

**Joint meeting of the Bureau (Eighteenth meeting)  
and the Working Group on Implementation (Fourteenth meeting)**

**Geneva, Switzerland, 20-21 January 2011**

**REPORT OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE BUREAU AND THE  
WORKING GROUP ON IMPLEMENTATION**

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

1. The Bureau of the Conference of the Parties (CoP) to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents and the Working Group on Implementation (WGI) held their joint meeting in Geneva (Switzerland) on 20-21 January 2011.

2. The following members of the Bureau attended the meeting: Mr. Chris Dijkens (Netherlands), Chairperson of the CoP, Ms. Jasmina Karba (Slovenia), Mr. Bernard Gay (Switzerland), Vice-chairpersons, Mr. Pavel Forint (Czech Republic), Ms. Irma Gurguliani (Georgia), Mr. Gerhard Winkelmann-Oei (Germany), Mr. Sergey Kozlenko (Russian Federation), Ms. Suzana Milutinovic (Serbia), Mr. Tobias Bierman (European Commission).

3. The following members of the WGI participated in the meeting: Mr. Vadim Lozhechko (Belarus), Mr. Hrvoje Buljan (Croatia), Mr. Massimo Cozzone (Italy), Mr. Gunnar Hem (Norway), Ms. Svetlana Stirbu (Republic of Moldova), Mr. Francisc Senzaconi (Romania), Mr. Tomas Trcka (Slovakia), Ms. Ann-Sofie Eriksson (Sweden), and Ms. Sandra Ashcroft (United Kingdom).

4. Secretariat was represented at the meeting by Mr. Sergiusz Ludwiczak (Chief, Transboundary Cooperation Section), Mr. Lukasz Wyrowski and Ms. Virginia Fuse.

5. Mr. Cristiano Piacente (Italy), member of the Bureau, informed in advance the secretariat that he could not participate to the meeting. Ms. Anahit Aleksandryan (Armenia), member of WGI did not attend.

**2. Election of the Chairman of the Working Group on Implementation**

6. In accordance with the Terms of Reference, members of the WGI unanimously re-elected Mr. Gunnar Hem as the Group's Chair to serve in this function until the CoP-7.

**3. Long-term strategy**

7. The Bureau, WGI and the secretariat held discussions on how to implement the Long-term Strategy (LTS) as adopted at the CoP-6.

8. The members reflected on their individual roles in implementing the LTS and the 2011-12 workplan and expressed commitment and enthusiasm to actively participate in the activities respectively of the Bureau and/or WGI. Furthermore, it was agreed that the future work should see equal distribution of specific tasks among the members and that every effort should be taken to ensure it.

9. Mr. Ludwiczak expressed the secretariat's commitment to support the Bureau and WGI in advancing the LTS and in ensuring the implementation of the 2011-12 workplan. He drew the attention of the two bodies that the translation of the LTS into practice would require more time and effort be spent on developing strategic solution to existing emerging issues. Taking into account limited resources available to the two principle subsidiary bodies and the secretariat, he hinted to a potential need to review the responsibilities for the management of every-day activities under the Convention. He also informed that with an increased capacity – establishment of an additional post and the offer from Germany to support the Assistance Programme with a junior professional – the secretariat will be much better positioned to meet the expectations of member countries. At the same time Mr. Ludwiczak reminded the Bureau and WGI that the extension beyond 2012 of two extrabudgetary posts would require that appropriate funding would be secured by the time of the CoP-7.

10. The meeting continued with discussion on the strategic work to be taken under the five priority areas of the LTS.

11. For the *involvement of Parties and other stakeholders* it was agreed that the next steps should see elaboration of a plan identifying the Parties and stakeholders to work with in 2011-12 to increase their involvement under the Convention. The plan should also specify concrete actions to be undertaken and the responsible persons. It should be elaborated by a dedicated task force for discussion at the next joint meeting.

12. For the *exchange of information*, the secretariat was requested to describe the existing process used for identification of specific subjects/demands/needs of the Parties for which workshops or seminars should be organized.

