

---

**Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention  
on the Prohibition of the Development,  
Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological  
(Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their  
Destruction**

19 August 2010

English Only

---

**2010 Meeting**

Geneva, 6–10 December 2010

**Meeting of Experts**

Geneva, 23–27 August 2010

Item 5 of the provisional agenda

**Consideration of the provision of assistance and  
coordination with relevant organizations upon  
request by any State Party in the case of alleged  
use of biological or toxin weapons, including  
improving national capabilities for disease surveillance,  
detection and diagnosis and public health systems.**

**Joint training as a key resource for improving  
biopreparedness**

**Submitted by Germany**

1. Medical symptoms of an infectious disease may deviate from normal patterns in case an infectious agent is distributed in an unusual way by terrorists. Correct and timely medical diagnosis as well as linking the outbreak of disease to a terrorist attack may be delayed. For minimizing lead time for detection of an alleged or real biological attack close cooperation and joint training of public health and law enforcement are an indispensable prerequisite.
2. The development of a training concept for increasing preparedness against a terrorist attack has to be built on the cross-sectoral threat potential of bioterrorism, considering
  - (a) acute perception in politics and society;
  - (b) often delayed recognition of attack;
  - (c) insufficient knowledge and experience for risk assessment;
  - (d) insufficient experience with related disease patterns;
  - (e) rapid depletion of staff and structural resources;
  - (f) training deficits in first response structures (public health services, primary care facilities, law enforcement agencies).
3. Germany's preparedness concept is built on an integrated management system that combines activities in the areas of detection (primary care, laboratories, public health), management (public health, response centres), treatment (primary care, treatment centres)

and investigation (forensics, laboratories, law enforcement). Based on this approach the Robert Koch Institut (RKI) developed the AMBIT (Advanced Management of Biological Threats) training concept. The AMBIT concept is used for national training but played also a substantial role in the G8 Joint LEPH (Law Enforcement/Public Health) Exercise in 2008 in Berlin.

4. AMBIT follows a multidisciplinary approach to integrated management and is based on modular construction, focuses on practical training, includes real life exercises, makes use of video assisted elements and is based on recent standards of knowledge. Didactical sustainability is achieved by alternating use of different teaching and exercise techniques.

5. Key elements of the joint LEPH approach are establishing close contact between public health and law enforcement for exchange of information, joint first response, joint sampling and recognition, common actions, and joint communication to the media and the public.

6. The AMBIT concept is also contained in handbooks for information and training developed and published by Bundesamt für Bevölkerungsschutz und Katastrophenhilfe (Federal Office of Civil Protection and Disaster Assistance) together with RKI:

- (a) Biologische Gefahren I (Biological Risks I - Guideline for Civil Protection)<sup>1</sup>: addresses first responders, disaster relief organisations, police and medical services,
- (b) Biologische Gefahren II (Biological Risks II - Guideline for Adequate Medical Management in a B-Scenario)<sup>2</sup>: addresses biological threat agents, medical prevention and treatment of infectious diseases.

Criminal police follow the procedures of the FBI Criminal and Epidemiological Investigation Handbook based on a version adapted to German law and organizational structures.

---

---

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.bbk.bund.de/cln\\_027/nn\\_398738/SharedDocs/Publikationen/Publikationen\\_20Forschung/Biologische\\_20Gefahren\\_20I\\_203\\_20Auflage.html](http://www.bbk.bund.de/cln_027/nn_398738/SharedDocs/Publikationen/Publikationen_20Forschung/Biologische_20Gefahren_20I_203_20Auflage.html)

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.bbk.bund.de/cln\\_027/nn\\_398738/SharedDocs/Publikationen/Publikationen\\_20Forschung/Biologische\\_20Gefahren\\_20II\\_20Medizinische\\_20Versorgung.html](http://www.bbk.bund.de/cln_027/nn_398738/SharedDocs/Publikationen/Publikationen_20Forschung/Biologische_20Gefahren_20II_20Medizinische_20Versorgung.html)