

Report on the Activities of the Bureau 2007-2008

Ms. Giuliana GASPARRINI (Italy)

Chairperson of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties

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Members of the Bureau in the term 2007-2008:

- **Ms. Giuliana GASPARRINI (Italy) - Chairperson**
- Mr. Lajos KATAI-URBAN (Hungary) - Vice-Chairperson
- Mr. Bernard GAY (Switzerland) - Vice-Chairperson
- Ms. Anahit Aleksandryan (Armenia)
- Mr. Aleksandr Dokuchaev (Belarus)
- Mr. Nikolay Savov (Bulgaria)
- Mr. Gerhard Winkelmann-Oei (Germany)
- Mr. Chris Dijkens (Netherlands)
- Ms. Jasmina Karba (Slovenia)
- Mr. Tobias Biermann (European Commission)

Meetings of the Bureau:

- Tenth meeting 15-16 February, Geneva as a joint meeting with WGI,
- Eleventh meeting 23-24 October 2007, Tonsberg, Norway as a joint meeting with WGI,
- Twelfth meeting 17 April 2008, Karlstad, Sweden as a joint meeting with WGI,
- Thirteenth meeting 7-8 July 2008, Rome.
- Joint Teleconference with the Bureau of the Water Convention (4 November 2008)

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Tasks of the Bureau entrusted to it by the Conference (ECE/CP.TEIA/15) of the Parties (fourth meeting) were related to:

- Assistance Programme
- UNECE Industrial Accidents Notification System
- Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents
- Protocol on Civil Liability

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The work carried out within the Assistance Programme:

- A. Support to the countries of EECCA and SEE in the preparatory phase of the Assistance Programme and review of the progress
- B. Support to the countries participating in the implementation phase of the Programme to address their needs and review of the progress; and
- C. Elaboration of the action plan for the implementation phase of the Assistance Programme in such a way that it would establish specific activities and priorities for both the short and long term, including indicators and related financial planning, so as to form a strategic approach.

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Preparatory phase, fact-finding missions:

- Monitoring of organization of fact-finding missions to Croatia, Kazakhstan, Serbia and Uzbekistan;
- Review and evaluation of reports of the fact-finding missions, and based on results decision to invite:
 - (a) Croatia, Kazakhstan and Serbia to the implementation phase of the Programme,
 - (b) Uzbekistan to finalize implementation of remaining basic tasks and to report back
- Acknowledgment of the interest of Albania to join the activities under the Assistance Programme and invitation to host the fact-finding mission.

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Preparatory phase, review of implementation of basic tasks:

- Review and evaluation of the reports from Georgia, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan on the implementation of the remaining basic tasks and based on results a decision to invite:
 - (a) Georgia to the implementation phase
 - (b) Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan to provide additional information on the implementation of the basic tasks

Tajikistan did not provide any report.

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Preparatory phase, assistance to countries lacking capacities to implement basic tasks:

Elaboration of a concept for organizing awareness-raising missions (10th meeting) to provide assistance to countries lacking capacities to implement the basic tasks.

Review of the progress in organizing the awareness-raising missions - Mission to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (26 and 27 November 2007) – acknowledgement of results and invitation to the country to report on its progress to the Conference of the Parties

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Implementation phase, support to the countries

- Review of priority needs - discussion with the representatives of participating countries (to ensure bottom-up approach) on the priority needs and decision to organize adequate assistance activities:
 - Capacity-building activity with the aim to initiate a process to further strengthen the legal and institutional framework under the Convention in EECCA and SEE countries (Kiev, 5-7 December 2007, organizational concept approved in 11th meeting).
 - Workshop on strengthening safety measures at hazardous installations (Vadul-lui-Voda, Moldova, 13-14 December 2007, organizational concept approved in 11th meeting).
 - Training on the identification on hazardous activities (Minsk, 21-22 October 2008, organizational concept approved in the 12th meeting)
 - Training on integrated approach to the major hazard prevention system (under preparation, organizational concept approved in 13th meeting)
 - Project proposal with the aim to promote the joint management of transboundary emergencies involving large spills of hazardous substances to the Danube River (under preparation, organizational concept approved at the 11th meeting)

Implementation phase, strategic approach

Establishment of a task force consisting of Bureau and WGI members (10th meeting)

Monitoring of the task force's work - comments and feedback

Approval of the Strategic Approach (13th meeting) and submission to the Conference of the Parties for adoption

Industrial Accidents Notification System

Approval of the concept to implement the decision 2006/3 on increasing the effectiveness of and enhancing the communications procedure under the IAN System (IT consultant for the development, steering group consisting of representatives of points of contact to oversee the development process) – (10th meeting)

Monitoring of the decision's implementation (11th, 13th meeting)

Review and acknowledgment of the outcome of the Third Consultation for Points of Contact designated under the IAN System (Sibiu, Romania, 1-3 April 2008); (13th meeting)

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Activities of the Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents

Approval of the organizational concept for the JEG's task to elaborate guidelines on Tailings Management Facilities including organization of workshop (10th meeting);

Monitoring of the JEG's work (11th, 12th. and 13th meeting)

Discussion on the challenges faced by JEG (13th meeting and the teleconference with the Bureau of the Water Convention)

Elaboration together with the Bureau of the Water Convention of a proposal to develop a strategy for JEG and its submission to the Conference of the Parties for consideration

Protocol on Civil Liability

Monitoring together with the Bureau of the Water Convention of preparations to a workshop to review developments, problems and concerns regarding the ratification of the Protocol on Civil Liability (Budapest, 21-22 May 2007(10th meeting);

Review of the key findings of the Workshop (11th meeting)

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Others

Approval of the fourth report on implementation (13th meeting) and submission to the Conference of the Parties for adoption

Support to the secretariat in fundraising