13. With regard to the *Assistance Programme*, the procedures for managing the Programme had been put in place and should be applied. Yet, as the implementation of the procedures is a joint responsibility of the Bureau and WGI, it was agreed that sharing of responsibilities should be considered so that more effective working arrangements between the two bodies can be reached. The Chair together with Vice-Chairs of the Bureau, the Chair of WGI and the secretariat were entrusted to establish such arrangements and present them to the next joint meeting.

14. For the *strategic partnership* it was decided that a task force should identify key strategic partners and design actions facilitating cooperation with them. Since these partnerships would be crucial for ensuring long-term sustainable and predictable financial mechanism it was further agreed that the same task force should address the *financing* area as well

as prepare the plan for involvement of Parties and other stakeholders. The Chair was requested to lead the work of this task force.

15. Ms. Ashcroft, Ms. Karba, Ms. Stirbu, Mr. Forint, Mr. Gay and Mr. Hem would participate in the task force's work.

#### **4. Implementation of the 2011-2012 workplan**

##### **(a) Communication**

16. The Bureau and WGI welcomed the proposal to prepare a publication promoting the Convention's role in strengthening industrial safety in UNECE region to be issued for the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of the Convention falling in 2012, possibly jointly with the Water Convention.

##### **(b) Exchange of information**

17. The secretariat informed that that far no lead countries were identified for the following three workplan activities:

- Workshop on sharing good practices for increasing public involvement in national work on industrial safety;
- Workshop on sharing good practices for improving cost-effectiveness for major accident prevention policies;
- Exchange of experience in preparedness and response.

18. The secretariat informed that the public participation workshop was considered together with the support of the secretariat servicing the Aarhus Convention<sup>1</sup> and that the Aarhus secretariat can also help in identifying the lead country. Pertaining to timeframe for the workshop, suggestions had been made to plan it only for 2012.

19. The Bureau and WGI agreed that the public participation workshop should allow for the exchange of good practice between all UNECE member countries on the ways to increase public participation in the area of industrial safety. It would also be crucial for such a workshop to see active participation of non-governmental organizations. The secretariat was requested to continue its cooperation with the Aarhus secretariat with the aim to jointly organize the workshop in 2012.

20. Mr. Winkelmann informed that Germany was recently requested to support projects focused on building awareness of university students on the importance of public participation in the decision making on environmental matters. The Bureau and WGI took note of the information and agreed that if the project is to fall under the Assistance Programme and trigger further discussion, then a project proposal/idea from the beneficiary country/countries requesting assistance together with the documents as required under the strategic approach should be provided.

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<sup>1</sup> UNECE Convention on the on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters

21. For the cost-effectiveness workshop, the secretariat suggested exploring possibilities to organize it jointly with European Commission as an activity held back to back with the meeting of the Committee of Competent Authorities (CCA) to the Seveso II Directive. If such a proposal would find support, the workshop could be organized jointly with Poland or Denmark holding the presidency second half of 2011 or first half of 2012 respectively.

22. Mr. Biermann supported the idea should the presiding country be willing to accept the cost-effectiveness as the subject for the workshop organized back to back with the CCA meeting. In such case he offered his assistance in preparing the workshop, including finding appropriate speakers. Also Ms. Ashcroft informed that she as well as her Agency would be interested to contribute to such a workshop. In addition Mr. Dijkens offered to identify Dutch experts who could also support it.

23. With regard to exchange of experience in preparedness and response, Mr. Senzaconi informed that Romania is participating to the Assistance Programme's project – Hazard and crisis management in the Danube Delta – which, among others, would address the preparedness and response aspects. He said that the exchange of experience in one of the project's activities with broader participation than only direct project partners would be considered.

**(c) Activities of the Joint Expert Group**

24. Mr. Senzaconi informed that he would be available, with the support of his country, to serve as the co-chair of the Joint Expert Group working on the task to elaborate the methodology for contingency planning for accidents with potential impacts on transboundary watercourses.

25. The Bureau and WGI welcomed this offer and requested Mr. Senzaconi with support of the secretariat and in cooperation with the co-chair representing the Water side – Mr. Peter Kovac (Hungary) – and the Water Convention's secretariat to proceed with implementation of the tasks.

