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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE  
**COMMITTEE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY  
AND ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT**

### **AD HOC GROUP OF EXPERTS ON THE CHEMICAL INDUSTRY**

Sixth ad hoc Meeting for the Pilot project  
demonstrating the environmental clean-up  
of selected sites polluted by chemicals

27 April 1999

#### **PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

for the Meeting to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva  
starting at 10 a.m., Tuesday, 27 April 1999

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Election of officers
3. Current situation at sites selected as first priority
4. Current situation at other sites
5. Inclusion of additional sites in first priority list
6. Future work of Task Force of Experts on the Pilot Project
7. *Compendium of Soil Clean-up Technologies and Soil Remediation Companies*; discussion on its future presentation and updating
8. Seminar on Analysis, Methodology of Treatment and Remediation of Contaminated Soils (Paris, 13-15 April 1999)
9. Proposals for further work, including timetable
10. Any other business

## **EXPLANATORY NOTES**

### Preliminary remark

1. Symbols of documents for this project have been changed from CHEM/AC.29 to TRADE/CHEM/AC.1 as a consequence of the restructuring of UN/ECE. The former Working Party on the Chemical Industry has been changed to an ad hoc Group of Experts on the Chemical Industry and is incorporated within the ECE secretariat in the Trade Division, Enterprise Development Section.

### Introduction

2. The Working Party on the Chemical Industry, at its third session in October 1993, decided to undertake a Pilot project demonstrating the environmental clean-up of selected sites polluted by chemicals, designed principally to assist countries in transition (ECE/CHEM/92, para. 15). The first Meeting of Experts, held on 2 March 1994, divided the project into two stages:

- (a) Collection and processing of data and selection of sites; and
- (b) Actual clean-up operations and publication of results.

A questionnaire was sent to countries in transition in order to collect the necessary data.

3. A second Meeting of Experts was held on 1-2 June 1995 to discuss the data assembled through the questionnaire and select the first sites to be submitted to a pilot clean-up operation. Some 40 sites had been submitted by 15 countries and evaluated by two independent teams of experts. This evaluation resulted in the selection of five sites to be examined as a first priority, namely:

- Bicapa, Romania (heavy metals);
- Synthesia, Czech Republic (heavy metals, aromatic hydrocarbons, PCBs, chlorinated hydrocarbons);
- Wire Works, Hungary (heavy metals);
- Minsk Tanneries, Belarus (chromium compounds); and
- Bulkolor, Bulgaria (dyes).

A further 10 sites were selected for which the priority was lower or additional data were required. The Meeting suggested that the project be an ongoing one, progressing as funds and technology became available, so that ultimately one site would be decontaminated in each of the countries that had made a submission.

4. At the same Meeting, a Task Force of Experts on the pilot project was set up to inspect all the sites in the first priority list, validate the data in the replies to the questionnaire, recommend clean-up methods, assist in evaluating the costs and identify companies to perform the clean-up operations. The Task Force met in November 1995 in Bucharest to check the results of the evaluation of six sites (the five sites chosen as a first priority and the Piaski site in Poland, contaminated by gas oil) and prepare a report.

5. The third Meeting of Experts, held on 8 December 1995, approved the report by the Task Force, reviewed additional site data, established budgets for the clean-up of three sites (Synthesia, Wire Works and Bicapa) and decided that the other first priority sites did not fall within the scope of the project. Two additional sites were selected as a first priority:

- Incukalns, Latvia (phenols, hydrocarbons and heavy metals); and
- Matadorfix, Slovakia (BTX and oil).

It was also noted that the decontamination of the Piaski site in Poland had been completed.

6. It was further decided to publish a compendium of decontamination technologies and specialized companies active in the field.

7. At the fourth Meeting of Experts, held on 26 February 1997, consideration of new sites in Albania, Kyrgyzstan and Ukraine was proposed. It was also recommended to change the first priority site of Slovakia from Matadorfix to Chemolak (hydrocarbons, solvents). Each first priority site should be assigned to a member of the Task Force. In-depth studies were completed for some first priority sites.

8. The funding of the project was discussed at both the Bucharest Meeting of the Task Force and the third Meeting of Experts, but no immediate or simple solutions were found, notwithstanding the participation of several financing bodies at the Bucharest Meeting. The secretariat therefore prepared an extended list of potential sources of financial assistance, which was distributed at the fourth Meeting.

9. At the fifth Meeting of Experts, held on 27 April 1998, reports were presented on the progress made on several sites, including the Polish Widawka site, which had been completely cleaned up. The other Polish site, Piaski, had also been completely cleaned, but financial details of the project could not be released due to Government restriction on the data. Further data were presented for the Ukraine Radikal site at Vatutinsk, and requests had also been recorded from Kyrgyzstan and Albania.

Item 1: Adoption of the agenda

10. In accordance with the Commission's rules of procedure, the first item on the provisional agenda is the adoption of the agenda.

Item 2: Election of officers

11. In accordance with the Commission's rules of procedure and established practice, the Meeting is expected to elect a Chairman.

Item 3: Current situation at the sites selected as first priority

12. Delegations from countries having first priority sites are expected to report on the present situation at those sites: clean-up methods which have been selected, budget for the clean-up, funding of the operation, selection of the industrial operators, etc. The Meeting should establish mechanisms for choosing industrial partners when this has not yet been done.

