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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Group of Experts on Monitoring of Radioactively
Contaminated Scrap Metal

Second Session
Geneva, 12-14 (a.m.) June 2006

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE SECOND SESSION *

to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
starting at 10.30 hours on Monday, 12 June 2006

* The present document serves as convocation to the expert group meeting. Participation is free of charge for duly accredited persons representing United Nations member States and interested international organizations. Hotel, public transport and other relevant information for delegates are available at:

<http://www.unece.org/trans/info.delegates.html>.

All sessions of the meeting will be provided with full simultaneous interpretation into English, French and Russian. Necessary equipment for computer and overhead projections as well as Internet access is available.

Accreditation procedures have been introduced for all delegates attending meetings held at the Palais des Nations. Delegations are requested to complete the registration form contained in [annex 1](#) and to transmit it to the UNECE secretariat, at the latest two weeks prior to the meeting, either by fax (+41-22-917-0039) or by e-mail (radiation@unece.org) (form is also available at <http://www.unece.org/trans/info.delegates.html>). Prior to the session, delegates are requested to present themselves at the Pass and Identification Unit of the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at the Villa Les Feuillantines, 13, Avenue de la Paix (see map in [annex 2](#)) for issuance of an identification badge. In case of difficulty, please contact the UNECE secretariat by phone (internal extension 72453).

Very limited funds are available to cover mission costs of experts from selected countries that are prepared to actively participate in the expert group. Mission costs will be covered in line with eligibility criteria applied within the UNECE. For further information contact: radiation@unece.org.

For reasons of economy, delegates are requested to bring copies of the [documents](#) mentioned in this provisional agenda to the meeting. There will be no documentation available in the meeting room. All documents may be downloaded at: <http://www.unece.org/trans/wp24/welcome.html> or obtained directly from the UNECE secretariat (Fax: +41-22-917-0039; e-mail: radiation@unece.org).

I. OBJECTIVE AND MANDATE OF THE EXPERT GROUP MEETING

1. International trade and transport of radioactively contaminated scrap metal increasingly causes concern among Governments as it may have severe negative consequences for public health, the environment and for security. Therefore, its monitoring and control have become important issues to be tackled at the international level.
2. In 2004, the UNECE hosted a first expert group meeting to begin addressing the issue of radioactive scrap metal, which was described in detail in a UNECE report published in 2001 on the “Improvement of the Management of Radiation Protection Aspects in the Recycling of Metal Scrap”¹. Three recommendations emerged from this meeting:
 - (a) The need to establish a voluntary international Protocol providing for a consistent and internationally harmonized approach to monitoring and response procedures;
 - (b) The desirability to have an Internet-based information exchange system open to all concerned parties;
 - (c) The need for training and capacity-building programmes on best practices.²
3. As a consequence, the UNECE, with funding from the Government of the United States of America, has developed a second phase of the project, with a particular focus on the development of a voluntary international Protocol that would help Parties to better identify the problem, effectively manage their responses and harmonise their approach. This proposal is inspired by experiences made in Spain following a serious incident in 1998.
4. This present meeting aims to reach general agreement on such a voluntary international Protocol (hereafter referred to as “the Protocol”).

II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Monday, 12 June 2006, 10.30 – 13.00 hours

ITEM 1 - ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Documentation: [ECE/TRANS/AC.10/2006/1 \(http://www.unece.org/trans/radiation/radiation.html\)](http://www.unece.org/trans/radiation/radiation.html).

5. The first item to be considered is the adoption of the agenda.

¹ Improvement of the Management of Radiation Protection Aspects in the Recycling of Metal Scrap, United Nations, New York and Geneva, 2002 (<http://www.unece.org/trans/radiation/pub.html>).

² Monitoring, Interception and Managing Radioactively Contaminated Scrap Metal: Proceedings of the UNECE Group of Experts on the Monitoring of Radioactively Contaminated Scrap Metal (Geneva, 5-7 April 2004), United Nations, New York and Geneva, 2004 (<http://www.unece.org/trans/radiation/pub.html>).

