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

MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION
ON THE PROTECTION AND USE OF TRANSBOUNDARY
WATERCOURSES AND INTERNATIONAL LAKES

**WORKSHOP ON THE PREVENTION OF
WATER POLLUTION DUE TO PIPELINE ACCIDENTS**

(Berlin, 8-9 June 2005)

Report

Introduction

1. The workshop on the prevention of water pollution due to pipeline accidents was held in Berlin on 8 and 9 June 2005. It was organized by the German Federal Environmental Agency at the invitation of the Federal Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection and Nuclear Safety.
2. The workshop was held under the auspices of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), within the framework of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents and the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes.

A. Objectives

3. The Parties to both Conventions launched a process to draw up safety guidelines/good practices for pipelines within the framework of UNECE. The Joint ad hoc Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents, a group established to consider issues of common concern to both Conventions, was given responsibility for the process. An open-ended steering group comprising experts on pipeline safety was established in order to draft the document, which will be further considered by the Joint Expert Group and later adopted by the Conventions' governing bodies. Two expert workshops were planned in order to provide the greatest possible input from all stakeholders.

4. This workshop enabled representatives of competent authorities and experts from the public and private sectors, in particular operators of pipelines, to share information and experience on pipeline safety, including the existing legal framework and good practices to prevent, control and reduce the impact of pipeline failures and accidents. Its participants had the opportunity to comment on the first draft of the safety guidelines/good practices for pipelines, prepared by the above-mentioned steering group. A second workshop, to take place in the Netherlands in March 2006, will address the safety of gas pipeline operation.

B. Participation

5. The workshop was attended by experts from the following 16 UNECE member countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Switzerland and Ukraine, as well as from the European Commission. An expert from the oil companies' European Association for Environment, Health and Safety (CONCAWE) also participated in the meeting.

6. The participation of experts from countries in transition was sponsored by Germany.

C. Opening – welcome address

7. Mr. Sergiusz Ludwiczak (secretariat) opened the workshop and welcomed the participants on behalf of the UNECE. He also introduced Mr. Wolfgang Gierke from the German Federal Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection and Nuclear Safety, and Mr. Jörg Ludwig from the German Federal Institute for Materials Research and Testing.

8. Mr. Gierke welcomed the participants to Germany and expressed his Government's satisfaction that this workshop was taking place in Berlin. He stressed its importance and the timeliness of discussing how to increase the safety of pipeline operation in the UNECE context.

D. Election of the Chairman

9. Mr. Ludwig (Germany) was elected Chairman of the workshop.

E. Programme

10. The workshop was divided into the following four sections:
 - (a) Section I: Setting the scene;
 - (b) Section II: Technical and organizational measures for pipeline safety;
 - (c) Section III: Emergency response and cooperation; and
 - (d) Section IV: Legal and regulatory approaches.
11. The programme including a list of presentations is given in the annex.

F. Concluding session

12. The structure and content of the first draft of the safety guidelines/good practices for pipelines were presented to the workshop participants during the concluding session of the workshop.
13. This was followed by a detailed discussion of particular sections of the document. Mr. Walter Reinhard, member of the German National Pipeline Committee, led the discussion. Numerous and valuable comments were made on most of the document's sections and will be reflected in its next version. The draft safety guidelines/good practices for pipelines as well as the presentations made at the workshop are available on the Conventions' web site.

G. Closing of the workshop

14. The participants agreed that the Conventions' secretariats should prepare the report on the workshop and finalize it in agreement with the Chairman.
15. Mr. Ludwig thanked the experts for their participation and speakers for their presentations and expressed his satisfaction with the success of the workshop in providing for an effective exchange of experience between experts from different parts of the UNECE region on how to best address pipeline safety and in playing an important role in shaping the future safety guidelines/good practices for pipelines.
16. Mr. Ludwiczak, speaking on behalf of UNECE and the participants, expressed appreciation to the Government of Germany for holding this event in Berlin. He also thanked the organizers for providing excellent facilities. In particular, he thanked Mr. Ludwig for his highly professional chairmanship.

