



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

ECE/CP.TEIA/SEM.1/2006/1
ECE/MP.WAT/SEM.7/2006/1
9 January 2006

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

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

Joint Ad Hoc Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents

Workshop on the Prevention of Accidents of Gas
Transmission Pipelines

The Hague, 8 to 9 March 2006

INFORMATION NOTICE

Introduction

1. This Information Notice provides details concerning the organization of and participation in the Workshop. It also includes the provisional programme and information on the registration.
2. The Workshop is being organised under the auspices of the Economic Commission for Europe, at the invitation of the Government of the Netherlands. It was proposed by the Joint Ad Hoc Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents and accepted by the Conference of the Parties to the Industrial Accidents Convention at its third meeting (ECE/CP.TEIA/12).
3. Accidents involving pipelines that transport hazardous substances may have far-reaching effects on human health and the environment. The Parties to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents (Industrial Accidents Convention) and the Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) decided to share experience regarding pipeline safety as a step towards drawing up safety guidelines/good practices.

4. This document provides organizational details and a provisional programme for a Workshop on the prevention of accidents of gas transmission pipelines.

Objectives

5. The key objective of the Workshop is to exchange information on national and international developments in the field of gas pipeline safety, including the existing legal framework and best practices to prevent, control and reduce the impact of gas pipeline failures and accidents. The Workshop will mainly focus on: risk assessment, land-use planning; and information policy.

6. The Workshop participants are expected to assist and provide guidance to a steering group, established to draw up the safety guidelines/best practices for pipelines under the Industrial Accidents Convention and the Water Convention. A first version of the guidelines was already discussed by participants of another Workshop held in Berlin on 8 and 9 June 2005, namely on the prevention of water pollution due to pipeline accidents. For further background information on the process of preparing these guidelines, please see CP.TEIA/2005/1 – MP.WAT/WG.1/2005/1.

Dates and venue

7. The Workshop will take place on Wednesday and Thursday, 8 and 9 March 2006, at the invitation of the Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment of the Netherlands.

8. It will be held at the Parkhotel Den Haag at the following address:

Molenstraat 53
2513 BJ The Hague
Netherlands
Tel: +31 70 362 43 71
Fax: +31 70 361 4525
Internet: www.parkhoteldenhaag.nl

Programme of the Workshop

9. A provisional programme of the Workshop is annexed.

Working languages

10. The Workshop will be conducted in English and Russian.

Participation

11. The Workshop is open to experts from all UNECE member countries, both from the authorities as well as from the industry and non-governmental organizations.

12. Participants from countries with economies in transition, particularly Parties to the Conventions who are eligible for financial support (see ECE/CP.TEIA/12, annex V, decision 2004/5, appendix III) could receive such support to facilitate their participation in the Workshop. The Government of the Netherlands has made financial resources available for this purpose.

Registration of participants

13. Each participant should complete a registration form available on the website at: (www.minvrom.nl/workshoppipelines) and return it to the organizers in the Netherlands at the address indicated on the registration form as soon as possible but **not later than 31 January 2006**.
14. Each registered participant will receive a confirmation in early February, together with other necessary information.
15. Participants eligible and wishing to receive financial support should in addition complete a financial request form available on the website of the Industrial Accidents Convention at: (<http://www.unece.org/env/teia/water/pipeline/hagueworkshop.htm>) and send it to the secretariat as soon as possible **but not later than 20 January 2006**.

Arrival of participants, transport and hotel accommodation

16. Participants should arrange their own transfer from Amsterdam Schiphol Airport to the meeting venue in The Hague on arrival and back to the airport upon departure. There are frequent train services between Amsterdam Schiphol Airport and The Hague (30 minutes).
17. Participants are expected to arrive in The Hague on Tuesday, 7 March 2006. Accommodation will be arranged for them at the Parkhotel Den Haag (venue of the Workshop - see paragraph 6) by the Dutch organizers on the basis of information provided in the registration form. A registration desk will be open to assist participants on 7 March from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. It will also be open on 8 March from 8.30 a.m. throughout the Workshop.

Visas

18. Participants requiring an entry visa should contact their nearest diplomatic representation of the Netherlands. Visas will be issued free of charge.

