

**Joint meeting of the Bureau (twentieth meeting)  
and the Working Group on Implementation (sixteenth meeting)**

**Bonn, Germany, 10-11 November 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 Bonn (Germany) on 10-11 November 2011.
2. The following members of the Bureau attended the meeting: Mr. Chris Dijkens (Netherlands), Chair of the CoP, Ms. Jasmina Karba (Slovenia), Mr. Bernard Gay (Switzerland), Vice-chairs, Mr. Pavel Forint (Czech Republic), Mr. Gerhard Winkelmann-Oei (Germany), Mr. Sergey Kozlenko (Russian Federation) and Ms. Suzana Milutinovic (Serbia).
3. The following members of the WGI participated in the meeting: Ms. Anahit Aleksandryan (Armenia), Mr. Vadim Lozhechko (Belarus), Mr. Hrvoje Buljan (Croatia), Mr. Massimo Cozzone (Italy), Mr. Gunnar Hem (Norway), Chair of the WGI, Ms. Svetlana Stirbu (Republic of Moldova), Mr. Francisc Senzaconi (Romania), Mr. Tomas Trcka (Slovakia) and Ms. Sandra Ashcroft (United Kingdom).
4. The secretariat was represented at the meeting by Mr. Sergiusz Ludwiczak (Chief, Transboundary Cooperation Section), Mr. Lukasz Wyrowski and Ms. Virginia Fusé.
5. Mr. Cristiano Piacente (Italy) member of the Bureau and Ms. Ann-Sofie Eriksson (Sweden), member of WGI, informed in advance the secretariat that they could not participate.
6. Mr. Tobias Biermann (European Commission) and Ms. Irma Gurguliani (Georgia), who left their respective positions at the Commission and at the Ministry of Environment of Georgia, were no longer available to carry out their functions as members of the Bureau.
7. Ms. Olga Shashkina (Georgia), who replaced Ms. Irma Gurguliani in her functions at the Ministry of Environment of Georgia, attended the meeting as observer at the invitation of the Chair.

## **2. Implementation of the Long-term strategy**

### **(a) Strategic partnerships and involvement of Parties and other stakeholders**

8. The secretariat, on behalf of the task force on the strategic partnerships and financing, reported on the progress in establishing partnerships with the organizations identified as priority partners. The meeting was informed about the ongoing initiatives and interests for possible cooperation received from the European Process Safety Centre (EPSC), the Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit (Joint Unit) and the Chemical Accident Programme of the OECD. Information on the discussions with the European Commission and CEFIC aimed at organization of bilateral meetings, as well as preparations to a consultation on 22 November 2011 between the chairs of the five UNECE Conventions was also provided.

9. The Bureau and WGI welcomed the identification of numerous and concrete initiatives and areas of work for potential cooperation with EPSC, Joint Unit and OECD. These however should be further assessed vis-à-vis the Convention's priorities before any specific future activities are undertaken. The task force was requested to carry out the assessment, prioritise the initiatives and make suggestions on which of the initiatives the cooperation should focus.

### **(b) Sustainable financial system**

10. The secretariat on behalf of the task force introduced the draft sustainable financial system. The focus in the presentation was given to the elements of the system such as: sources of funding, types of contributions and procedures for requesting contributions. Also the roles of the Parties, the Conference of the Parties and the Bureau in applying the system were detailed. Finally the example for the calculation of the 2012 contribution level for all the Parties in accordance with the system was presented.

11. The Bureau and WGI discussed in detail the draft sustainable system and noted that the following issues should be further dealt with by the system: (i) the use of regular budget resources for implementation of the biennial workplans, (ii) earmarking of contributions, and (iii) inclusion/exclusion of the European Commission in calculation of the level of expected contribution. The task force was therefore requested to further work on the draft sustainable system and address the issues raised as well as present a revised version at the next joint meeting.

12. The Bureau and WGI members agreed that the document containing the sustainable financial system, once prepared, should be open for consultation with all Parties. A good occasion for it would be to circulate the document together with the invitation letter to the 7th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

### **(c) Evaluation of the effectiveness of work under the Convention including management arrangements for the Assistance Programme**

13. In order to facilitate the discussion on the management arrangements for the Assistance Programme, the secretariat provided information on the response to the submission of the self-assessments by countries beneficiaries of the Assistance Programme. By the time of the joint meeting, 10 countries out of 15 submitted their assessments. From them, only a few were complete on all areas of work and contained a clear indication of the identified shortcomings. The presentation showed that the countries' compliance was not fully satisfactory

and that the Bureau and WGI would have an important role to play in monitoring the beneficiary countries to work in accordance with the Strategic Approach and in ensuring the compliance with the Programme's obligations.