Annex**WORKSHOP PROGRAMME**

Opening statements:	
Mr. Sergiusz Ludwiczak – on behalf of United Nations Economic Commission for Europe	
Mr. Wolfgang Gierke – on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Protection and Nuclear Safety	
Election of the Chairman:	
Workshop chaired by Mr. Jörg Ludwig – German Federal Institute for Materials Research and Testing	
Section I: Setting the scene	
1.	UNECE multilateral environmental agreements and pipeline safety <i>Mr. Sergiusz Ludwiczak, Secretary of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents and Mr. Rainer Enderlein, Secretary of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes</i>
2.	Overview of pipelines in Europe: advantages and disadvantages <i>Mr. Georgios A. Papadakis, Technical University of Crete, Greece</i>
3.	Lessons learned from 30 years of spillage incidents from cross-country oil pipelines <i>Mr. Jean-Francois Larive, Technical Coordinator, CONCAWE</i>
4.	Overview of pipelines in North America: advantages and disadvantages, risk reduction <i>Ms. Christina van Egmond, Team Leader, Construction Compliance Operations, National Energy Board, Canada</i>
5.	Pipeline network in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia <i>Mr. Sergey Mokrousov, Federal Service for Ecological, Technological and Nuclear Supervision, Russian Federation</i>
6.	Overview of the pipeline network in Germany <i>Mr. Manfred Müller, General Manager, Rhein-Main Rohrleitungstransportgesellschaft, Germany</i>
7.	Pipeline safety – A Georgian perspective <i>Mr. Zurab Tavartkiladze, Ministry of Environment, Georgia</i>
8.	Safety aspects of transboundary pipeline operation <i>Mr. Pim van der Maas, Managing Director, N.V. Rotterdam-Rijn Pijpleiding Mij., Netherlands</i>
Section II: Technical and organizational measures for pipeline safety	
1.	Safety and integrity of pipelines: concepts and measures <i>Ms. Christiane Kühn, Federal Institute for Materials Research and Testing (BAM), Germany</i>
2.	Transboundary safety aspects: experiences in Serbia, Croatia and Romania <i>Ms. Marie Komárková, Mr. Jakub Kanta and Mr. Petr Motejl, DEKONTA, Czech Republic</i>
3.	Leak detection systems <i>Mr. Ted Smorenburg, SABIC, Netherlands</i>
4.	Inspection and rehabilitation of pipelines <i>Mr. Rainer Leipnitz, TÜV Süd, General Manager for Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, Germany</i>

Session III: Emergency response and cooperation	
1.	Transboundary emergency response action plan for the MERO pipeline <i>Mr. Bernd Zaayenga, Bavarian State Ministry of the Interior, Germany and Mr. Petr Kovac, MERO pipeline, Czech Republic</i>
2.	Pipeline safety systems and emergency response in Azerbaijan <i>Mr. Aligejdar Shakhmarov, Director, Emergency Response Centre, Azerbaijan</i>
Session IV: Legal and regulatory approaches	
1.	Activities at EU level on the control of major-accident hazards arising from pipelines conveying dangerous substances <i>Mr. Tobias Biermann, European Commission, DG Environment</i>
2.	International standards and recommended practices for the safety and environmental integrity level of international oil pipeline systems <i>Mr. Lars Bangert, Head of Unit "Pipeline Systems", ILF Consulting Engineers, Germany</i>
Concluding session	
Presentation of the draft safety guidelines/good practices for pipelines <i>Mr. Gerhard Winkelmann-Oei, Co-Chairman of the Joint ad hoc Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents, German Federal Environmental Agency</i>	
Discussion on the draft safety guidelines/good practices <i>Discussion leader: Mr. Walter Reinhard, Member of the National Pipeline Committee, Darmstadt District Council, Germany</i>	
Chairman's closing remarks – Mr. Jörg Ludwig	
Secretary's closing remarks – Mr. Sergiusz Ludwiczak	

Background documents:		
1.	Safety policy on the pipeline network of the Ukrainian Oil and Gas Company "Naftogaz"	<i>Mr. Vitaliy Palchik, Naftogaz, Ukraine</i>
2.	Environmental impact assessment of a transboundary pipeline in the Black Sea region	<i>Mr. Nikolai Grishin, Ecoterra, Environmental Assessment Agency, Russian Federation</i>
3.	Overview of the results of the environmental impact assessment concerning the Burgas-Alexandropolis oil pipeline	<i>Ms. Jacquelina Metodieva, Head of the Environmental Impact Assessment Department, Ministry of Environment and Water, Bulgaria</i>