Additional information

19. Additional information can be obtained from:
- (a) Ms. Ingrid Vorsters on registration, hotel accommodation and transport;
Tel. +31 70 376 6733; E-mail: workshoppipelines@atp.nl;
- (b) Mr. Bas Weenink or Ms. Carla Speel on the Workshop's programme;
Tel: + 31 70 339 2939; E-mail: bas.weenink@minvrom.nl; or Tel: + 31 70 339 3062;
E-mail: carla.speel@minvrom.nl.

Annex

**PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME
WORKSHOP ON PREVENTION OF ACCIDENTS OF GAS TRANSMISSIONS PIPELINE**

Tuesday, 7 March 2006	
Afternoon	Arrival of participants
	Registration of participants
17.00-19.00	Informal reception
Wednesday, 8 March 2006	
8.30 – 9.30	Registration of participants
9.30 – 9.45	Opening of the Workshop <i>Mr. Cees Moons, Director, External Safety Directorate, Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and Environment, Netherlands</i>
	Election of the Chairman
9.45 – 12.30	Session I: Setting the scene
	UNECE initiative with respect to pipeline safety <i>Mr. Sergiusz Ludwiczak, Secretary of the Conference of the Parties to the Industrial Accidents Convention</i>
	European gas industry – pro-active attitude concerning pipeline safety <i>Mr. Daniel Hec, Marcogaz</i>
	Coffee break
	Environmental Impact Assessment of a Transboundary Pipeline in the Black Sea Region <i>Mr. Nikolai Grishin, Ecoterra Environmental Assessment Agency, Russian Federation</i>
	Comparison of safety aspects: oil versus gas pipelines <i>Speaker to be announced</i>
	Lunch
13.30 – 15.30	Session II: Risk Assessment on pipelines – methods and criteria
	The German approach <i>Mr. Klaus Söntgerath, Landesbergamt Clausthal-Zellerfeld, Germany</i>
	The Dutch approach <i>Mr. Gerald Laheij, RIVM, Netherlands</i>
	The Swiss approach <i>Mr. Bernard Gay, Swiss Agency for Environment, Forests and Landscape (SAEFL) Division Air, NIR, Safety Section, Safety of Installations</i>
	Coffee break

15.30 – 17.00	Session III: Land-use planning
	Example for land-use planning policies, good practices <i>Mr. Michael Struckl, European Commission, Joint Research Centre, Ispra</i>
	Land-use planning and policy in the Netherlands <i>Ms. Carla Speel-Zuiderwijk, External Safety Directorate, Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and Environment, Netherlands</i>
	Damage prevention and land-use planning <i>Mr. Ken Paulson, Team Leader, Operations Compliance Team, National Energy Board, Canada</i>
	Evening programme
Thursday, 9 March 2006	
09.30 - 12.00	Session IV: Information Policy
	Risk communication on pipeline safety in Georgia <i>Mr. Revaz Enukidze, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources, Georgia</i>
	Prevention of third party interference <i>Ms. A. van Rijn, Ministry of Economic Affairs, Netherlands</i>
	Coffee break
	Principles of the safety management system in the gas transmission: the Snam Rete Gas experience <i>Mr. Pierluigi Caribotti, Health Safety and Innovation Manager, Snam Rete Gas, Italy</i>
	Guideline for the Definition of Performance Indicators for Safety Management Systems <i>Mr. Rien Kornalijnslijper and Mr. Jeroen Zanting, Gasunie (member of the Marcogaz Working Group), Netherlands</i>
	Lunch
13.00 – 15.00	Session V: Lessons learnt
	Gas Pipeline Explosion at Ghislenghien, Belgium <i>Ms. Berenice Crabs, Fluxys, Belgium</i>
	Pipeline accident in Nordrhein Westfalen, Germany <i>Mr. Norbert Wiese, Landesumweltamt Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany</i>
	EGIG database – lessons learnt from accidents <i>Mr. Dick van den Brand, Gasunie, Netherlands</i>
	Coffee break
15.00 – 16.45	Concluding session Discussion on the draft safety guidelines/good practices for pipelines
16.45 – 17.00	Closing of the Workshop Departure of participants