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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 Meeting of Experts for the Pilot Project  
Demonstrating the Environmental Clean-up  
of Selected Sites Polluted by Chemicals

27 April 1999

### REPORT ON THE SIXTH MEETING OF EXPERTS

Prepared by the secretariat

#### Introduction

1. The sixth Meeting of Experts was held on 27 April 1999. A detailed historical review of this project, which was launched in October 1992 and whose first Meeting was held in March 1994, was provided in the report of the fifth Meeting held in April 1998 (TRADE/CHEM/AC.1/2).
2. Representatives of the following countries participated: Czech Republic, France, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Poland, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland, Turkey and Ukraine.

#### Adoption of the agenda

3. The Meeting adopted its provisional agenda (TRADE/CHEM/AC.1/3).

#### Election of officers

4. Mr. J. Čoupek (Czech Republic) was elected Chairman. In an introductory statement Mr. Čoupek commented on several meetings he had had with the Bureau of the Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development, which considered this project to be of great importance.

Current situation at sites selected as first priority

5. A detailed progress report was provided for the Synthesia site in the Czech Republic; progress on the complex site had been very positive. An extensive review will be held this summer (1999) to examine the groundwater position as well.

6. The Task Force had not been able to obtain much information from the Chemolak site at Smolenice in Slovakia, and it was suggested that that site be removed from the priority list. Apparently the technological solution to the remediation was not a problem, but financing was not available.

7. The position at Bulcolor in Bulgaria was delayed due to lack of funding and changes in the Government. Funds for the clean-up had been sought through foreign cooperation, among others, with several Czech companies, and with the Government of the Netherlands. At present, revision and repair of the sewage system had been achieved, as well as in the dyecake purification system. On-going pollution had been eliminated, but further funding was needed to continue the project. Support for technical assistance for the clean-up of Bulcolor had come from the Swiss Government. However, this support was being withdrawn due to changing priorities within the Ministry of Environment.

8. The D4D Wire Works Company in Hungary had been privatized, and the existing contamination remediated by the State Privatization and Holding Company (APV Rt.). The Hungarian Ministry of Economic Affairs would therefore like to eliminate this site from the list of first priority sites, and to include Nitrokémia Rt. in Balatonfüzfő in its place. A presentation of the problem was made by the Hungarian delegation, and after detailed discussion this was accepted by the Meeting.

9. A report on the position at Inculkans was provided by the delegation of Latvia. A major portion of the contamination problem is due to acid waste water infiltration. Mathematical modelling of the site has been successful, particularly for water flow patterns. Both biological and chemical decontamination trial processes have been tested, with success.

Current situation at other sites

10. No new information was provided about developments at the non-priority sites. The secretariat was requested to attempt to seek further information about these areas. Several other sites had been submitted to the secretariat for the information of delegations. These included two sites in Albania and one in Belarus.

Inclusion of additional sites in first priority list

11. Several new sites were proposed for inclusion in the first priority list. These were:

- the MCHZ Chemical Complex at Ostrava, Czech Republic. Data was available on the mix of organic pollutants. An estimated cost for the cleanup was in excess of US\$ 10 million.
- the CHEMKO site at Strazske, Slovakia. Contamination was old PCB spillage from electrical transformers. Concentration exceeded 10,000 ppm.
- the Nitrokémia site in Hungary as described above.

The Meeting accepted the proposal to include all of the above sites in the first priority category. It was noted that some countries now had more than one site in the first priority category, which was not the original

intention for the Pilot Project. However, it was decided to retain those sites, as the progress made in those countries could act as a model for other countries.

12. A question was raised as to financial subsidies to first priority sites: no financial subsidies could be allocated to those sites by ECE, as ECE was not a funding agency, but inclusion of the site in this list might indicate the value judgement made by ECE experts when funding was sought from other agencies.

#### Future work of the Task Force of Experts on the Pilot Project

13. As there had been some changes in the site listings, the Task Force composition should be slightly modified. Mr. Čoupek (Czech Republic) remained Chairman. Mr. Murin (Slovakia) was selected as representative of Slovakia and assigned to monitor the CHEMKO site mentioned above. Mr. Mejstřík (Czech Republic) would monitor the Synthesia site and be responsible for examining new candidate sites for inclusion in the ECE list and for recommendation to be listed as first priority site.

14. As no site in Romania was currently on the first priority list, the representative of Romania, Mr. Motiu, was relieved of the responsibilities of being on the Task Force. In any case he had moved to another position within his Government, and was thanked for his worthy contributions in the past. *The Meeting suggested that other members for the Task Force be sought*; the secretariat was asked to follow up this request.

