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## Economic Commission for Europe

### Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents

#### Bureau

##### First meeting

Online, 11 December 2023

### List of Decisions

#### 1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

The meeting was held online, hosted by the Secretariat of United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents. The meeting was attended by the following members: Mr. Michael Struckl (Austria), Ms. Torill Tandberg (Norway), Mr. Martin Merkofer (Switzerland), Ms. Gill Smart (UK), and Mr. Camille Siefridt (European Commission).

**Decision 1:** Adopted the agenda of the meeting without any objections.

#### 2. Governance issues

a. **Selection of Chair of the Small Group on the Industrial Safety of the Energy Transition (ISET SG)**

**Decision 2:** Discussed possible considerations of its members for the position of the Chair.

**Decision 3:** The members of the ISET SG and **agreed** to inform the secretariat about their potential interest in the chair's position ideally by the end of the year.

b. **Scope of the work of the ISET SG and Member's role and responsibilities**

**Decision 4:** **Thanked** the Secretariat for preparing three documents: informal documents on the Scope of SG ISET, Member states Survey, Deliverables and Scenarios.

**Decision 5:** **Expressed its willingness** with the available and limited resources to support the secretariat in enriching the original trends paper.

**Decision 6:** **Agreed** that it is necessary and appropriate to prepare an assessment of the extent to which the long-term strategy may need further development, refinement and improvement (see also under agenda item 3).

**Decision 7:** **Agreed** to provide feedback by the end of the year (2023) to facilitate the Secretariat's process of finalizing the survey, which will include questions on the long-term strategy to identify gaps or other new elements (see also under agenda item 3).

3. Follow-up to Bureau decisions 33 – 36

a. Member States' Survey and related modalities

**Decision 8:** Discussed the format of the questionnaire and **agreed** that it would be organised mainly in a multiple-choice format rather than open-ended to make it easier to complete the form and facilitate the analysis of survey results at a later stage. The Questionnaire may include a limited number of open-ended questions, e.g. in the beginning and the end, to encourage participation.

**Decision 9:** Reiterated the Bureau's decisions that the goal of the survey is to assess the needs and expectations of *member States*. Therefore, for this iteration of the survey, the questionnaire should not be circulated to non-state stakeholders.

**Decision 10:** To benefit from the knowledge and expertise of State stakeholders that are not among the traditional stakeholders (competent authorities) of the Convention, the ISET SG requested the secretariat to encourage in the invitations for the survey the recipients to share it to relevant national (state) stakeholders.

**Decision 11:** Noting that different countries have different prioritizing of energy resources, **encouraged** the Secretariat to drill down the survey further, for example, for question 6, creating a table for various technologies with same questions and choices.

**Decision 12:** Recommended that the survey should stick to the Convention, and **encouraged** the Secretariat to update the questionnaire, focusing on hazards and risks related to ammonia, carbon dioxide and hydrogen, and not on nuclear. **Debated** the inclusion of CO<sub>2</sub> in the questionnaire.

**Decision 13:** Encouraged the Secretariat to update in various parts of the Questionnaire the answer 'if yes' to 'if yes, please attach relevant documents' to facilitate later assessment.

**Decision 14:** Agreed to set the time for circulating the questionnaire to member States shortly after UNEA 6 in February/March 2024.

b. Scenarios and possible deliverables for June Bureau and COP-13

**Decision 15:** Discussed and agreed on the timeline for various deliverables, as follows:

- Deliverable 1: Feedback from ISET members on the survey questionnaire: by end 2023; circulation of questionnaire by secretariat for final comments by the ISET members: early January 2024; Approval of the final draft questionnaire by ISET members in January 2024. Circulation and collection in March 2024. Review of survey results during 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting in April 2024 (tbc).
- Deliverable 2: to benefit from paper by the secretariat for possible decision path for institutional adjustments decisions in March/April 2024 for consideration at the second ISET meeting (see deliverable 6 below).
- Deliverable 3: Development of concept note by the Secretariat for ISET members' consideration in 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting by taking the recommendations of the survey. Finalization of the concept note and submission in April 2024.
- Deliverable 4: Development of the trends paper with expanded scope will depend largely on substantive support from ISET members and availability of additional resources. In the context of the major work on the deliverables 1 – 3, the extend of technical expertise and work

required for deliverable 4 and the limited resources of the secretariat and the ISET group members, the Group was of the opinion that it may be better to consider postponing this deliverable and include its elaboration in the COP Decision for the next biennium.

- Deliverable 5: As a first step, agreed to include questions in the member State survey. *Further* development of the assessment will depend on the survey results.
- Deliverable 6: **Requested** the secretariat to develop a paper with options and possible decision path(s) for institutional adjustments decisions in March/April 2024 for consideration at the second ISET meeting, with a view to submit possible recommendations for the Bureau's consideration at its June session. Subject to the Bureau's decisions, possible recommendations for decisions at COP 13 could be then further developed.

#### 4. Exploration of cross-sectoral workstreams and partnerships

**Decision 16:** **Thanked** the Secretariat for providing an overview on the cross-sectoral workshops and partnerships under the Convention which involved or could further involve the energy transition.

**Decision 17:** Welcomed various partnerships and **admitted** the importance to engage and exchange ideas across different sectors to avoid duplication.

#### 5. Financial and other types of resource requirements to support the work of the ISET SG

**Decision 18:** **Discussed** the possibility of delivering Deliverables 1, 2, 3 within existing sources, **agreed** to conduct the work within available resources.

**Decision 19:** **Agreed** that at the present time, there was no other types of financial resource requirement to support the work of ISET SG.

#### 6. Any other business

[No decisions]

#### 7. Review and approval of draft decisions of the ISET SG

**Decision 20:** **Decided** to follow a reporting format similar to the one followed at the October meeting of the Bureau. In this regard, noted that the Secretariat would circulate the draft decisions within a few days from the first meeting of the ISET SG leaving a couple of weeks to the ISET members for their feedback. The principle "silence is consent" would also be followed for the adoption of these decisions.

#### 8. Date of the next meeting & closure of the meeting

**Decision 21:** **Agreed** to hold the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the ISET-SG in April 2024. In this regard, **requested** the secretariat to run a small (doodle) survey to identify the best options for the ISET members in April.