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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

**CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
TO THE CONVENTION ON THE TRANSBOUNDARY
EFFECTS OF INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS**

First meeting, 22-24 November 2000

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FIRST MEETING

to be held at the European Commission, Brussels
beginning at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, 22 November 2000

1. Opening ceremony and constitution:
 - (a) Opening statements;
 - (b) Adoption of the agenda;
 - (c) Election of officers;
 - (d) Constitution of the Conference of the Parties.

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2. Review of the work carried out under the auspices of the Meeting of the Signatories to the Convention:
 - (a) Activities aimed at implementing the Convention, assistance provided to countries with economies in transition;
 - (b) UN/ECE Industrial Accident Notification System;
 - (c) Prevention of accidental water pollution;
 - (d) Convention's Internet home page.
3. Plan of action under the Convention:
 - (a) Programme of work under the Convention:
 - (i) Implementation of the Convention;
 - (ii) Identification of hazardous activities;
 - (iii) Reporting on past industrial accidents;
 - (iv) Prevention of accidental water pollution;
 - (v) Responsibility and liability;
 - (vi) Long-term programme of work and work plan for 2001-2002;
 - (b) Human and financial resources.
4. Date and venue of the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
5. Other business.
6. Review of decisions.
7. Closing of the meeting.

EXPLANATORY NOTES**Item 1: Opening ceremony and constitution****(a) Opening statements**

1. The representatives of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and the European Commission will make opening statements.

(b) Adoption of the agenda

2. The Conference of the Parties is invited to adopt its agenda as endorsed by the open-ended group ^{1/} and set out in the present document.

(c) Election of Officers

3. The Conference of the Parties will elect a chairperson and two vice-chairpersons as its officers. It will also elect up to five other members of the Bureau from among the representatives of the Parties and/or representatives of other UN/ECE member countries present at the meeting.

4. The Conference of the Parties is invited to apply ad interim the draft rules of procedure (CP.TEIA/2000/2) until it formally adopts them (see item 1 (d) below).

(d) Constitution of the Conference of the Parties

<u>Background document:</u>	
Note by the secretariat: Ratification status of the Convention	CP.TEIA/2000/1
<u>Documents for adoption or decision:</u>	
Draft rules of procedure	CP.TEIA/2000/2
Draft terms of reference for the Bureau	CP.TEIA/2000/3

5. The secretariat will inform the Conference of the Parties about the status of ratification of the Convention and the declarations made by the Parties upon the deposit of their instruments of ratification (CP.TEIA/2000/1).

6. The Chairperson will report to the Conference of the Parties on the representation at its first meeting and the credentials submitted by the representatives of the Parties. The Conference of

^{1/} The open-ended group was established by the Signatories to the Convention at their seventh meeting to prepare the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Its three meetings in Moscow, Warsaw and Rome were chaired by a representative of Switzerland.

the Parties is invited to take a decision on the credentials of representatives participating in the meeting.

7. Parties to the Convention are therefore invited to inform the secretariat of the name(s) of their representative(s) at their earliest convenience, and submit the credentials to the secretariat before the opening of the meeting.

8. Following article 18, paragraph 2 (e), of the Convention, the Conference of the Parties is expected to adopt its rules of procedure. The open-ended group endorsed the draft rules of procedure (CP.TEIA/2000/2) at its third meeting in Rome, on 8-9 June 2000. The Conference of the Parties is also invited to adopt the draft terms of reference of its Bureau as endorsed by the open-ended group (CP.TEIA/2000/3).

Item 2: Review of the work carried out under the auspices of the Meeting of the Signatories to the Convention

9. The Conference of the Parties is invited to review and acknowledge the work done under the auspices of the Meeting of the Signatories to the Convention, in particular:

(a) Activities aimed at implementing the Convention, assistance provided to countries with economies in transition

<u>Document for adoption or decision:</u>	
Report of the Chairman of the Steering Group on the activities of the two Regional Coordinating Centres and their future role within the framework of the Convention	CP.TEIA/2000/4

10. The Conference of the Parties is invited to review the work and acknowledge the achievements of the Regional Coordinating Centre for the Prevention of Industrial Accidents in Budapest and the Regional Coordinating Centre for Industrial Accident Training and Exercises in Warsaw. To facilitate the discussion, the Chairman of the Steering Group for the Regional Coordinating Centres has prepared a report on the activities of the two Regional Coordinating Centres and their future role within the framework of the Convention (CP.TEIA/2000/4).

11. The Steering Group, at its meeting in Warsaw on 26-27 January 2000, acknowledged the work done by the two Centres to assist countries with economies in transition in implementing the Convention during their six years of activity. It expressed its appreciation to the two Governments involved for their support to the Centres.

