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**CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
TO THE CONVENTION ON THE
TRANSBOUNDARY EFFECTS
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Training Session on Integrated Approaches to Major
Hazard Prevention

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Prague, 11–13 February 2009

INFORMATION NOTICE

I. INTRODUCTION

1. A number of countries from Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) and South-Eastern Europe (SEE) participating to the implementation phase of the Assistance Programme recognized that they need to strengthen the cooperation and coordination between authorities dealing with major hazard prevention and crisis management. To this end, they expressed their interest in learning about the experience and good practices of other countries vis-à-vis an integrated approach to major hazard prevention and crisis management.
2. A previous activity under the Assistance Programme demonstrated that the good practice, experience and lessons learned of new European Union Member States, which have developed their integrated approaches only in the last few years, could be of particular interest and might help countries participating in the Programme to elaborate their own strategies for strengthening cooperation and coordination.
3. Taking this into account, the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties, in line with its mandate, agreed to organize a training session on integrated approaches to the major hazard prevention system.
4. This note provides information on the theme, organization of work and logistics for the training session.

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II. OBJECTIVES

5. The training session's major aim is to discuss and brainstorm possible improvements to administrative approaches in EECCA and SEE countries with respect to major hazard prevention and crisis management, in particular in the light of the experience of Czech Republic in this regard.
6. The training session will provide participants with the opportunity:
 - (a) To discuss problems encountered by authorities endeavouring to ensure safety at hazardous installations;
 - (b) To examine the Czech experience and discuss if and how, through its integrated approach, certain problems could be eliminated;
 - (c) To discuss the preparation and conduct of inspections in an integrated approach;
 - (d) To learn about and share good practices in cross-border cooperation with respect to safety at hazardous installations.

III. DATES AND VENUE

7. The training session will be held from 11 to 13 February 2009 in Prague, at the following address:

Parkhotel
Veletržní 20, 170 00 Praha 7

8. The training will start at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, 11 February. Participants are therefore recommended to arrive the day before. The training session will last two and a half days.
9. The training session will be held under the auspices of UNECE, within the framework of the Assistance Programme of the Conference of the Parties.

IV. ORGANIZATION OF WORK

10. The training session will be organized in such a way as to enable participants to work in groups (with two/three countries per group) to analyse different problems or case studies and to work out and/or propose solutions. Czech experts and other international experts will facilitate the group work. Good practices will be presented in each of the training session's three parts.
11. The first part of the training session will focus on administrative structures for addressing major hazard prevention and crisis management. Participants will discuss problems encountered and the ways to address them. The basis will be presentations by Czech experts on:

(a) How the current Czech administrative structure works, including the rights and obligation of the central and local authorities, operators of hazardous activities and the public;

(b) The problems faced by the Czech administration before the elaboration of an integrated approach, with special attention devoted to problems related to cross-border cooperation.

12. The second part of the session will focus on inspections. It will aim to help participants to better understand how the adopted procedures, legislation and standards are applied in practice, in particular with respect to organizing inspections to verify operators' compliance with major hazard prevention requirements. Participants will discuss how inspections are planned and performed in an integrated approach, e.g. preparing an inspection calendar and setting up inspections involving different inspection authorities. Participants will also receive insights into how inspections are organized within the Czech integrated approach.

13. The third part will present an opportunity to discuss cross-border cooperation. Czech experts, together with experts from neighbouring countries, will present the ways they cooperate, in particular through:

(a) Joint bilateral meetings aimed at exchange of information, technology and/or good practices;

(b) Recent safety exercises conducted between two countries.

14. A detailed programme will be disseminated to participants at a later date, well before the training session.

V. WORKING LANGUAGES

15. The training session will be conducted in Czech. Interpretation into English and Russian will be provided.

VI. PARTICIPATION AND REGISTRATION

16. The training session is targeted at representatives of authorities of EECCA and SEE countries, in particular those experts of the various inspection authorities who work in the area of major hazard prevention and are involved in strengthening coordination and cooperation between authorities. EECCA and SEE countries interested in attending the training session can nominate up to three representatives, who may receive financial support for participation.

17. Each nominated participant should complete the registration and financial support request forms (available at: <http://www.unece.org/env/teia/welcome.htm>) and return them to the UNECE secretariat at the address indicated on the forms as soon as possible, **but not later than 9 January 2009**. The registration form should be also sent to the Czech organizers (see address below).

VII. ARRIVAL OF PARTICIPANTS, TRANSPORT AND HOTEL ACCOMMODATION

18. Participants are requested to arrange their own airport transfer. The distance between airport (Praha-Ruzyně) and the hotel is about 15 km, which is approximately 25 minutes by taxi and costs approximately 460 CZK. Participants can also use public transport to reach the hotel. Information on public transport connection will be provided at a later stage.

19. Reservations for accommodation for registered participants will be handled by the Czech organizers. Reservations will be made at the Parkhotel, the venue of the training session, on the basis of the information provided in the registration form. The cost of accommodation, including a lump sum for meals during the meeting, will be approximately €100 per night/per person.

20. A registration desk at the meeting venue will be open to assist participants on Wednesday, 11 February, from 8.30 a.m.

VIII. VISAS

21. Participants requiring an entry visa should contact the nearest diplomatic representation of the Czech Republic.

22. To facilitate the process of obtaining a visa, the Ministry of Environment of the Czech Republic will provide, upon request, a personal invitation letter to those participants requiring visas.

23. The contact person at the Ministry of Environment of the Czech Republic is:

Mr. Pavel Forint,
Tel: +420 267 12 21 46
E-mail: Pavel.Forint@mzp.cz
