

**UNECE Convention on the Transboundary  
Effects of Industrial Accidents**

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

**Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents**

Geneva 31 May 2011

**MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF**

**Joint Expert Group for the elaboration of checklist/methodology for harmonized  
contingency planning for accidents with potential impacts on transboundary  
watercourses**

Co-chairs for the meeting: Mr. Peter Kovacs (Hungary) and Mr. Francisc Senzaconi (Romania).

Participants: Mr. František Kraus (Czech Republic), Mr. Serik Akhmetov (Kazakhstan), Ms. Valentina Turcanu (Republic of Moldova), Mr. Claes-Hakan Carlsson and Ms. Helena Nasslander (Sweden), ,

UNECE: Lukasz Wyrowski (TEIA Secretariat), Nataliya Nikiforova (Water Convention), Christina Stuhlberger (Project consultant)

**Important issues in crisis management and emergency planning and relevance  
for transboundary context**

The Joint Expert Group agreed to differentiate between the ‘hard’ aspects to be understood as legal and institutional basis necessary for effective crisis management and contingency planning as well as ‘soft’ aspects to be understood as a cooperative and learning basis. Furthermore, it was concluded that the emergency planning is closely linked not only with crisis but also with risk/hazard management and therefore the hard and soft aspects should refer to both of them:

- 1 Risk/hazard management  
*“Hard” aspects*

- Legal basis for ensuring adequate risk/hazard management
- Institutional framework for enforcing the legal basis
- Availability of:
  - Inventories of potential sources of hazards (criteria for establishing inventories: hazardous substance, installations, contaminated sites, etc)
  - Inventories of objects of protection (criteria for establishing inventories)
  - Emergency scenarios and likelihoods (e.g. for spillage, dispersion)

*“Soft” aspects*

- training of authorities and enterprises staff on risk/hazard management in particular understanding methodologies and procedures for establishing inventories
- Public Awareness on risk/hazard management
- Exchange of information on inventories with other parties within the river basin
- Exchange of good practice and lessons learned on risk/hazard management including on preventive measures applied (area related: land use planning, flood protection, or installation related)
- Joint meetings to build trust among involved parties
- Awareness raising of decision makers on risk/hazard management

## 2. Crisis management

*“Hard” aspects*

- Legal basis for ensuring adequate crisis management
- Institutional framework for enforcing the legal basis
- Availability of:
  - Early warning and alarm systems (measuring stations, criteria for alarm, warning, etc)
  - Emergency plans (crisis notification paths and content, technical equipment: inventory of equipment in local and river basin area, responsibilities for response action: local or river basin, health/medical preparedness)
  - Procedures for recognition of emergency, adequate notification and reaction, crisis communication
  - Procedures for aftercare management (analysis of causes and of response effectiveness, remediation)

*“Soft” aspects*

- Training of authorities and enterprises staff on crisis management
- Public Awareness on crisis management
- Exchange of information, exercises and joint training to test the emergency planning and build trust for joint response in real cases
- Exchange of good practice and lessons learned from crisis situations
- Awareness raising of decision makers on crisis management

## **Format and outline for the checklist/methodology**

The Joint Expert Group agreed to elaborate the document following the structure of the “safety guidelines and good practices for tailing management facilities”, a document prepared by the JEG in 2008. The main element of this document will be:

1. Principles for harmonized contingency planning for accidents with potential impacts on transboundary watercourses

2. Recommendations

In the annex, the document will describe the principles stated in the main text, explain their purpose and provide more detailed information on implementation.

### **Next steps for the elaboration of the first draft of the checklist/methodology**

The JEG agreed to jointly elaborate a set of principles according to the key aspects as specified during the meeting. By the end of June, the results will be shared with the secretariat which is responsible for compiling and arranging the principles and organize the review among the JEG members of the first draft. The reviewed draft and following steps towards completion of the document will be discussed during the 2nd JEG meeting in autumn.

#### *Production schedule:*

0. JEG members share existing documents relevant to the elaboration of the guidelines
1. First set of principles delivered to the secretariat: End of June
2. Compilation of principles: Mid – July
3. Exchange of comments: Until September
4. 2nd JEG meeting: one day in the week of 12 - 16 September or 3 – 7 October

Finally it was recommended to ensure involvement in the elaboration of the guidelines also of those JEG members, which were unable to participate in the meeting to broaden the knowledge base for the document.

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