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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

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

Fourth meeting
Rome (Italy), 15–17 November 2006
Item 10 of the provisional agenda

UNECE INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENT NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

**Draft decision on increasing the effectiveness of and enhancing the communication
procedures within the UNECE IAN System**

Prepared and submitted by the Chairpersons of the second consultation of points of contact for the purpose of accident notification and mutual assistance designated within the UNECE IAN System and of the first meeting of the task force to review the System's communication procedures

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling the provisions of articles 10, 12, and 17 of the Convention,

Noting the outcome of the second consultation of points of contact for the purpose of accident notification and mutual assistance designated within the UNECE Industrial Accident Notification (IAN) System and of the first meeting of the task force to review the communication procedures under the System (CP.TEIA/2005/11), and

Taking into account the results of the two rounds of tests of the System performed by Italy and the Russian Federation in 2005 and by Austria and Bulgaria in 2006 (ECE/CP.TEIA/2006/7),

1. Requests the Parties to the Convention, and invites other UNECE member countries, to ensure that points of contact designated or established according to article 17, paragraph 2, of the Convention comply with the obligations under the Convention and the procedures under the System and respond properly in the event of industrial accidents and during tests;
2. Encourages the points of contact to continue their efforts to enhance the effectiveness of the System and to review it at their next consultation, preferably to take place in 2007;
3. Requests points of contact of Parties and other UNECE member countries to perform tests of the System according to a schedule and procedures developed by the secretariat;
4. Invites the UNECE secretariat to continue coordinating the testing of the System and collecting and reporting the results;
5. Requests the UNECE secretariat to maintain a list of points of contact on the Convention's website, with restricted access;
6. Reminds the points of contact about their obligation to inform the secretariat without delay of any changes to their contact details;
7. Decides to:
 - (a) Enhance the current communication procedures of the System by introducing Web-based notification, while keeping fax notification as a back-up procedure;
 - (b) Maintain the current requirements of the System and to implement the prototype of a simple Web-based notification application, developed jointly by the UNECE and the Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit, to improve communication between points of contact;
 - (c) Request the secretariat to outsource the task of making the prototype a working application, preferably by the end of 2007;
 - (d) Extend the current requirements of the System to management of responses to industrial accidents, and to implement the Infra-web System;
 - (e) Establish an expert group to draw up a proposal to modify the requirements of the System to be presented to the fifth Conference of the Parties.