14. In addition the received assessments need a thorough analysis, in particular to verify the countries' understanding in carrying out the self-assessments and in this regard provision of relevant recommendations.

15. The members of the Bureau and WGI representing countries beneficiaries of the Assistance Programme were invited to provide a brief feedback on preparing the self-assessment. The contribution/involvement to/in the assessment of different authorities was considered as challenging.

16. The Bureau and WGI discussed the presentation by the secretariat as well as the feedback received and decided that a core group led by Gunnar Hem and further consisting of Jasmina Karba, Bernard Gay and Sandra Ashcroft should make the evaluation of the received self-assessments and provide the necessary feedback to the countries before the end of January. The core group should also work out a mechanism for monitoring the countries compliance with the Strategic Approach as well as for the future evaluation of the self-assessments and the requested assistance projects. The mechanism should be presented at the next joint meeting for discussion and approval.

17. The secretariat was requested to make the self-assessments available on a password-protected webpage of the Convention.

18. With regard to the discussion on the effectiveness of the activities undertaken under the Convention, the Bureau and WGI decided to move the discussion to future meetings.

19. The secretariat informed the Bureau and WGI that a regular budget post at a P4 level would be made available for the Convention replacing a P3 regular budget post. The P4 post would have the function of the secretary to the Convention. To maintain the secretariat capacity as decided by the 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties in The Hague, the incumbent of the P3 extrabudgetary post would manage the Assistance Programme.

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

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

20. The secretariat reported on its participation to the:

- Conference on Environmental Emergencies, Giron sur Montreux, 14 September 2011 – at this meeting the secretariat shared good practice of the Convention in working with countries with economies in transition towards improving the institutional and legal frameworks on prevention, preparedness and response. The participants appreciated the information. In this context they also raised the need for sharing the Convention's good practice with countries outside the ECE region, in particular in view of the increasing frequency of natural disasters that can trigger industrial accidents and that discussing industrial safety should not be an issue exclusive for ECE region. They suggested opening up of the Convention. Promoting the Convention could be also undertaken at the Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro in June 2012.
- Committee on Housing and Land Management, Geneva, 3 October 2011 – at this meeting the secretariat recalled the outcome of the joint seminar on land use planning around hazardous industrial sites. The Committee expressed its support to the joint work on safety and land use planning and committed to submit proposals for the joint activities through its Bureau.

- Meeting of the Competent Authorities to the Seveso II Directive, Warsaw, 13 October 2011 – at this meeting the secretariat promoted the Convention's activities, reported on the work towards establishing strategic partnerships and reminded EU member countries, Parties of the Convention about the sixth round of reporting, with the reports to be due by 31 January 2011.

21. The secretariat informed that the sixth round of reporting on implementation of the Convention was initiated with the letters of 9 September in English and Russian and of 12 September in French. The letters together with the reporting formats in English, French or Russian, depending on the recipient Party, were also circulated by electronic mail on 13 and 15 September.

#### **(b) Financing**

22. The secretariat presented the report on the financial situation of the Convention. The report detailed (i) the expenditures per each meeting organized in 2011 (incurred expenditures for meeting in the first half and projected expenditures for those in the second half of 2011), (ii) the contributions received and pledged (financial as well as in-kind), (iii) the expected balance at the end of 2011, and (iv) the requirements for resources in 2012 for full implementation of the 2011-2012 workplan.

23. The secretariat stressed that receipt of contributions at the level higher than the calculated deficit would only allow building some reserve for the 2013-2014 workplan.

24. The Bureau and WGI discussed the financial situation and agreed to be cautious with regard to the finances, in particular due to the deteriorating financial situation and introduction of budget cuts, including for international cooperation, in a number of the Parties, some of them being among the Convention's donors. It was further agreed that the Bureau should be evaluating the finances and apply savings, where appropriate, including through postponing or cancellation of core activities, e.g. when such would not attract a lead country. To this end, the Bureau supported by the WGI should review at the next meeting the 2011-2012 workplan vis-à-vis the available finances and decide on the activities to be undertaken in 2012. At the same time, the Bureau and WGI expressed their belief that with the implementation of the sustainable financial system the Convention should be able to attract good level of contribution in the future.

#### **(c) Workshops and seminars**

25. Ms. Karba and Ms. Ashcroft informed about the outcome of the workshop on cost-effectiveness for major accident prevention, which was organized in Warsaw on 12 October 2011. The workshop discussed different opportunities – mainly around inspections and evaluation of safety documentation – for increasing the effectiveness and contributing to costs optimization for major accident prevention. The countries were encouraged to evaluate the discussed opportunities in their national context. The workshop also pointed at certain solutions, which should be elaborated at the international level, if demand for them would be further confirmed. These could be discussed by the Bureau and WGI in more detail at the next meeting, when the workshop's report would be available. They should be considered in particular in view of preparation of the 2013-2014 workplan and in discussing the cooperation initiatives.

