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EFFECTS OF INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS

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**ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME FOR THE COUNTRIES OF EASTERN EUROPE,
CAUCASUS AND CENTRAL ASIA AND SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE TO ENHANCE
THEIR EFFORTS IN IMPLEMENTING THE CONVENTION**

Draft action plan for the implementation phase of the Assistance Programme

Prepared by the Chairperson of the Conference of the Parties and the Chairman of the Working
Group on Implementation in cooperation with the Convention's secretariat *

Introduction

1. The countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) and South-Eastern Europe (SEE) which implemented the basic tasks under the Convention as contained in CP.TEIA/2004/2 chapter IV (the first paragraphs of sections A–J) are eligible to participate in capacity-building activities and take advantage of the advisory services and pilot projects which will be offered in the implementation phase of the Assistance Programme.
2. This document contains proposals for concrete assistance activities in 2007–2008, including estimates of the resources required.

* This document was submitted on the above data because of processing delays.

Proposals for assistance activities

3. Priority should be given to the activities that most adequately address the needs identified by the fact-finding teams in countries of EECCA and SEE. Each activity should be carefully prepared. The emphasis is on the quality of events and not their quantity.

4. Taking the above into account, the following six areas of capacity-building are proposed for consideration by the Conference of the Parties for the period 2007–2008 (see the annex for detailed descriptions):

(a) Institutional framework for the implementation of the Convention, roles of competent authorities and points of contact; vertical and horizontal cooperation;

(b) Regulatory framework for the implementation of the Convention, identification and filling of gaps in national legislation;

(c) Identification of hazardous activities under the Convention;

(d) Cooperation and tasks of operators and authorities to ensure safety at hazardous activities;

(e) Facilitation of cooperation between Central Asian countries under the Convention;

(f) Bilateral cooperation, including drawing up bilateral agreements on preparedness for and response to emergencies.

5. The above activities were selected from a broad list of activities which resulted from the discussions between the fact-finding teams and representatives of competent authorities of EECCA and SEE countries. They also include the needs expressed in the national implementation reports and contained in the list drawn up by the Working Group on Implementation (ECE/CP.TEIA/2006/2, annex III).

6. The above capacity-building activities will be further elaborated by the Bureau together with the Working Group on Implementation and with the support of the secretariat. Their implementation will be monitored, and their impact will be evaluated and reported back to the Conference of the Parties. Representatives of the countries of EECCA and SEE will have an opportunity to participate in this process and to give their feedback on the effects of the activities. They will be also invited to propose follow-up activities, in particular pilot projects that they would need in order to strengthen the implementation of the Convention.

7. The implementation of the action plan for 2007–2008, estimated to cost around 735,000 EUR (cost of activities and programme support), will be financed from the financial and in-kind contributions provided to the Assistance Programme by Central and West European countries, international organizations, financial institutions and programmes, and the private sector.

Annex

Description of activities

A. Institutional framework for the implementation of the Convention, roles of competent authorities and points of contact; vertical and horizontal cooperation

Objective – Improved, more effective cooperation between authorities in implementing the Convention, including enhanced understanding of the roles of institutions.

Description – Participants will receive guidance for setting up an institutional framework for the Convention and the roles of different authorities, including points of contact, and how these roles should be distributed. They will also have a chance to analyse the institutional frameworks in their countries, discuss the distribution of roles and identify possible areas for improvement. Before attending the workshop, participants will be asked to submit an analysis of the institutional frameworks in their countries.

Activity – A workshop for 25–30 participants from EECCA and SEE countries representing administrative/institutional decision makers and heads of authorities that will have to work together to implement the Convention. The estimated cost of this activity is 100,000 EUR.

B. Regulatory framework for the implementation of the Convention, identification and filling of gaps in national legislation

Objective – Enhancement of national legislation; transposition of the Convention's provisions.

Description – Guidance and support by legal experts will be provided to identify areas that are not covered or are covered by conflicting text in the relevant national legislation, and to draft new legislation.

Activity – A legal advisory service delivered by legal experts who will visit countries of EECCA and SEE that request this service. The estimated cost of this service for 12 months' worth of services is 120,000 EUR.

C. Identification of hazardous activities under the Convention

Objective – Identification of hazardous activities according to the Convention's criteria by the countries of EECCA and SEE, using knowledge and know-how gained in how to apply annex I and the location criteria.

Description – Participants will receive technical information on the substances and categories of substances in annex I and the concept of threshold quantities. Different widely available sources of information on chemical substances (lists, databases, etc.) will be presented. The purpose and use of location criteria under the Convention will be explained. Participants will benefit from hands-on training in identifying those activities in their countries which fall within the scope of

the Convention. Participants will be required to prepare a preliminary list of activities before attending the training.

Activity – A “training for trainers” session for 15–20 experts from countries of EECCA and SEE representing institutions responsible for implementation of the Convention. The estimated cost of this activity is 85,000 EUR.

D. Cooperation and tasks of operators and authorities to ensure safety at hazardous activities

Objective – Improved safety of hazardous installations through awareness raised and knowledge gained by authorities and industry regarding their roles in implementing safety measures and strengthened cooperation.

Description – Participants will be shown how operators can ensure the safety of their activities by implementing safety measures beyond the mere application of legal safety policies. These measures include good practices in increasing safety through awareness raising, introduction of a safety culture, operational discipline, and commitment to safety at all levels. Basic elements of a safety management system will be described. Participants will also receive information on proven instruments that authorities at all levels can use to ensure the necessary level of safety, such as inspections, licensing procedures and review of safety reports. The role of authorities in promoting the implementation of safety measures will be explained. Good practices for establishing cooperation between authorities and industry will be shared.

Activity – Two subregional workshops for 15–20 participants (per workshop) representing authorities and industrial associations or industry. The estimated cost of one such activity is 55,000 EUR.

E. Facilitation of cooperation between Central Asian countries under the Convention

Objective – To facilitate the establishment of cross-border cooperation between countries of Central Asia in prevention, preparedness for and response to industrial accidents.

Description – Participants will be informed of the benefits of establishing and maintaining cross-border cooperation. The Convention will be presented as an optimal framework for establishing such cooperation. Specific challenges and benefits for multilateral cooperation between countries of Central Asia will be discussed. Recommendations for the way forward will be drawn up.

Activity – A subregional meeting for 15 participants representing at a high level the ministries of foreign affairs, the environment, the interior and emergency situations from countries of Central Asia. The estimated cost of this activity is 45,000 EUR.

F. Bilateral cooperation, including drawing up bilateral agreements on preparedness for and response to emergencies

Objective – Strengthening of bilateral cooperation between countries of EECCA and SEE under the Convention through understanding the role of bilateral agreements and gaining knowledge of how to implement them.

Description – Participants will receive information on experiences and good practices in establishing bilateral cooperation under the Convention. The benefits of such cooperation will be highlighted on the basis of real case studies. Guidance will be given on how to develop and implement bilateral agreements as well as how to use them in drawing up joint cross-border contingency plans, and in how to organize joint responses to emergencies.

Activity – Two workshops for 12–15 participants (per workshop) representing experts and decision makers from ministries of the interior and emergency situations as well as local authorities. The estimated cost of one such activity is 45,000 EUR.