26. Ms. Karba, Mr. Dijkens, Mr. Gay and Ms. Stirbu offered to look for experts in their countries to join this group. At the same time they asked that a short description on expertise required would be shared with them.

**(d) Seminar on review of work in accidental water pollution**

27. Mr. Winkelmann informed on the planning for the seminar to be held on 8-9 November in Bonn. He mentioned a background paper prepared by a German consultant providing background information on the accident, risk management concept and approaches to risk management in river basins. The paper reflects the personal opinion of its author and was drafted to help in preparing the seminar.

28. Mr. Winkelmann informed about Germany's intention to establish a steering group to elaborate the workshop's agenda, identify outstanding speakers, and draft recommendations including future work concerning the areas of waste and fire fighting waters. He invited Mr. Senzaconi to

join the steering group and requested Mr. Kozlenko to identify an expert from the Russian Federation to help in preparing the seminar.

29. Mr. Biermann stressed that the area of waste waters was a very important one not only for the major hazardous facilities but also the smaller ones and he expressed his readiness to support the work in preparing the seminar.

**(e) Seminar on land use planning around hazardous industrial sites**

30. Mr. Dijkens and the secretariat presented the outcome and recommendations of the seminar on land use planning around hazardous industrial facilities (The Hague, 11-12 November 2010) organized jointly with the UNECE Committee on Housing and Land Management (CHLM).

31. Ms. Ashcroft suggested that seminars on safety and land use planning (LUP) including the gaming module should be held in different countries and attract the active participation of local level planners.

32. Mr. Cozzone proposed that a leaflet be produced on the seminar and the recommended follow-up and which would be used for building awareness about the linkage between safety and LUP.

33. Mr. Winkelmann suggested developing safety and LUP criteria/standards.

34. Mr. Gay supported Ms. Ashcroft and Mr. Cozzone to take steps in further spreading information and building awareness in the area of safety and LUP.

35. Mr. Biermann stressed that LUP with regard to safety was at the same time very interesting and challenging and that different countries had different approaches. He did not suggest developing any technical standards. He supported the awareness-building activities at the local level.

36. Mr. Dijkens informed that the software used during The Hague workshop was available for further development to make it as a tool for decision-making.

37. The Bureau and WGI, based on the discussion and suggestions made, concluded that joint actions together with the CHLM Bureau should be explored to promote the outcome of the Hague seminar for building further the awareness about the linkage between safety and LUP. To this end a joint leaflet should be produced and joint efforts should be made for the organization of subregional safety and LUP seminars. The joint actions should be undertaken as soon as possible.

38. The secretariat was requested to communicate the conclusions to the CHLM Bureau.

**(f) Sixth round of reporting**

39. Mr. Hem informed that the WGI would take the necessary steps, communicating via e-mail and phone, to review the reporting guidelines in order to improve their clarity and provide, where appropriate, references to indicators and criteria. The work should be finalized before

summer time allowing for timely initiation of the sixth round of reporting by the secretariat.

**(h) Meetings of the Bureau and WGI**

40. The Bureau and WGI agreed on following schedule of meetings in 2011:

- Bureau meeting – 30 June in Geneva jointly with WGI, and 10-11 November in Bonn;
- task force meeting – 22 March in Geneva, and
- meeting of Chair, Vice-chairs and Chair of the WGI to discuss working arrangements for managing the Assistance Programme – 23 March in Geneva

41. The dates and possible venues for the meetings to be held in 2012 before the CoP-7, as well as further task force meetings should be decided during the joint meeting of 30 June.

**5. Assistance activities of the Convention**

42. Mr. Buljan and Ms. Milutinovic informed that their countries as well as The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia were making preparations to carry out a joint inspection – main part of the assistance project aimed at linking evaluation of safety reports with on-site inspections. The joint inspection would take place at the end of March 2011. Secretariat informed that the checklist for evaluation of safety report, which is used in the project, was under review.