26. Mr. Winkelmann informed about the outcome of the Sandoz+25 seminar, which was held back to back with the joint meeting in Bonn on 8-9 November 2011. The seminar reviewed the progress achieved in the last 25 years since the

Sandoz accident and discussed the remaining challenges in the prevention of accidental water pollution. For addressing the remaining challenges, the seminar made a number of recommendations for future activities. They would be presented to the Bureau and WGI for a detailed discussion at the next meeting with the availability of the seminar's report.

27. The secretariat invited the Bureau and WGI to discuss the organization of the workshops planned for 2012, i.e.: workshop on sharing good practices for increasing public involvement in national work on industrial safety, and exchange of experience in preparedness and response.

28. The Bureau and WGI requested that half to one page documents be prepared for each of the workshops to describe their rationale, objectives and scope. The Chair of WGI with the support of the secretariat agreed to prepare the necessary information<sup>1</sup>. With it, the members of the Bureau and WGI should make an attempt to identify lead countries for the workshops. The secretariat suggested that the workshop on preparedness and response be linked with the fifth consultation for points of contact.

#### **(d) Other activities and meetings**

29. Mr. Senzaconi reported on the progress in elaborating the methodology on contingency planning for transboundary waters by the Joint Expert Group (JEG) and on the feedback received to the draft/sketch document at the Sandoz+25 workshop. The document initially designed by the JEG to include both hazard and crisis management components would, after the feedback from the seminar, only focus on the latter one. The Bureau and WGI supported the recommendation from the seminar.

30. With regard to the organization of the fifth consultation of points of contact, Mr. Gay suggested to consider, in particular in view of the discussion on possible savings, if the Industrial Accident Notification System provides added value and should be maintained. The secretariat informed that the consultation of points of contact should be only organized if it would also contribute to the exchange of good practice with regard to the notification, provided that such exchange was demanded. The Bureau and WGI agreed to evaluate this at the next meeting, especially if no country would be identified to take lead for this work.

31. The secretariat made suggestions for additional activities at the 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties to be part of the celebration of the 20 years anniversary of the availability of the Convention. Among them organization of a high-level component and/or preparation of panel discussion of former Convention's chairs, who could discuss the successes and challenges in implementing the different stages of the Assistance Programme.

32. The Bureau and WGI agreed that the high-level component should be organized only if it could attract the attention of the Parties' high-level representatives. Furthermore, they agreed that this idea should be consulted with Sweden as the host country and, should they support it, a detailed proposal should be elaborated for the high-level agenda for further discussion.

33. With regard to a panel discussion, the Bureau and WGI supported that such would be organized. They further agreed that the discussion should be forward looking, and in this regard, an attempt should be undertaken to identify

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<sup>1</sup> The information was prepared and circulated with an electronic message on 18 November 2011 to all members of the Bureau and WGI

panel members who could inspire the Conference of the Parties by suggesting whereto the focus in the area of industrial safety would be heading.

34. Furthermore, in view of the preparations to the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the Chair invited the members of the Bureau and WGI to reflect on the composition of the Bureau and WGI for biennium 2013-14. The composition would be discussed at the next joint meeting.

35. The Bureau and WGI agreed to hold their 2012 meetings, including the core group and task force, according to the following schedule:

- The core group and task force meeting: January
- The joint meeting of the Bureau and WGI: end of February or beginning of March
- The WGI meeting to evaluate national implementation reports: April
- The Bureau meeting to prepare the 7th meeting of the Conference of the Parties: end of June or beginning of July.<sup>2</sup>

#### **4. Assistance activities of the Convention**

36. The members representing the beneficiary countries and the secretariat briefly reported on recent, ongoing or upcoming assistance activities accepted for implementation:

- Danube Delta Project:

37. Ms. Stirbu and Mr. Senzaconi, supported by Mr. Winkelmann reported on ongoing activities under the Danube Delta Project and specifically on two workshops under the hazard management component in July and September 2011 and on preparations to the first workshop under the crisis management to take place in mid December. Mr. Winkelmann highlighted the need for the project countries to work between the main project's events as indicated in the implementation plan adopted at the kick-off meeting. He also expressed his concerns about unsatisfactory involvement from Ukraine in the project, what hinders effective work under the project.

