-907 0107
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Ms. Joanna Plichta

National Headquarters of the State Fire Service
38 Podchorazych Street
00-914 Warsaw 74, Poland
Tel: +4822 5233007
Fax: +4822 523 3927
E-mail: jplichta@kgpsp.gov.pl

Mr. Ms.

Surname:

First Name:

Country or international organization which you will represent at the meeting:

Your professional address:

Tel: Fax:

E-mail:

Arrival at Warsaw Airport on _____ at _____ (time), flight No. _____

Arrival at Kętrzyn Railroad Station on _____ at _____ (time), train No. _____

Date and time of departure (flight or train No.) _____

Preferred language: English Rus

I wish to reserve a hotel room in Gierloz or Wegorzewo for _____ nights

I wish to extend my stay in the Ketrzyn District and take part in the boat trip on Saturday, 15 June 2002 (transfer to Warsaw will take place on Sunday, 16 June 2002): Yes No

Date: _____ Signed: _____