43. Ms. Stirbu reported that meetings were held to involve ports operators in the project on hazard and crisis management in the Danube Delta. Mr. Senzaconi informed that a preparatory meeting to elaborate the project's implementation plan would be held in the beginning of February 2011 in Bucharest involving project's coordinators from the three countries, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and Romania. The project would be officially kicked-off at the meeting in the beginning of March to be held in Galati, Romania.

44. Mr. Biermann informed that funds were available with Directorate General Humanitarian Affairs and Civil Protection (DG ECHO) for organization of field exercises. The applicant must be an EU member state however the funds can be used for exercises in the transboundary context with countries outside EU. The budget can be up to maximum of Euro 1 million, of which 85% can be sponsored through the DG ECHO mechanism. Mr. Biermann suggested that Romania could apply for the funds to cover the expenses of the crisis management part of the Danube Delta project. The call for 2012 projects would be in March/April 2011.

45. Ms. Gurguliani and the secretariat informed that the administrative arrangements for the legal project for Georgia should be finalized in February what would allow the project to start.

46. The Bureau and WGI took note of the progress achieved in implementing the projects. Appreciation was expressed to Mr. Biermann for sharing information about the EC funding possibilities. At the same

time Romania was encouraged to apply for the funds, when possible, with support of other EU member countries.

47. The secretariat informed on the preparations to the seminar on applying the indicators and criteria by the Assistance Programme beneficiary countries. The seminar should see participation of all Programme beneficiary countries and should preferably be held at a venue easily accessible by air from South-Eastern and Eastern Europe/Caucasus as well as Central Asia. The seminar could take place in May.

48. The Bureau and WGI requested Ms. Karba and the task force members that worked on elaborating the indicators and criteria to support the organization of the seminar in preparing the necessary training material.

49. The secretariat invited the Bureau and WGI to consider providing assistance to Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan in the area of identification of hazardous activities. The countries requested such assistance during CoP-6 but no project proposal had been prepared.

50. The Bureau and WGI welcomed the proposal to organize such training based on existing experience. The secretariat was requested to confirm through exchange of official letters that the training would be still relevant for the countries<sup>2</sup>. The training was accepted on an exceptional basis due to the fact that Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan had only recently joined the implementation phase of the Programme. For future assistance activities, the mentioned countries would need to apply in accordance with the existing mechanism, i.e. to present a gap-analysis with application of indicators and criteria and an action plan.

51. The secretariat reported on its participation in a workshop for Turkmenistan under the Water Convention. The workshop offered an opportunity to promote the Industrial Accidents Convention. Turkmenistan was also invited to consider joining the Convention's Assistance Programme. The participants requested that an awareness-raising workshop on the Convention be organized in the future.

52. The Bureau and WGI welcomed the interest from Turkmenistan in the Convention and requested the secretariat to organize the awareness-raising workshop.

## **6. Other business**

53. Mr. Biermann informed about the finalization of the revision of the Seveso II Directive with the key aim to align it with Globally Harmonized System (GHS). Some other modifications were also mentioned regarding provisions on public consultation and access to justice.

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<sup>2</sup> In case of Uzbekistan the letter should also address the issue with regard to the country's request for international experts to support a bilateral working group to be established to discuss risks associated with an aluminium plant located in Tajikistan in proximity to the border.

54. Mr. Biermann shared a thought about undertaking similar revision of the Convention. On one hand such a process could aim to align Annex I with GHS, and on the other hand, in view of the red mud accident in Hungary, the revision could also tackle the Convention's scope and definitions. Another area for consideration could be to open the Convention to countries outside UNECE region.

55. The Bureau and WGI agreed to undertake the revision of the Annex I to align it with GHS. Appropriate amendments, which do not require ratification, acceptance or approval procedure, to be prepared by the Working Group on Development should be ready for adoption at CoP-7.

56. The Bureau and WGI also decided to prepare a paper specifying provisions for potential amendment and offering possible options for revising them to be further considered at CoP-7. The later issue would be further taken up by the Bureau at its November meeting.

57. Mr. Senzaconi informed that Romania should not be considered as the beneficiary country under the Assistance Programme as of CoP-6.

## **7. Closing of the meeting**

58. Mr. Dijkens thanked for active participation, welcomed the commitment expressed by every member to the future work of both bodies and closed the meeting.