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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

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

Fifth meeting
Geneva, 25–27 November 2008
Item 8 of the provisional agenda

**DISCUSSION AND ADOPTION OF THE DECISION ON STRENGTHENING THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION**

**Draft decision
on strengthening the implementation of the Convention**

Draft decision by the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties
and the Working Group on Implementation

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling the provisions of articles 18 and 23 of the UNECE Convention on the
Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents,

Recognizing that 36 Parties, seven countries not yet Parties to the Convention from
Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe participating in the
Assistance Programme and one other UNECE member country have reported on the
implementation of the Convention,

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Taking into account the work done by the Working Group on Implementation to analyse and evaluate the national implementation reports and to compile the fourth report on the implementation of the Convention,

Acknowledging the work done by the Bureau and the Working Group to elaborate a strategic approach which provides a mechanism for countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe to achieve sustainability in the implementation of the Convention, to measure and monitor progress and to plan activities in the short and the long term.

1. *Adopts* the fourth report on the implementation of the Convention as prepared and submitted by the Working Group (ECE/CP.TEIA/2008/3);
2. *Notes* with concern that the Russian Federation is the only Party that has not submitted a report in time to be evaluated by the Working Group, and thus has not complied with its reporting obligation for three consecutive rounds of reporting;
3. *Invites* the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, with the support of the Chairperson of the Conference of the Parties, to contact the Government of the Russian Federation to ensure that it complies with its reporting obligation under the Convention in a timely manner in the next reporting round;
4. *Urges* Tajikistan, as a UNECE member State that committed to report on implementation but has not presented its report, to comply with its commitment;
5. *Entrusts* the Working Group, taking into account the conclusions of the fourth report, to evaluate the reporting procedure and to propose modifications, with a view to focusing on monitoring of progress between reporting rounds;
6. *Requests* the Bureau, based on the proposal made by the Working Group, to decide on the [modifications to] reporting procedure for the fifth reporting round, while ensuring that any modified procedure does not represent an additional burden to Parties;
7. *Elects*, on the basis of nominations by the Parties, the following persons to serve as members of the Working Group until the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties: [names of elected members];
8. *Encourages* UNECE member countries that are not yet Parties to implement the Convention and to ratify it or accede to it as soon as possible;
9. *Takes note* of the advanced degree of implementation of the Convention in most Parties in Western and Central Europe, and encourages these Parties to continue their work towards an effective prevention, preparedness and response to industrial accidents and to share good practices with the countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe;

10. *Takes note* of the report of the Bureau as contained in ECE/CP.TEIA/2008/1 and the Bureau's decisions to invite Croatia, Kazakhstan and Georgia to join the implementation phase of the Assistance Programme on the basis of the fact-finding mission reports of Croatia and Kazakhstan and the report on the completion of the implementation of the basic tasks of Georgia;
11. *Endorses* the progress report on the Assistance Programme as contained in ECE/CP.TEIA/2008/4 and prepared and submitted by the Chairperson of the Conference of the Parties and the Chairman of the Working Group in cooperation with the secretariat;
12. *Welcomes* the work carried out by countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe to develop and implement national action plans to further strengthen implementation of the Convention and expresses its satisfaction with the first results of this work, in particular in Georgia, Moldova and Serbia;
13. *Urges* [names of countries]¹ to strengthen their efforts to complete the implementation of basic tasks under the Convention without any further delay, and to report to the Bureau thereon;
14. *Invites* [names of countries]² to express or maintain commitment to implement the Convention and to carry out preparatory work and host fact-finding missions;
15. *Invites* the Bureau and the Working Group, in cooperation with the secretariat, to develop and deliver needs-driven guidance on strengthening the capacities of those countries in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe that still have to implement the basic tasks under the Convention, and to organize the visits of fact-finding missions, as necessary;
16. *Adopts* the strategic approach for the implementation phase of the Assistance Programme as contained in document ECE/CP.TEIA/2008/5, and invites participating countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe as well as donor countries to apply it;
17. *Invites* Parties to provide the necessary financial and in-kind contributions to further ensure the successful continuation and implementation of the Assistance Programme, based on the strategic approach;
18. *Requests* the Bureau and the Working Group to support the implementation of the strategic approach and entrusts them:

¹ At the time of the submission of this document, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan still needed to complete the implementation of basic tasks.

² Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Turkmenistan.

(a) To measure and monitor the progress of participating countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe in designing and implementing policies aimed at further strengthening implementation of the Convention;

(b) To review national action plans;

(c) To plan and implement assistance activities in the short and long term with the support of the secretariat, and to review the results of these activities;

(d) To provide a form for participating countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe for collecting data within the stepwise/cyclic mechanism as well as criteria and indicators for self-measurement of progress achieved;

(e) To raise funds, with the support of the secretariat, for assistance activities in the participating countries;

(f) To support participating countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe in their efforts to develop specific project proposals and to raise funds for their implementation outside the Assistance Programme.

19. *Requests* the Bureau and the Working Group report on progress achieved to the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties, including on the results of the assistance activities organized.
