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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

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

High-level Commitment Meeting  
Geneva, 14 – 15 December 2005

**PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME  
OF THE HIGH-LEVEL COMMITMENT MEETING**

to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva  
starting on Wednesday, 14 December at 3p.m.

**Introduction**

1. This document sets out the provisional programme for the High-level Commitment Meeting, which is one of the key steps in the preparatory phase of the internationally supported assistance programme for the East European, Caucasian and Central Asian (EECCA) and the South-East European (SEE) countries to enhance their efforts in implementing the Convention (for the full text of the programme, please see CP.TEIA/2004/2).
2. The programme received strong support from the Parties and was adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its third meeting, held in Budapest, on 27-30 October 2004. It was generally acknowledged that some countries in the UNECE region needed assistance to meet the Convention's rather complex requirements.
3. The programme is an example of concrete action within the UNECE framework to assist countries with economies in transition and to harmonize industrial safety standards across the region.

### Objectives

4. The High-level Commitment Meeting has the following key objectives:

(a) To ensure a common understanding of the different tasks under the Convention and what it takes to implement them;

(b) To obtain a firm commitment from the EECCA and SEE countries concerning the implementation of the Convention.

To this end, the heads of delegation of the EECCA and SEE countries will be expected to adopt a joint declaration (CP.TEIA/2005/10). Its text was agreed at an open-ended joint meeting of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties and the Working Group on Implementation, held in Warsaw, on 14 September 2005.

(c) To discuss how best to support further the implementation of the assistance programme, both financially and in kind.

Participants, in particular those representing countries of Central and Western Europe and North America, international financial institutions and programmes as well as the private sector will be invited to exchange views on how to secure further financial resources for the implementation of the programme, including a more equal sharing of the projected costs.

### Participation

5. High-level officials representing environmental and emergency response authorities from all UNECE member countries as well as representatives of international financial institutions and the industry are invited to take part in the meeting.

6. Information on expected and/or confirmed participation in the High-level Commitment Meeting will be posted, as it becomes available, on the Convention's website at the following address: <http://www.unece.org/env/teia/assistprog/prog-hlhtable.htm>

### Registration and financial assistance

7. Participants are requested to complete a registration form (available on the Convention's website at the following address: <http://www.unece.org/env/teia/assistprog/prog-hlm.htm>) and send it to the Convention's secretariat at the address indicated on the form as soon as possible but **not later than 25 November 2005**.

8. Participants from EECCA and SEE countries, who would like to receive financial support to facilitate their participation in the meeting, are requested to complete the registration form and the request for financial assistance (both forms are available on the Convention's website – see para 8) and send it to the secretariat at the address indicated on the form as soon as possible but **not later than 3 November 2005**. Please note that it may be impossible to process requests for financial assistance received after this date.

9. Other organizational details will be communicated through the Convention's website once they become available.

## Provisional programme

### Wednesday, 14 December 2005

#### Afternoon session (3 p.m. – 6 p.m.)

1. Opening of the meeting (3 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.)
  - Welcoming statement by the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe  
*(The High-level Commitment Meeting in a wider context)*
  - Election of the Chairman of the High-level Commitment Meeting  
*(A representative of one of the EECCA or SEE countries will chair the meeting)*
  - Introductory statement by a representative of the UNECE Environment and Human Settlements Division  
*(Implementation of the Convention: a priority; introduction to the assistance programme and purpose of the meeting)*  
  
*Mr. Kaj Bärlund, Director, Environment and Human Settlements Division, UNECE*
2. The Convention: an ideal legal instrument for the prevention of, preparedness for and response to industrial accidents (3.30 p.m. – 4.00 p.m.)  
*(Clearly defined scope; the key stakeholders: government, industry and the public; competent authorities; safety technology and cross border dimension)*  
  
*Mr. Ernst Berger (Switzerland), former Vice-Chairman of the Meeting of the Signatories and the first Chairperson of the Conference of the Parties (2000-2004)*
3. Safety management at hazardous installations (4.00 p.m. – 4.30 p.m.)  
*(Safety management systems and effective prevention measures)*  
  
*Speaker from a multinational chemical company or a chemical industry association to be announced*
4. Coffee break (4.30 p.m. – 5 p.m.)
5. Bridging prevention with preparedness for industrial accidents (5 p.m. – 5.30 p.m.)  
*(The role of competent authorities and other stakeholders in applying proper preparedness measures and facilitating effective emergency response)*  
  
*Mr. Jon Lea (Norway), Director General, Directorate for Civil Protection and Emergency Planning*
6. Cooperation in EECCA to implement the Convention (5.30 p.m. – 5.50 p.m.)  
*(The Council for the Cooperation on Safety of Hazardous Industrial Facilities; practical application of bilateral and multilateral agreements regarding the prevention of industrial accidents and mutual assistance in case of an emergency)*  
  
*Mr. Nurakhmet Bizhanov, (Kazakhstan), First Deputy Minister of Emergency Situations*
7. Chairman's concluding remarks after the first session (5.50 p.m. – 6 p.m.)

**Thursday, 15 December 2005**

**Morning session (10 a.m. – 1 p.m.)**

1. The Convention – effectively reaching out to EECCA and SEE (10 a.m. – 10.20 a.m.)  
*(Convention's priorities; strengthened implementation in the EECCA and SEE countries; the assistance programme – an effective support mechanism; declaration)*

*Mr. Ryszard Grosset, (Poland), Chairperson of the Conference of the Parties,  
Rector, Main School of the Fire Service*

2. Building an effective partnership among competent authorities to apply the Convention (two presentations – 10.20 a.m. – 11.00 a.m.)  
*(Commitment to working together in a cooperative spirit to implement the Convention and to take advantage of the assistance offered through the programme)*

*Deputy Minister of Environment and Water of Bulgaria*

*Speaker from an EECCA country, representing an emergency response authority, to be announced*

3. Adoption of the declaration (11.00 a.m. – 11.30 a.m.)  
*(Short statements by heads of delegation of the EECCA and SEE countries when adopting the declaration)*

4. Coffee break (11.30 a.m. – 11.45 p.m.)

5. The way forward: How can we best support the further implementation of the assistance programme? (11.45 a.m. – 12.45 p.m.)  
*(Expression of further financial and in-kind support towards the full implementation of the assistance programme and exchange of views on a more equal sharing of the projected costs)*

*Statements of representatives of Italy, Netherlands and Switzerland – major financial donors to the activities under the Convention, including the assistance programme.*

*Exchange of views: representatives of Central and Western European and North American countries, international financial institutions and programmes and industrial enterprises)*

6. Closing of the meeting (12.45 p.m. – 13 p.m.)

- Concluding remarks by the Chairman and a representative of the UNECE