- Training sessions on the identification of hazardous activities for Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan:

38. The secretariat informed that the national training session for Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan was to take place on 22-23 November 2011 in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan and the one for Uzbekistan on 6-7 December 2011 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. The secretariat stressed that an integral part of the sessions be a half-a-day follow-up to the Bratislava training on the use of the indicators and criteria for the implementation of the Strategic Approach.

- Project on legislation for Georgia:

39. The secretariat informed that the starting of the project had additional delays pending the signature by the Georgian Ministry of Environment of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the UNECE, through which financial resources for the project would be transferred to the country.

40. Ms. Shashkina informed that the delay was caused by the Ministry of Interior of Georgia reviewing the MoU with the UNECE. She also said that the Ministry of Interior was about to start a project led by the European

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<sup>2</sup> By the time of preparing these minutes the following dates were agreed, 9 and 10 January (core group and task force), 29 Feb-1 March (joint meeting), 16-17 April (WGI), 26-27 June (Bureau).

Commission that would partially overlap with the scope of the Convention's project. She expressed the wish of her country to implement only the first phase of the project i.e. the project should end with the preparation of the analysis and the action plan for the legislation, whereas the implementation of the action plan – second phase – should be managed outside of the project.

41. Mr. Forint informed that a re-deployment of resources from 2011 to 2012 from Czech Republic would be rather difficult taking into account that there had not been any progress at the side of the Georgian authorities in starting the project initially planned to commence in 2010.

42. The Bureau and WGI in view of the statements made requested Ms. Shashkina to coordinate with the relevant Georgian Ministries on carrying out one project aimed at improving the legislation in Georgia. She was requested to report back through the secretariat.

43. The Bureau and WGI also discussed requests and/or ideas for new projects under the Assistance Programme.

- Project on safety evaluation in Balkans

44. Ms. Buljan and Ms. Milutinovic presented a project proposal for further strengthening the capacities and knowledge of experts in Croatia, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia with regard to inspections linked with safety reports evaluation. The project was designed to build upon two previous projects and to use the previously developed checklist in training the countries experts in evaluating safety reports and performing inspections. The secretariat informed that there was funding for 2012 available through ENVSEC earmarked for the Convention's work in South-Eastern Europe that could be used for the implementation of the project. The Bureau and WGI welcomed the project proposal prepared on the basis of the countries' self-assessments. The countries were requested to provide detailed budget so that the project could be approved.

Project in improving preventive measures in Belarus

45. Mr. Lozechko presented a project proposal which would allow Belarus to assess its preventive system vis-à-vis the good practice of other countries in this area in particular the European Union member states. The Bureau and WGI stressed that the project proposal was missing the self-assessment component confirming the country's need for the assistance project. In this regard the Core group in charge of the evaluation of self-assessment was requested to make suggestions on the project to Belarus. The project should be further discussed at the next joint meeting.

Project on safety of tailing management facilities

46. Mr. Winkelmann presented a project idea received by Germany on improving safety at tailing management facilities in Ukraine. He also informed that Germany should be able to provide funding necessary for the implementation of the project. The Bureau and WGI welcomed the idea and requested that a project proposal be developed. Ukraine should include in the project proposal the self-assessment using the Convention's indicators and criteria relevant for the work on safety of tailing management facilities.

Project on building awareness of young safety professionals in Armenia

47. The Bureau and WGI again confirmed its support to the project idea. The detailed project proposal should be sent for a consultation through the electronic means of communication. It was further suggested that the project should be considered for organization by Armenia with direct support of Germany.

## **5. Development of the Convention**

48. In view of the ongoing discussion within the working group on the Seveso Directive and lack of clarity what would be the agreed changes to the Directive, the Bureau and WGI decided to continue the discussion on the developments of the Convention, once the Seveso negotiations would be finalised.

## **6. Other business**

49. Ms. Lisbeth Hall, Project Manager, Centre for Environmental Health, the Netherlands, at the invitation of the Chair, informed the Bureau and the WGI on the project on the Cross-border Exposure characterisation for Risk Assessment in Chemical Incidents (CERACI). The main objective of the CERACI project was to strengthen public health risk assessment for the acute phase of chemical incidents by improving exposure characterisation. The project aimed to facilitate cross-border cooperation in chemical incident management by contributing to the interoperability of exposure assessment guidelines, tools and practices. Ms. Hall informed the members of the Bureau and WGI on the next activities under the project and invited to joining them, in particular workshops to be held in the Netherlands and Poland. The members of the Bureau and WGI were also invited to facilitate the access to the information on the CERACI project in their national organisations. In this regard the presentation is to be circulated among the Bureau and WGI members.

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

50. The Chair thanked all the members of the Bureau and WGI for active participation and closed the meeting.