12. On the basis of the Steering Group's report, the Conference of the Parties is invited to recommend that the two Centres should continue their valuable work as national centres if the Governments of Hungary and Poland so decide. In this case, the Conference of the Parties believes the two Centres would be well placed and capable of undertaking specific assignments that it may entrust to them in the future.

(b) UN/ECE Industrial Accident Notification System

<u>Documents for adoption or decision:</u>	
Draft UN/ECE Industrial Accident Notification System	CP.TEIA/2000/5
Draft decision on the UN/ECE Industrial Accident Notification System	CP.TEIA/2000/6

13. According to article 10, paragraph 1, Parties shall provide for the establishment and operation of compatible and efficient industrial accident notification systems at appropriate levels. The draft UN/ECE Industrial Accident Notification System (CP.TEIA/2000/5) was developed under the auspices of the Meeting of the Signatories. It is intended for use by Parties and other UN/ECE member countries, for the transmission of early warning, information and assistance requests at national level, in the event of an industrial accident with transboundary effects, or an imminent threat thereof. The System has been tested several times (two recent tests were performed by Poland in January 2000 and by Switzerland in June 2000).

14. The Conference of the Parties is invited to adopt the draft decision on the UN/ECE Industrial Accident Notification System (CP.TEIA/2000/6).

15. Several consultations and training sessions for the points of contact were held under the auspices of the Meeting of the Signatories to the Convention. The network of points of contact currently comprises 35 countries and the European Commission. A list of points of contact is available on the Convention's Internet home page with restricted access. A user name and a password are needed to access this information. These have been provided to the competent authorities/focal points and the points of contact for industrial accident notification and mutual assistance.

16. The Conference of the Parties is also invited to encourage UN/ECE member countries that have not yet nominated points of contact to do so as soon as possible.

(c) Prevention of accidental water pollution

<u>Background document:</u>	
Report of the second meeting of the Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (The Hague, Netherlands, 23-25 March 2000)	ECE/MP.WAT/5
<u>Document for adoption or decision:</u>	
Report of the Seminar on the Prevention of Chemical Accidents and Limitation of their Impact on Transboundary Waters	CEP/WG.4/SEM.1/1999/3

17. Major industrial accidents may cause far-reaching transboundary effects and may lead to accidental water pollution. Therefore, the Signatories to the Convention on the Transboundary

Effects of Industrial Accidents and the Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes decided to cooperate closely on issues related to the prevention of accidental pollution of transboundary waters.

18. As a result, a workshop and a seminar on the prevention of chemical accidents and limitation of their impact on transboundary waters were held in Berlin (7-9 May 1998) and in Hamburg, Germany (4-6 October 1999), respectively. The Seminar was organized under the joint auspices of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes and the Meeting of the Signatories to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents. Furthermore, a joint ad hoc expert group on water and industrial accidents met twice between these events. The joint ad hoc group played a significant role in the preparatory process for the seminar.

19. These activities resulted in conclusions and recommendations, endorsed by the Seminar in Hamburg (CEP/WG.4/SEM.1/1999/3, annex I). They can be summarized as follows:

- (i) A long-term work programme on the prevention of accidental water pollution, should be supported by the Conference of the Parties and the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes;
- (ii) There is a need for joint implementation of a short-term work programme, promoting cooperation and prompt communication in the event of an industrial accident, within the framework of the Conference and the Meeting of the Parties to both Conventions;
- (iii) The joint ad hoc expert group on water and industrial accidents should continue its work.

20. The Conference of the Parties will also have before it the report on the second meeting of the Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (ECE/MP.WAT/5), at which the report of the Hamburg Seminar (CEP/WG.4/SEM.1/1999/3), including its conclusions and recommendations, was adopted.

- (d) Convention's Internet home page

21. The UN/ECE secretariat has established and is maintaining the Convention's Internet home page, in English and Russian, at the following address: <http://www.unece.org/env/teia/welcome.html>. The home page contains, among other things, the full text of the Convention, its status of ratification, the lists of competent authorities/focal points and points of contact for the purpose of industrial accident notification and mutual assistance (restricted access), information on current activities under the Convention and relevant documentation and the latest version of the Industrial Accident Manual.

