



**Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary  
Watercourses and International Lakes**

**Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management**

**Twelfth meeting**

Geneva, 5 and 6 July 2017

Item 10 of the provisional agenda

**Water and Industrial accidents**

**Draft outline of the guidance on fire-water retention**

**Background, next steps and proposed action by the Working Group**

The Joint Ad Hoc Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents (Joint Expert Group) is a joint group under the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents (Industrial Accidents Convention) and the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention).

At its eleventh meeting, the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management under the Water Convention approved the workplan of the Joint Expert Group for 2017-2018 which includes the preparation of a guidance on fire-water retention, the carrying out of transboundary response exercises and the promotion of the guidance documents already developed by the group. The Working Group also encouraged countries to nominate appropriate technical experts for developing the guidance on fire-water retention. Subsequently, the workplan of the group was approved by the ninth Conference of the Parties to the Industrial Accidents Convention (Ljubljana, 28-30 November 2016).

In late 2016 and early 2017, 15 experts – from Czechia, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Serbia, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom – were nominated to the expert group on fire-water retention, in charge of developing the guidance. In addition, a short survey was sent to focal points in order to identify needs, good practices as well as existing publications and guidance material in the area of fire-water retention. The expert group on fire-water retention held its first meeting on 17 January 2017 in Geneva which resulted in an extended outline of the guidance and distribution of responsibilities. The second meeting was held on 20-21 June 2017 in Budapest. Following this meeting, the extended outline will be revised and the first complete draft of the guidance will be developed by August 2017. This draft will then be presented and discussed at an international seminar on fire-water retention, organized jointly by the International Commission for the Protection of the Odra River against Pollution and UNECE, on 5 September 2017 in Slubice, Poland. At a subsequent joint meeting of the expert group on fire-water retention and the Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents, organized by UNECE, which will be held on 6 September 2017 in Slubice, Poland, the experts will discuss how to address the comments received. Subsequently, a revised draft will be prepared which will be shared with other international organizations, industry representatives, focal points from the Water and Industrial Accidents Conventions as well as other stakeholders for comments in the fourth quarter of 2017. The final draft will be presented to the Working Group on IWRM at its next meeting in May 2018 and to the Bureau of the Industrial Accidents Convention at its meeting in mid-2018. Finally, the guidance is expected to be adopted by the Water Convention's eighth Meeting of the Parties in October 2018 in Astana and by the Industrial Accidents

Convention's tenth Conference of the Parties in December 2018.

The Working Group is invited to review the draft outline of the guidance on fire-water retention as contained below and to provide comments.

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