



**Economic and Social  
Council**

Distr.  
GENERAL

CP.TEIA/2003/1

13 February 2003  
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH  
ENGLISH AND RUSSIAN ONLY

**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

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

**SUBREGIONAL WORKSHOP ON THE IMPLEMENTATION  
OF THE CONVENTION ON THE TRANSBOUNDARY  
EFFECTS OF INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS**

(Erevan, Armenia 13-15 March 2003)

**INFORMATION NOTICE**

Prepared by the delegation of Armenia and the Convention's secretariat

**Introduction**

1. Currently, twenty-five UNECE member countries of a total of fifty-five, and the European Community are Parties to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents (Industrial Accidents Convention). The Caucasian and Central Asian UNECE member countries did not directly participate in the preparation and adoption of the Industrial Accidents Convention and did not sign the instrument in Helsinki in 1992. Only two of them, Armenia, and Kazakhstan acceded to it in 1997 and 2001, respectively.
2. On the basis of preliminary information provided by the Caucasian countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia) and the Central Asian countries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan), the Conference of the Parties, at its first meeting in November 2000, recognized that these countries are facing difficulties in acceding to and implementing the Industrial Accidents Convention. Therefore, it decided to organize a subregional workshop on the implementation of the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Acciden

3. The Conference of the Parties further decided that the workshop should be needs-driven, i.e. respond to problems and specific issues faced by the Caucasian and Central Asian UNECE member countries. In order to identify these needs, a questionnaire was prepared and the responses provided by the above countries were collected and summarized in a background paper (CP.TEIA/2002/7).
4. The concept of the workshop and the background paper was thoroughly discussed and strongly supported by the Conference of the Parties at its second meeting (Chisinau, 6-8 November 2002). This background paper should serve as a basis for the preparation of the workshop programme and should facilitate the workshop deliberations.
5. The Caucasian and Central Asian countries are expected to each nominate three experts to represent them at the subregional workshop. Two of these experts should be representing authorities responsible for the: (i) prevention of industrial accidents; and (ii) response to such industrial accidents. The third participant should be representing the prevention and response activities of the owner/operator of a major hazardous activity.
6. The present document contains detailed information on the subregional workshop, including its programme and organizational details.

### **Objectives of workshop**

7. The workshop will be divided into three parts and is expected to achieve the following three goals:
  - (a) To identify key obstacles encountered by the Caucasian and Central Asian UNECE member countries in acceding to and implementing the Industrial Accidents Convention;
  - (b) To provide information on the Convention and the “Seveso II” Directive and on how they are being implemented in other countries of the UNECE region, and
  - (c) To try to work out an internationally supported programme to assist the above-mentioned countries in overcoming their problems.

### **Dates and venue**

8. The subregional workshop will be held at the invitation of the Government of Armenia. It will take place from Thursday, 13 March until midday Saturday, 15 March 2003 in Erevan at the Hotel “HRAZDAN”:

72 Dzorapi Str.  
Erevan, Armenia  
Tel: (+374 1) 531 125 or 535 332  
Fax: (+374 1) 538 428  
E-mail: [hrazdan@aviatrans.am](mailto:hrazdan@aviatrans.am)

9. It will be held under the auspices of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), within the framework of the Conference of the Parties to the Industrial Accidents Convention.
10. The organization of the subregional workshop and the participation of experts from the Caucasian and Central Asian UNECE member countries will be financed through contributions from Switzerland and the European Community to the trust fund under the Convention.

### **Programme of the workshop**

11. A tentative programme of the subregional workshop is given in annex I. The detailed programme, including the final titles of the presentations and the names of speakers, will be made available shortly before the workshop.