ITEM 2 - ELECTION OF OFFICERS

6. The Group of Experts is expected to elect a Chairperson for its session.

ITEM 3 - NEED FOR ACTION AND OBJECTIVES OF A VOLUNTARY INTERNATIONAL PROTOCOL ON RADIOACTIVELY CONTAMINATED SCRAP METAL

Documentation: [ECE/TRANS/AC.10/2006/2](#); [ECE/TRANS/AC.10/2006/3](#)
(<http://www.unece.org/trans/radiation/radiation.html>).

7. The Group of Experts may wish to reassess the concerns of governments and the metal processing industries about the control of scrap metal and the potential use of radioactively contaminated scrap metal by the steel and foundry industries worldwide.

8. In this respect, the Group of Experts may wish to take note of the so-called Spanish Protocol for collaboration on radiation monitoring of metallic materials that has been developed in Spain in 1998 following a serious incident in the metal scrap industry (reproduced in document [ECE/TRANS/AC.10/2006/2](#)). Information on experiences made with this important national initiative will be provided at the meeting.

9. The Group of Experts may also wish to consider the need for action at the international level and review the positions held earlier by experts participating in these UNECE activities. In particular, the Group of Experts should concur with the strategy that has been followed in the preparation of the voluntary international Protocol on radioactively contaminated scrap metal. To facilitate discussions, the UNECE secretariat has prepared a document that recalls the mandate of these activities and highlights the issues addressed in the proposed Protocol, such as its objectives and scope as well as stakeholders and areas of action to be addressed ([ECE/TRANS/AC.10/2006/3](#)). The document also stresses that the Protocol would not constitute legal commitments, but should establish a framework of recommended actions and good practices to support governments and the metal scrap and metal processing industries to prevent the use of radioactively contaminated scrap metal and to act jointly, responsibly and effectively in case of radioactive incidents.

ITEM 4 - OVERVIEW OF KEY ISSUES

Documentation: [ECE/TRANS/AC.10/2006/4 and Add.1](#); Informal documents (will be available before the session) (<http://www.unece.org/trans/radiation/radiation.html>).

10. The Group of Experts is expected to consider the key issues to be addressed at the international level with a view to minimizing all problems associated with radioactive contamination of scrap metal and to facilitate its handling and trade during all stages of the metal recycling process.

11. As a basis for discussions the UNECE secretariat has prepared a document that provides an analysis of the questionnaire replies from more than 50 countries covering the period 2003 to 2005. The document also undertakes an overview of good practices in these countries and identifies areas and issues needing particular attention ([ECE/TRANS/AC.10/2006/4](#)).

12. The Group of Experts will also be informed of progress made by selected countries and international organizations in addressing radioactive contamination of scrap metal, particularly focussing on the three main fields of action identified earlier: prevention, detection, and reaction (including reporting).

Monday, 12 June 2006, 15.00 – 18.00 hours

Tuesday, 13 June 2006, 10.00 – 13.00 hours

ITEM 5 - DRAFT VOLUNTARY PROTOCOL: INTERNATIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS TO MONITOR AND MANAGE RADIOACTIVE SCRAP METAL

A. Body of the Protocol

Documentation: [ECE/TRANS/AC.10/2006/5 and Add.1](#); [TRANS/AC.10/2004/4](#)
(<http://www.unece.org/trans/radiation/radiation.html>).

13. In accordance with the recommendations adopted at the first expert group meeting in 2004 ([TRANS/AC.10/2004/4](#)) and taking account of questionnaire replies from more than 50 countries, the UNECE secretariat, assisted by country experts, has prepared a draft of a voluntary international Protocol on radioactively contaminated scrap metal ([ECE/TRANS/AC.10/2006/5 and Add.1](#)).

14. The Group of Experts may wish to consider and agree on the basic provisions of the Protocol that would establish, a framework of recommended actions and good practices to support governments and the metal scrap and metal processing industries to prevent the use of radioactively contaminated scrap metal and to act jointly, responsibly and effectively in case of radioactive incidents.

