



**UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**



**Ministry for the Environment
Land and Sea**

TEIA/Danube project/6

ICARO

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

Project under the Assistance Programme

**Project for Bulgaria, Romania and Serbia
on joint management of transboundary emergencies
from spills of hazardous substance into the Danube River**

Phase II – pre-meeting for the in-field exercise

Negotin, 2 September 2009

INFORMATION NOTICE

Introduction

1. The pilot project on joint management of transboundary emergencies from spills of hazardous substance into the Danube River was launched following the request for assistance expressed by three countries: Bulgaria, Romania and Serbia in improving their emergency preparedness and, through it, to strengthen the joint management of emergencies in a transboundary context.

2. The Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea of Italy, main donor for the project, organized together with the secretariat and Romania¹ the project's kick-off meeting in March 2009. At this meeting the three partner countries confirmed that they share the need for further strengthening and optimizing the emergency procedures especially in view of their cooperation in a transboundary context. They also confirmed the wish of discussing in details and comparing their crisis management procedures, holding a joint in-field exercise and drawing conclusion on the way forward in crisis management and possibly drawing some blueprints for up-to-date organization of emergency preparedness. In this context they decided on three project phases: (I) a technical workshop, (II) an in-field exercise and (III) a final workshop.

¹ Ministry of Environment and the General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations within the Ministry of Administration and Interior

3. The technical workshop was hosted by Romania in Drobeta-Turnu Severin on 16-18 June 2009. This meeting led to exchange of information on crisis management procedures between the three project countries and to the elaboration of a scenario for the in-field exercise, to be held in the last days of September 2009, together with one day workshop devoted to the exercise evaluation. It also agreed that all three countries will meet at the beginning of September in an exercise pre-meeting to review the preparations.
4. This note provides information on the theme, organization of work and logistics for the pre-meeting for the exercise.

I. OBJECTIVES AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

5. The objective of the pre-meeting is to review the preparation to the exercise and to discuss any problems faced.
6. Each country will report on actions taken in connection with the exercise, and in particular on ensuring that:
 - (a) The exercise scenario is known by all staff (both at national and local levels) involved in it and everybody was informed on his/her respective role;
 - (b) The relevant permits have been granted for using the response equipment in the field;
 - (c) Communication ways between exercise evaluators and staff responding locally (for informing about the relocation of spill) is/will be established;
 - (d) Staff has been appointed from each of the relevant exercise units to participate to the back to back workshop and to deliver the reports on the actions taken during the exercise;
 - (e) The border police has been informed in each of the countries and granted the necessary permit for the exercise; the boat with evaluators, provided by Romania, will be permitted to move between Prahovo and the area where Romanian and Bulgarian response forces will install the floating barriers on the river;
 - (f) Logistics is arranged to bring staff participating in the exercise from the capitals to Negotin for the workshop; and
 - (g) Other relevant issues are addressed appropriately.
7. Serbia will also inform whether the operator of the Prahovo petroleum storage officially confirmed their participation to the exercise.

8. After the meeting, participants will jointly visit the industrial area of Prahovo. During the visit, participants will discuss the selection of, and if possible test, the floating element for imitation of oil spill during the exercise.

9. The provisional agenda for the meeting is attached.

II. PARTICIPATION AND WORKING LANGUAGES

10. The pre-meeting is organized for the project coordinators from Bulgaria, Romania and Serbia. They will be joined by experts from ICARO and the secretariat.

11. The workshop will be conducted in English.

III. DATES, VENUE HOTEL ACCOMMODATION

12. The pre-meeting will take place in Negotin, at the following address:

Municipality of Negotin
Square Stevana Mokranjca,
19300 Negotin

13. It will start at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, 2 September 2009. Participants are therefore recommended to arrive the evening before. The pre-meeting will be concluded at 1:30 p.m. of the same day and followed by a visit to Prahovo industrial area.

14. Accommodation will be provided to pre-meeting participants at the Hotel DeLux, bb Gradiste, Str. Negotin.

Annex

1 September 20:00	Arrival and dinner
2 September	Meeting
9:30-10:00	Opening and welcome
10:00-12:00	Review of the exercise preparations
10:00-10:30	Report from Bulgaria
10:30-11:00	Report from Romania
11:00-11:30	Report from Serbia
11:00-11:20	Coffee break
11:20 -12:00	Discussion
12:00-13:30	Final preparations
12:00-13:30	Discussion and agreement of steps to be still undertaken by each country
13:30 -15:00	Lunch
15:00-18:00	Visit to Prahovo industrial site
19:00	Dinner
3 September 8:00	Breakfast and departure