### **Working languages**

12. The workshop will be conducted in English and Russian.

### **Participation**

13. The subregional workshop is open to representatives and experts from all UNECE member countries. Interested persons should complete the registration form contained in annex II to this information notice and contact the Convention's secretariat as soon as possible.
14. The Caucasian and Central Asian UNECE member countries are expected to each nominate three experts to represent them at the workshop (see paragraph 5). These representatives are expected to inform the workshop on the status of the Convention's implementation and obstacles, which they encountered within this process. Their participation will be financed through the trust fund under the Convention.

### **Arrival of participants, transport and hotel accommodation**

15. Participants arriving at Erevan Airport will be transferred to the Hotel Hrazdan and back to the airport according to their travel schedules. Accommodation at the Hotel Hrazdan will be reserved by the organizers.
16. The cost of travel and accommodation of experts from eligible countries in transition will be covered from the trust fund under the Convention.
17. Experts from other UNECE member countries are expected to cover their own travel expenses to and from Erevan as well the cost of their accommodation at Hotel Hrazdan – US\$ 70 per night.
18. Meals will be provided for all the participants during the workshop i.e. from Thursday, 13 March to Saturday, 15 March 2003.

**Visas**

19. Participants are responsible for obtaining a visa, if required. Further information can be obtained from the nearest diplomatic representative of the Government of Armenia.

**Annex I**  
**Tentative Programme**  
**Subregional Workshop on the Implementation of the**  
**Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents**

**Wednesday, 12 March**

Arrival of participants

Evening welcome reception

**Thursday, 13 March**

**9.30-10.00**      *Opening and welcome addresses by representatives of the Armenian authorities, the Chairperson of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents and the UNECE secretariat*

*Election of the Workshop Chairman*

**10.00-18.00**      **Session 1 – Identification of key obstacles encountered by the Caucasian and Central Asian UNECE member countries in acceding to and implementing the Industrial Accidents Convention**

*Session Chairman:      Representative of Armenia*

**10.00-15.30**      **Part I – Presentations by the countries 1/**

10.00-10.30      Armenia

10.30-11.00      Azerbaijan

11.00-11.30      Coffee break

11.30-12.00      Georgia

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1/      Representatives of each country are expected to make two ten minute presentations: (i) one by an expert representing one of the two competent authorities represented at the workshop; and (ii) one by an expert representing a hazardous activity. These presentations should contain information on the status of the Convention's implementation, including obstacles, which they encountered within this process. The two presentations will be followed by a discussion of ten minutes.

12.00-12.30      Kazakhstan

12.30-13.00      Kyrgyzstan

13.00-14.30      Lunch

14.30-15.00      Tajikistan

15.00-15.30      Uzbekistan

15.30-16.00      Coffee break

**16.00-17.30      Part II – Two parallel discussion sessions to identify subregional and country-specific obstacles to acceding and implementing the Industrial Accidents Convention:**

**Discussion session A – Issues within the competence of the authorities (with the participation of country experts representing competent authorities)**

*Moderator:      to be announced*

**Discussion session B – Issues within the competence of industrial establishments (with the participation of country experts representing hazardous activities)**

*Moderator:      to be announced*

**17.30-18.00      Part III – Presentation of the conclusions of the two parallel sessions by their moderators and final discussion (Led by the Session Chairman)**

Evening programme

**Friday, 14 March**

**10.00-17.20      Session 2 – Information on the Industrial Accidents Convention and the European Union’s “Seveso II” Directive and on their implementation by UNECE member countries**

*Session Chairman:      Representative of a Western UNECE member country*

10.00-10.20      Key obligations under the Industrial Accidents Convention

*Mr. Sergiusz Ludwiczak, Secretary of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents  
UN Economic Commission for Europe*

10.20-10.40      “Seveso II” Directive – the European Union’s tool for implementing the Industrial Accidents Convention

*Mr. Jurgen Wettig, Vice-Chairperson of the Conference of the Parties,  
Administrator, European Commission*

10.40-11.00      What are the opportunities and challenges of implementing the Industrial Accidents Convention

*Mr. Ernst Berger, Chairperson of the Conference of the Parties,  
Head of Section on Safety of Installations, Agency for the Environment,  
Forests and Landscape, Switzerland*