15. The Group of Experts could start by considering and agreeing on the layout and structure of the Protocol and its annexes as contained in document [ECE/TRANS/AC.10/2006/5](#). It could then review the specific provisions and recommendations contained in the body of the Protocol relating to its three major sections:

General provisions

(Definitions, aim, scope, existing recommendations and legal instruments, sources of contaminated scrap metal, responsibilities and coordination, costs and financing);

Fields of action

(Prevention, detection, reaction/reporting (by stakeholders), management of detected radioactive sources);

Additional provisions

(Training, international information exchange, monitoring procedures, etc.).

Tuesday, 13 June 2006, 15.00 – 18.00 hours

**ITEM 5 - DRAFT VOLUNTARY PROTOCOL: INTERNATIONAL
RECOMMENDATIONS TO MONITOR AND MANAGE RADIOACTIVE
SCRAP METAL (CONT'D)**

B. Technical Annexes to the Protocol

Documentation: [ECE/TRANS/AC.10/2006/5 and Add.1](#)
(<http://www.unece.org/trans/radiation/radiation.html>).

16. The Group of Experts may wish to consider and agree in principle on the proposed annexes to the Protocol that would provide specific reference lists and guidance on good practices based on the provisions and principles recommended in the body of the Protocol. An outline of these annexes is contained in document [ECE/TRANS/AC.10/2006/5/Add.1](#). While these annexes would be an integral part of the Protocol, they have not yet been fully developed by the UNECE secretariat pending a decision on the basic provisions of the Protocol. If approved by the Group of Experts, the UNECE secretariat would finalize these annexes immediately following the expert group meeting taking account of comments made by the Group of Experts.

Wednesday, 14 June 2006, 9.30– 12.30 hours

ITEM 6 - OTHER RELEVANT ISSUES AND NEXT STEPS

Documentation: [ECE/TRANS/AC.10/2006/6](#) (<http://www.unece.org/trans/radiation/radiation.html>).

17. The Group of Experts may wish to recall that, at its first session, it had felt that its meeting had been an excellent opportunity to exchange views among Governmental and industry experts on the present situation on the monitoring and management of radiation incidents related to scrap metal. The input from more than 40 countries worldwide has allowed the compilation of a large amount of up-to-date data and information that was not previously available. The Group of Experts noted that such an exercise, if convened periodically, could ensure a continued dialogue in this area among all parties concerned and could further international coordinated action in this field.

18. In addition to the preparation of the Protocol, the Group of Experts had envisaged in particular the establishment of an Internet-based information exchange system open to all concerned parties and the compilation of training and capacity-building programmes on best practices ([TRANS/AC.10/2004/4](#), paras. 58-59).

19. Based on a document prepared by the UNECE secretariat, the Group of Experts may wish to consider means and mechanisms to assist in the implementation of these proposals ([ECE/TRANS/AC.10/2006/6](#)).

ITEM 7 - CLOSING SESSION

20. Before the conclusion of the meeting, the chairperson will summarize the recommendations and follow-up activities considered and agreed by the Group of Experts.

21. As in the past, following the meeting, the UNECE secretariat will establish a report of the meeting as well as a final version of the Protocol and its annexes (English only). These documents will be transmitted to all delegations participating at the expert group meeting for final review. On this basis the UNECE secretariat will establish the final text of the Protocol and its annexes as well as the proceedings of the expert group meeting in English, French and Russian.

22. These documents will then be distributed to countries and radiation monitoring experts and programme managers around the world. They will also be uploaded onto a web portal that has been created for the project.

ANNEX 1



UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AT GENEVA *Please Print*

Conference Registration Form

Date

Please fax this completed form to the Host Secretariat and **BRING THIS ORIGINAL** with you to Geneva.
An additional form is required for spouses.

Title of the Conference

UNECE Group of Experts on Monitoring of Radiologically Contaminated Scrap Metal

Delegation/Participant of Country, Organisation or Agency

Participant

Family Name

First Name

Mr.

Mrs.

Ms.

Date of Birth

 / /

(DD/MM/YYYY)

Participation Category

Head of Delegation

Observer Organisation

Participating From / Until

Members

NGO (ECOSOC Accred.)

From

12 June 2006

Delegation Member

Until

14 June 2006

Observer Country

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ANNEX 2 – MAP OF THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AT GENEVA

