



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

**Working Group on Water Management**

Fourth meeting

Agenda item 6

Working Paper N. 6

The secretariat presents to the Working Group an abstract of the report of the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents (paragraphs 37-41 of document ECE/CP.TEIA/7) on the work of the joint ad hoc expert group on water and industrial accidents.

**B. Prevention of accidental water pollution – report on progress in the  
work of the joint ad hoc expert group on water and industrial  
accidents – decision 2000/5**

37. Mr. Ludwiczak introduced the progress report of the joint ad hoc expert group on water and industrial accidents on behalf of its Co-Chairmen (CP.TEIA/2002/11). He described the joint expert group's major activities and accomplishments as well as unforeseen activities at the request of the Working Group on Civil Liability. He also highlighted the joint expert group's planned activities and an assessment of the conditions under which it was currently operating.

38. The Conference of the Parties endorsed the progress report. It agreed that the joint expert group had the potential to substantially support the work carried out under both Conventions and could become an important forum for the exchange of information on issues related to the prevention of accidental pollution of transboundary waters. The Parties also expressed their willingness to meet the conditions for the further successful work of the joint expert group expressed in the progress report (para. 27).

39. The Conference of the Parties recommended that its Bureau together with the Bureau of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) should discuss how best to support the further work of the joint ad hoc expert group.

40. The Conference of the Parties also agreed on additional requests to the joint expert group. It agreed, on condition of receiving a similar agreement from the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention, that the joint expert group should:

(a) Establish a common reporting scheme <sup>2/</sup> on the implementation of the conclusions and recommendations of the Hamburg seminar (CEP/WG.4/SEM.1/1999/3, annex I), adopted by both governing bodies in 2000;

(b) Evaluate individual country responses and compile a first joint implementation report to be presented to both governing bodies, possibly at a joint meeting in 2006.

41. Following the discussion on the Convention's implementation, in particular the identification of hazardous activities (see para. 30 above), the Conference of the Parties also requested the joint expert group to review and provide further guidance on the location criterion related to the water path contained in the Guidelines to facilitate the identification and notification of hazardous activities for the purposes of the Convention (ECE/CP.TEIA/2, decision 2000/3, annex IV, appendix, para. 5 (b)) with a view to possibly suggesting a limitation of this criterion, and report back to the Conference of the Parties through its Bureau.

As a background information, para.27 of document CP.TEIA/2002/11, Progress report of the Joint Ad Hoc Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents, is reproduced below.

#### **IV. ASSESSMENT OF THE JOINT EXPERT GROUP**

27. The joint expert group has the potential to substantially support the work carried out within the frameworks of both the Industrial Accidents and Water Conventions. It can become an important forum for the exchange of information on issues related to the prevention of accidental pollution of transboundary waters. Although for this to happen several conditions would have to be met:

(a) The joint expert group has to receive equal and firm support from the governing bodies of both Conventions. The work done by the group has to be demand driven and the demand should come from both forums;

(b) Experts representing some countries with economies in transition require support for their participation in the work of the joint expert group. Financial support should be secured by joint efforts and contributions from both the Parties to the Industrial Accidents as well as the Water Conventions;

(c) Participation of experts should be enhanced; more UNECE member countries should be represented and actively participating in the group's work. Countries that expressed interest in nominating experts to the group and so far were not represented should nominate their experts as soon as possible. All other UNECE member countries are invited to follow as well;

(d) An important point for a successful outcome of the group's work is also the continuity in the participation of the nominated experts from each country;

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<sup>2/</sup> This reporting scheme would be sent by the secretariat, in 2005 to market economy countries and in 2010 to countries with economies in transition, according to the 5-year and 10-year implementation time frame.

(e) Each issue in the group's work plan should find a lead country that would be responsible for advancing relevant projects forward;

(f) Meetings of the joint expert group should be held at such intervals as to ensure the achievement of results expected by both governing bodies. They should preferably be held in different UNECE member countries represented in the group on a rotation basis. In this respect, the offers to host future meetings in the Russian Federation and Croatia are welcome.