11.00-11.20      Discussion

11.20-11.50      Coffee break

11.50-12.10      The Slovakian experience in acceding to the Industrial Accidents Convention

*Mr. Tomas Trcka, Member of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties,  
Environmental Risks Management Department, Ministry of the Environment,  
Slovakia*

12.10-12.40      The German experience on safety measures at industrial installations

*Mr. Ludwig Dinkloh, Member of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties,  
Head of Division of Safety of Industrial Installations and Transport of  
Dangerous Goods, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature  
Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Germany; and*

*Mr. Abdulrahman Abbas, Ministry of Environment, Brandenburg, Germany*

12.40-13.00	Discussion
13.00-14.30	Lunch
14.30-14.50	<p>The experience of the Russian Federation in monitoring of implementation and enforcing industrial safety regulations</p> <p><i>Mr. Vladimir M. Kuliechev, Head, Federal Mining and Industrial Safety Supervision (Gosgortekhnadzor), Russian Federation</i></p>
14.50-15.10	<p>Civil Protection Experience in Sweden and Bilateral Civil Protection Agreements within the Baltic Sea Region</p> <p><i>Mr. Ulf Bjurman, Member of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties, Swedish Rescue Services Agency</i></p>
15.10-15.30	<p>EUROBALTIC Civil Protection</p> <p><i>Ms. Barbara Polak, Adviser to the Chief Commandant of the State Fire Service, Main Headquarters of the State Fire Service, Poland</i></p>
15.30-15.50	Discussion
15.50-16.20	Coffee break
16.20-16.40	<p>The Italian experience with a system for planning and managing emergencies following major accidents</p> <p><i>Mr. Pietro La Grotta, Member of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties, Ministry for Environment and Territory, Italy</i></p>
16.40-17.00	<p>Response to and mitigation of effects of industrial accidents</p> <p><i>Speaker to be announced</i></p>
17.00-17.20	Discussion
	Evening programme



**Saturday, 15 March**

- 10.00-11.30      Session III – Cooperation in industrial accident prevention in the subregion** (Led by the Workshop Chairman)
- 10.00-10.20      Major challenges regarding cooperation in the subregion of the Caucasus and Central Asia
- Mr. Bo Libert, Regional Adviser, Environment and Human Settlements Division, UN Economic Commission for Europe*
- 10.20-10.40      Cooperation between the Newly Independent States on industrial accident prevention
- Mr. Andrei A. Tukhto, Representative of the Chairman of the Newly Independent States Council for the Cooperation on Safety of Hazardous Industrial Facilities, Belarus*
- 10.40-11.00      Development of the Transboundary cooperation for hazard prevention in the Kura River basin
- Ms. Jelena Karutz, IABG Consulting, Germany*
- 11.00-11.20      Discussion
- 11.20-11.50      Coffee break
- 11.50-12.50      Concluding Session – Drawing up of key elements of an internationally supported assistance programme for the Caucasian and Central Asian UNECE member countries** (Led by the Workshop Chairman)
- 12.50-13.00      Closing of the workshop**
- 13.00-14.30      Lunch
- 15.00              Afternoon study tour



**Annex II**  
**UNITED NATIONS**  
**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

**Registration form for the Subregional Workshop on the Implementation of the UNECE**  
**Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents**

Each participant should complete this form in duplicate and send one copy to each of the addresses below as soon as possible, but **no later than 25 February**:

**Mrs. Evelina Rioukhina**

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E-mail: [analeks@freenet.am](mailto:analeks@freenet.am)

Mr. ☐

Ms. ☐

Surname:

First Name:

Country or international organization which you will represent at the meeting:

Your professional address:

Tel:

Fax:

E-mail:

**Date and time of arrival in Erevan (flight No.)**

**Date and time of departure from Erevan (flight No.)**

Preferred language:

English

☐

Russian

☐

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_.