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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

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

INFORMATION NOTICE

**ON THE CONSULTATION AND A TRAINING SESSION
FOR POINTS OF CONTACT FOR THE PURPOSE OF ACCIDENT
NOTIFICATION AND MUTUAL ASSISTANCE DESIGNATED WITHIN
THE UNECE INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENT NOTIFICATION SYSTEM**

(Bratislava, Slovakia, 10-11 November 2003)

Note by the delegation of Slovakia and the Convention secretariat

Introduction

1. The Parties to the UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents (Industrial Accidents Convention), in accordance with its articles 10 and 12, have, among other things, to provide for the establishment and operation of compatible and efficient industrial accident notification systems at appropriate levels to inform neighbouring countries and if possible to provide mutual assistance in the event of an industrial accident. Furthermore, in accordance with article 17, Parties have to designate or establish one point of contact for the purpose of industrial accident notifications and one point of contact for the purpose of mutual assistance. These points of contact should preferably be the same.

Documents CP.TEIA/2003/3 and CP.TEIA/2003/4 can be found under the following symbols: MP.WAT/2003/1-CP.TEIA/2003/3 and MP.WAT/2003/2-CP.TEIA/2003/4.

2. Acknowledging that prompt and effective notification of potentially affected countries in the event of an industrial accident is crucial in order for them to immediately activate adequate response measures, the Conference of the Parties to the Industrial Accidents Convention, at its first meeting in November 2000, adopted the UNECE Industrial Accident Notification System (UNECE IAN System), as contained in CP.TEIA/2000/5, for notifying, at the national level through the points of contact, a major accident, which causes or is capable of causing transboundary effects (Decision 2000/1 on the UNECE Industrial Accident Notification System, ECE/CP.TEIA/2, annex II).

3. The Conference of the Parties also recommended that regular consultations among the points of contact should be held, in particular in order to coordinate the testing of the UNECE IAN System and review its effectiveness as well as to organize training sessions for its personnel. This activity is part of the work plan under the Convention (ECE/CP.TEIA/7, annex II, appendix I)

4. Following this recommendation, the delegation of Slovakia offered to organize this consultation and a training session for the points of contact in Bratislava, Slovakia. The Conference of the Parties and its Bureau expressed their appreciation and support for this initiative. This consultation and training session will be an important event within the work plan under the Convention since it is for the first time that points of contact will meet following the entry into force of the Convention and the adoption of the UNECE IAN System.

5. The Conference of the Parties and its Bureau recommended that personnel of points of contact from all Parties and other UNECE member countries should take an active part in this event.

6. The present document contains logistical information on the first consultation and a training session for points of contact for the purpose of accident notification and mutual assistance designated within the UNECE Industrial Accident Notification System.

Objectives of the consultation and the training session

7. The key objectives are to provide a forum for:

(a) Reviewing the effectiveness of the UNECE IAN System on the basis of the results of the System's tests carried out in recent years and an additional test to be carried out before the consultation and training session in Bratislava;

(b) Sharing of experience in the functioning and organization of work of a point of contact;

(c) Discussion on links and possible harmonization of the UNECE IAN System with other systems, in particular with existing alarm systems within international river commissions;

- (d) Practical training of personnel of points of contact; and
- (e) Discussion on whether a manual for points of contact should be drawn up.

Dates and venue

8. The consultation and the training session will take place from 10 to 11 November 2003 at Bratislava at the invitation of the Government of Slovakia.

9. They will be held at the Conference Centre of the Slovak Ministry of Foreign Affairs "SUZA" at the following address:

Drotárska cesta 46
SK-81104 Bratislava
Tel: + 421 2 59354114
Fax: + 421 2 62801843
E-mail: manager@suza.sk

10. The consultation and the training session will be held under the auspices of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), within the framework of the Conference of the Parties to the Industrial Accidents Convention.