Item 3: Plan of action under the Convention(a) Programme of work under the Convention

<u>Background document:</u>	
Note by the secretariat: Overview of the tasks under the Convention	CP.TEIA/2000/8
<u>Documents for adoption or decision:</u>	
Draft decision on criteria and guidelines to facilitate the identification and notification of hazardous activities	CP.TEIA/2000/7
Draft programme of work under the Convention	CP.TEIA/2000/9
Draft decision on the priorities and the programme of work under the Convention	CP.TEIA/2000/10
Draft reporting format for the report on the implementation of the Convention	CP.TEIA/2000/11
Draft decision on the implementation of the Convention	CP.TEIA/2000/12
Draft decision on the prevention of accidental water pollution	CP.TEIA/2000/13
Note on responsibility and liability	CP.TEIA/2000/14
Draft decision on the reporting on past industrial accidents	CP.TEIA/2000/15

(i) Implementation of the Convention

22. The Conference of the Parties is invited to adopt the draft reporting format for the report on the implementation of the Convention and the draft decision on the implementation of the Convention as endorsed by the open-ended group (CP.TEIA/2000/11 and CP.TEIA/2000/12, respectively).

23. It is furthermore invited to examine ways and means of involving UN/ECE member countries that are not yet Parties to the Convention and other observer organizations and institutions in the programme of work under the Convention. Representatives of international organizations are invited to report on their relevant activities.

(ii) Identification of hazardous activities

24. According to article 4, paragraph 1, of the Convention, Parties are required to identify hazardous activities within their jurisdiction and ensure that affected Parties are notified. According to article 18, paragraph 6, the Conference of the Parties is therefore invited to adopt criteria and guidelines to facilitate the identification and notification of these activities. To this end a draft decision was endorsed by the open-ended group (CP.TEIA/2000/7).

(iii) Reporting on past industrial accidents

25. According to the provisions of annex XII, paragraph 1 (b), to the Convention, a databank for the reception, processing and distribution of the necessary information on industrial accidents has to be established and operated. Such a data bank exists already in the form of the EU-Major Accident Reporting System (MARS). The European Commission has proposed to make its system available for reporting past industrial accidents under the Convention. The Conference of the Parties is invited to adopt a draft decision on reporting on past industrial accidents endorsed by the open-ended group (CP.TEIA/2000/15).

(iv) Prevention of accidental water pollution

26. The Signatories to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents and the Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes agreed to cooperate closely on issues related to the prevention of accidental pollution of transboundary waters. The Conference of the Parties is invited to adopt a draft decision on the prevention of accidental water pollution endorsed by the open-ended group (CP.TEIA/2000/13).

(v) Responsibility and liability

27. According to article 13 of the Convention, Parties shall support appropriate international efforts to elaborate rules, criteria and procedures in the field of responsibility and liability. Switzerland has proposed that negotiations for a protocol to both UN/ECE Conventions on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents and on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes should be started. The Conference of the Parties is invited to discuss this issue on the basis of a note on responsibility and liability (CP.TEIA/2000/14).

(vi) Long-term programme of work and work plan for 2001-2002

28. The Conference of the Parties is invited to consider its long-term programme of work under the Convention on the basis of a draft endorsed by the open-ended group (CP.TEIA/2000/9, Part One). An overview of all the tasks under the Convention, prepared at the initiative of the secretariat (CP.TEIA/2000/8), may facilitate this discussion.

29. The Conference of the Parties is also invited to agree on the priority tasks for the intergovernmental activities to be undertaken within the work plan for 2001-2002, identified by the open-ended group (CP.TEIA/2000/9, Part Two).

30. Finally, the Conference of the Parties is invited to adopt a draft decision on the priorities and programme of work under the Convention, as endorsed by the open-ended group (CP.TEIA/2000/10).

(b) Human and financial resources

<u>Document for adoption or decision:</u>	
Draft decision on the budget and financial arrangements for 2001-2002	CP.TEIA/2000/16

31. The Conference of the Parties will estimate both the Parties' and the secretariat's human and financial resources and the requirements for meetings under the Convention, and make arrangements to support the participation of experts from countries with economies in transition in these meetings. The Conference of the Parties is invited to decide on funding arrangements under the Convention and the budget to facilitate the implementation of the work plan for 2001-2002 on the basis of a proposal made by the open-ended group (CP.TEIA/2000/16).

Item 4: Date and venue of the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties

<u>Document for adoption or decision:</u>	
Draft decision on the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties	CP.TEIA/2000/17

32. The Conference of the Parties is invited to take a unanimous decision to hold its second ordinary meeting in 2002. Delegations are encouraged to offer to host the second meeting so that the Conference of the Parties can decide on its next venue.

Item 5: Other business

33. At the time of writing, the secretariat had no points to propose under this item.

Item 6: Review of decisions

34. The Chairperson will sum up all the decisions taken by the Conference of the Parties at its first meeting. The Conference of the Parties is invited to entrust the secretariat, in consultation with the Bureau, with finalising the report of its first meeting.

Item 7: Closing of the meeting

35. The Chairperson will close the meeting.