Item 4: Current situation at other sites

13. Delegations of other countries may report on the situation of sites located in their countries.

14. Preliminary reports by experts of the Task Force may be available on the sites in Albania, Kyrgyzstan and Ukraine submitted at the fourth Meeting of Experts. At the time of writing of this agenda,

only the new Ukrainian submission was available as a reply to the questionnaire and none of the new sites had been visited by the experts.

Item 5: Inclusion of additional sites in the first priority list

15. As a function of the advancement of the previous projects and the availability of national and international funding, the Meeting should discuss the possible inclusion of additional sites in the first priority list.

Item 6: Future work of the Task Force of Experts on the Pilot Project

16. The Meeting should discuss the future programme of work for the Task Force, comprising all the points which have not yet been accomplished in their mandate described hereunder and possibly other points:

- (a) Discuss with donor countries and organizations;
- (b) Hold a general discussion on the funding of the clean-up of each of the sites in the first group;
- (c) Update the database of clean-up companies and remediation methods;
- (d) Call for the services needed;
- (e) Inspect and make a complete evaluation of each of the sites in the first group;
- (f) Verify data provided in answers to the questionnaire and the methodology for obtaining those data;
- (g) Recommend one or more methods for the clean-up and remediation of the site;
- (h) Estimate the full costs and establish a budget for the clean-up;
- (i) Recommend a company to perform the clean-up.

17. The distribution of tasks among the members of the Task Force might also be reconsidered, taking into account their present availability and responsibilities. The previous Meeting suggested the following sponsorships:

Mr. Čoupek	Synthesia (Czech Republic)
Mr. Mejstřík	Chemolac (Slovakia)
Mr. Felix	Bulkolor (Bulgaria)
	Incukalns (Latvia)
Mr. Motiu	Bicapa (Romania)
Mr. Biagioli	4 December Wire Works (Hungary)
Mr. Rauber	Future Workshop in Paris (see para. 20)
Mr. Družina	contacts with NATO/CCMS

Item 7: *Compendium of Soil Clean-up Technologies and Soil Remediation Companies*; discussion on its future presentation and updating

18. The *Compendium of Soil Clean-up Technologies and Soil Remediation Companies* (ECE/CHEM/115), which was issued and presented to the seventh and final session of the Working Party on the Chemical Industry in October 1997, is in the process of being up-dated.. As the ECE secretariat does not have sufficient resources to produce an updated edition, a joint publication venture with UNIDO has been arranged such that UNIDO will provide funds for an external consultant and some in-kind editing assistance, and ECE will supervise the project, produce and distribute questionnaires, and print the final

product as a joint publication, carrying the symbols of both organizations. Both organizations will distribute the publication.

19. The *Compendium* is divided into two sections:

- (a) A database on 19 soil clean-up technologies; each technology is identified by a unique number from 1 to 19; newer technologies will be added. Other criteria that may be included in the up-dating cover safety aspects and data requirements.
- (b) A database on soil remediation companies in 19 UN/ECE countries; the technologies used by each company are coded with the above-mentioned identifying numbers. Companies in other countries will be added as data becomes available through a new questionnaire.

The experts will be asked to discuss the document and to suggest improvements for a future edition.

20. It was suggested by some experts to extend the list of companies to consulting firms able to make financial planning. Some consulting firms are already included in the present issue, together with the actual decontamination companies; these have been given a number (22) indicating that their activity is consulting. Several companies with very few employees, but a lot of technologies, are probably either consulting firms or general contractors using subcontractors to perform the actual work.

21. It had been suggested that water decontamination technologies be added. This naturally would involve a new questionnaire. Some companies are already listed which perform water decontamination and thus two water decontamination technologies (identified by numbers 20 and 21) were added to the list of soil decontamination technologies. This provisional classification is used before the group of experts decides to refine it further.

Item 8: Seminar on Analysis, Methodology of Treatment and Remediation of Contaminated Soils (Paris, 13-15 April 1999)

22. The Working Party on the Chemical Industry, at its seventh and final session, approved the proposal of the Government of France to hold a Workshop on "Analysis, Methodology of Treatment and Remediation of Contaminated Soils" in Paris on 13-15 April 1999, as a follow-up to the International Workshop on Soil Decontamination Technologies held in Paris in December 1995. For organizational reasons the Workshop was converted to a Seminar within the UN/ECE secretariat. The Seminar has six sessions with some 34 oral presentations and over 40 poster presentations. It is expected that an oral report on the results of the Seminar will be made by a representative of the French Government.

Item 9: Proposals for further work, including timetable

23. The Meeting is expected to agree on how to proceed with further development of the project, such as selection of companies that will perform the actual clean-up operations at each of the selected sites, funding of the decontamination of sites for which no donor has been found, and a timetable for future work. The Meeting should also decide on the date, place and topics to be discussed at the next Meeting.

24. The following updated timetable is submitted to the Meeting for its consideration:

Immediately	Search for interested decontamination companies; Further search for donor countries and organizations; Fund raising by countries with support from ECE; Implementation of stage II at the sites which are ready: pilot clean-up processes and data collection.
April 1999	Draft of case history reports;
April 2000	Seventh ad hoc Meeting for discussion of those cases.
1999-2000	Ongoing procedure for starting the projects not selected in the first group.
End 1999	Draft UN/ECE publication on successfully completed clean-up projects.
2000	Issuance of UN/ECE publication.

Item 10: Other business

25. At the time of writing, the secretariat has no other business to propose under this item.

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