Programme of the consultation and a training session

11. A detailed programme will be disseminated to the points of contact and other participants at a later date well before the meeting in Bratislava.

Working languages

12. Both the consultation and the training session will be conducted in English and Russian.

Participation

13. The consultation and the training session are open to experts from all UNECE member countries. Personnel working at the points of contact are particularly invited and encouraged to attend. Personnel of points of contact from countries with economies in transition, in particular Parties to the Conventions, eligible for financial support (see ECE/CP.TEIA/7, annex III, decision 2002/3 on the priorities, programme of work and resources under the Convention for 2003-2004, appendix II) could receive such support to participate in the consultation and training session. Requests for financial support should be submitted together with the registration form (see annex to this information notice) to the Convention secretariat as soon as possible **but not later than 12 September 2003**.

Registration of participants

14. Each participant should complete a registration form (see annex) and return it to the Slovak organizers at the address given below:

Ms. Dobromila BOBKOVÁ
Slovak Environmental Agency
Department of Education
Tajovského 28
SK-97590 Banská Bystrica
Tel/fax: +421 48 4132153
E-mail: bobka@sazp.sk

Experts from the following countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Turkey, Ukraine and Uzbekistan are required to send their registration forms **not later than 12 September 2003** (see paragraph 21). The deadline for registration for participants from other UNECE member countries is **30 September 2003**.

15. At the same time a copy of the registration form should be sent to:

Ms. Evelina RIOUKHINA
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
Environment and Human Settlements Division
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland
Tel: +41 22-917-1499
Fax: +41 22-907-0107
E-mail: evelina.rioukhina@unece.org

Arrival of participants, transport and hotel accommodation

16. Participants arriving at Vienna Airport on Saturday or Sunday, 8 or 9 November 2003 will be transferred to Bratislava by bus. Transport back to the airport will also be provided on Tuesday, 11 November, late in the evening and on Wednesday, 12 November.

17. Accommodation will be reserved by the organizers for registered participants.

18. The cost of accommodation (per night) is EURO 40.

19. Participants will be requested to pay the equivalent of EURO 40 for accommodation per night at the registration desk upon arrival at Bratislava.

20. Participants wishing to extend their stay in Bratislava beyond Wednesday, 12 November, are responsible for making their hotel arrangements.

Visas

21. Participants from the following UNECE member countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Turkey, Ukraine and Uzbekistan need a visa to enter Slovakia. Visas will be issued by the appropriate diplomatic representations of the Government of Slovakia free of charge on the condition that registration forms are submitted before the deadline of 12 September 2003



Annex

UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Registration form for the consultation and training session for points of contact designated within the UNECE Industrial Accident Notification System

Each participant should complete this form in duplicate and send one copy to each of the addresses below as soon as possible, but **no later than 12 September 1/**:

Mrs. Evelina Rioukhina
Environment and Human Settlements Division
UN Economic Commission for Europe
Palais des Nations, 8-14, avenue de la Paix
Tel: +41 22-917 1499
Fax: +41 22-907 0107
E-mail: evelina.rioukhina@unece.org

Ms. Dobromila Bobková
Slovak Environmental Agency
Department of Education
Tajovského 28
SK-97590 Banská Bystrica
Tel/fax: +421 48 4132153
E-mail: bobka@sazp.sk

Mr. Ms.

Surname:

First Name:

Country or international organization which you will represent at the meeting:

Your professional address:

Tel: Fax:

E-mail:

If you need a visa please also indicate: Date of birth:

Place of birth: Actual nationality:

and passport type and number:

Arrival at Vienna Airport on _____ at _____ (time), flight No. _____

Arrival at Bratislava Railroad Station on _____ at _____ (time), train No. _____

Date and time of departure (flight or train No.) _____

Preferred language: English Rus

I wish to reserve a hotel room at the Conference Centre "SUZA" for _____ nights

Date: _____ Signed: _____

1/ Participants who do not require a visa can register up to 30 September 2003.