15. The future work for the Task Force, as outlined in the notes to the provisional agenda for this Meeting, was accepted by the Meeting, with some minor changes. Specifically these were to the following items:

- item (d) should read “call for assistance as needed”
- at end of item (e) add “and make recommendations, taking national regulations into account”
- eliminate item (g)
- at the beginning of item (h) add: “help to”
- change (i) to read: “recommend criteria for tendering procedures for the clean-up”.

#### Second edition of the *Compendium of Soil Clean-up Technologies and Soil Remediation Companies*; discussion on its future presentation and updating

16. The secretariat reported that negotiations with the International Centre for Science and High Technology of the United Nations Industrial Organization (ICS-UNIDO) in Trieste (Italy) were essentially complete. It was agreed that ICS-UNIDO would engage a consultant recommended by ECE, and that the second edition of the *Compendium* would be prepared and printed in Geneva, using ECE secretarial and publishing assistance. ICS-UNIDO had made substantial editorial contributions to the structure of the new edition, and would be contributing data and textual material to the final version. The second edition would be a joint publication, with both organizations sharing responsibility and benefit of the work. The second edition should be published by the end of 1999.

17. Several non-ECE countries would be added to an appendix to the *Compendium* (Brazil, Egypt, Viet Nam), as data were readily available from ICS-UNIDO on a related project. On a suggestion of ICS-UNIDO, several other descriptors would be added to the current list of descriptors for the various technologies.

18. Water decontamination was considered by the Meeting as a major subject of its own, and thus not suitable for inclusion in the up-coming edition of the *Compendium*. Where (ground)water might be significantly affected by the soil decontamination techniques being described, this should be indicated in the descriptions of those soil decontamination techniques. Leachates from treatment of soil might be considered for coverage, but not agricultural run-off which could contain pesticides or fertilizers. It was also noted that there were other forums where water pollution (and air pollution) were treated, and thus we should continue to specialize in soil.

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

19. An oral report on the Seminar was provided by the French delegation, which was extremely pleased with the results of the Seminar. Over 620 registered participants from 34 countries were recorded, and some 80 papers (35 oral and 45 posters) were presented by authors from 19 countries. The delegation stated that it would make a formal proposal to the ad hoc Group of Experts on the Chemical Industry to hold another seminar on a related subject in April 2001.

20. The Meeting expressed its thanks to the delegation of France for the excellent organization of the Seminar, and strongly supported the proposal to hold a follow-up seminar in April 2001. In particular, the delegation of Poland wished to record its appreciation for the hospitality shown by the French Organizing Committee. The delegation of the Russian Federation expressed its gratitude for the high quality interpretation into the three languages of ECE provided at the Seminar.

21. It was suggested that the next seminar should include sessions on financing of remediation. An exhibition of remediation technologies should also be envisaged, and major companies in the remediation business should be engaged to sponsor part of the seminar in exchange for exhibition space. A period of time should be set aside for technology transfer discussions.

Proposals for further work, including timetable

22. The following updated timetable was accepted by the Meeting for its future work:

Immediately	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Search for interested decontamination companies;</li> <li>- Further search for donor countries and organizations;</li> <li>- Fund raising by countries with support from ECE;</li> <li>- Implementation of stage II at the sites which are ready: pilot clean-up processes and data collection.</li> </ul>
October 1999	Draft of case history reports.
27 April 2000	Seventh Meeting of Experts for the Pilot Project, during which the above case history reports would be discussed, together with other standard business of the Meeting
1999-2000	Continuing procedure for starting those projects that were not selected in the first group.
End 1999	Draft of UN/ECE publication on successfully completed clean-up projects.
2000	Issuance of UN/ECE publication.

Other business

23. The Meeting heard an oral report by the delegation of Slovenia on progress made by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Committee on the Challenges of Modern Society (NATO CCMS) *Pilot Study on Evaluation of Demonstrated and Emerging Technologies for the Treatment of Contaminated Land and Groundwater (Phase III)*. Copies of the 1998 Annual Report and a CD-ROM of the full project were provided to all participants of the Meeting. The secretariat also mentioned initial contacts made with the NATO Partnership for Peace Programme (PfP), which will be intensified during the coming six months.

24. The secretariat presented an oral report on its initial contact with the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), who had contacted ECE seeking information about sites in central and eastern Europe for decontamination activities. This contact will be followed up by a visit by a member of the secretariat to the USACE Headquarters in New York in June 1999.

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**INFORMATION NOTE ADDED AFTER COMPLETION OF THIS REPORT**

The secretariat regrets to announce the death of Mr. Jiří Čoupek, Chairman of this Meeting and the Task Force, and of the Group of Experts on the Chemical Industry. His sudden passing was a shock to his friends and family, and to members of the secretariat and those delegates who have known Jiří during the many years of his very active participation in the work of the chemical programme of ECE. His position as Chairman of this group and of the Task Force will be taken over by Mr. Viktor Mejstřík (Czech Republic).