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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

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

Fourth meeting
Rome, 15–17 November 2006

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FOURTH MEETING

To be held in Rome

opening on Wednesday, 15 November 2006 at 10 a.m. *

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening ceremony:
 - (a) Opening statements;
 - (b) Adoption of the agenda.
2. Report of the Bureau on the activities under the Convention since the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
3. Amendment to the rules of procedure under the Convention.

* Organizational details and a registration form will be made available on the Convention's website at (<http://www.unece.org/env/teia/4thconference.htm>). **Delegations of Parties to the Convention are reminded about the requirement to submit their credentials to the secretariat.**

4. Election of officers and other members of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties.
5. Representation and credentials.
6. Implementation of the Convention:
 - (a) Presentation of activities of the Working Group on Implementation;
 - (b) Presentation of the third report on the implementation of the Convention;
 - (c) Discussion and adoption of the third report on the Convention's implementation;
 - (d) Good practices in implementing the Convention;
 - (e) Election of members of the Working Group on Implementation for 2007–2008.
7. Assistance programme for the East European, Caucasian and Central Asian and South-East European UNECE member countries to enhance their efforts in implementing the Convention:
 - (a) High-level Commitment Meeting;
 - (b) Report on the results of the preparatory phase of the assistance programme;
 - (c) Panel discussion on the outcome of the first cluster of fact-finding missions;
 - (d) Presentation of the draft action plan for the implementation phase of the assistance programme;
 - (e) Discussion and adoption of the draft action plan.
8. Discussion and adoption of the decision on strengthening the implementation of the Convention.
9. Review of annex I to the Convention and its amendment:
 - (a) Review of annex I to the Convention by the Working Group on the Development of the Convention;
 - (b) Presentation of the Group's proposal to amend annex I to the Convention;
 - (c) Discussion and adoption of the draft decision to amend annex I.
10. UNECE Industrial Accident Notification (UNECE IAN) System:
 - (a) Outcome of the second consultation for points of contact for the purpose of accident notification and mutual assistance designated within the UNECE IAN System;

- (b) Outcome of the first meeting of the task force to review the communication procedures within the UNECE IAN System;
 - (c) Adoption of the decision on increasing the effectiveness of and enhancing the communication procedures within the UNECE IAN System.
11. Prevention of accidental water pollution:
- (a) Progress report of the Joint Ad Hoc Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents;
 - (b) Report on the implementation of the conclusions and recommendations of the seminar on the prevention of chemical accidents and limitation of their impact on transboundary waters in Central and Western Europe;
 - (c) Safety guidelines and good practices for pipelines.
12. Protocol on Civil Liability and Compensation for Damage Caused by the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents on Transboundary Waters.
13. Plan of action under the Convention:
- (a) Priorities and work plan;
 - (b) Resources;
 - (c) Draft decision on the priorities, programme of work and resources under the Convention for 2007–2008.
14. Date and venue of the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
15. Other business.
16. Review of decisions and final statements.
17. Final statements and closing of the meeting.

II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1. Opening ceremony

Mr. Ryszard Grosset (Poland), Chairperson of the Conference of the Parties, will open its fourth meeting.

(a) Opening statements

The representatives of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and Italy are invited to make opening statements.

(b) Adoption of the agenda

The Conference of the Parties is invited to adopt the agenda for its fourth meeting as endorsed by the Bureau and set out in the present document.

Item 2. Report of the Bureau on the activities under the Convention since the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties

Background documents:	
Minutes of the sixth meeting of the Bureau	COPB12/26 April 2005
Minutes of the joint meeting of the Bureau (seventh meeting) and the Working Group on Implementation (third meeting)	COPB14/7 October 2005 WGI6/7 October 2005
Minutes of the joint meeting of the Bureau (eighth meeting) and the Working Group on Implementation (fourth meeting)	COPB16/6 March 2006 WGI8/6 March 2006
Minutes of the ninth meeting of the Bureau	COPB19/16 June 2006

The Chairperson will report on the activities of the outgoing Bureau in the years 2004–2006.

The Conference of the Parties is invited to discuss the report and endorse it.

Item 3. Amendment to the rules of procedure under the Convention

Background document:	
Rules of procedure for the meetings of the Conference of the Parties	ECE/CP.TEIA/3

The Chairperson will introduce a proposal on behalf of the Bureau to enlarge the number of its members from 8 to 10 and therefore to amend the rules of procedure. The proposal is motivated by the increase in the number of Parties to the Convention and the increasing number of tasks and responsibilities assigned to the Bureau.

The Conference of the Parties is invited to take a decision to amend paragraph 1 of rule 22 of the rules of procedure accordingly.

Item 4. Election of officers and other members of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties

Background documents:	
Rules of procedure for the meetings of the Conference of the Parties	ECE/CP.TEIA/3
Terms of reference of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties	ECE/CP.TEIA/2, annex I

In accordance with its rules of procedure (ECE/CP.TEIA/3) and the decision taken under item 3 of this agenda, the Conference of the Parties is invited to elect a chairperson and two vice-chairpersons as its officers. It is also invited to elect up to seven other members of the Bureau

from among the representatives of the Parties and/or representatives of other UNECE member countries present at the meeting.

At its third meeting, the Conference of the Parties elected Mr. Ryszard Grosset (Poland) as Chairperson; Mr. Lajos Katai-Urban (Hungary) and Mr. Sergey Mokrousov (Russian Federation) as Vice-Chairpersons; and Mr. Gerhard Winkelmann-Oei (Germany), Mr. Cristiano Piacente (Italy), Ms. Jasmina Karba (Slovenia) and Mr. Tobias Biermann (European Commission) as Bureau members representing Parties. Ms. Irma Gurguliani (Georgia) was elected as a Bureau member representing other UNECE member countries. In accordance with the rules of procedure, all those elected are eligible for re-election.

Item 5. Representation and credentials

Background document:	
Ratification Status of the Convention and the List of Signatories and Parties to the Protocol on Civil Liability and Compensation for Damage Caused by the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents on Transboundary Waters	ECE/CP.TEIA/2006/1

The Secretary of the Conference of the Parties will inform the Conference of the Parties about the current status of ratifications of the Convention.

The Chairperson will report to the Conference of the Parties on the representation at its fourth meeting and the credentials submitted by the representatives of the Parties.

The Conference of the Parties is invited to take a decision on the credentials of representatives participating in the meeting.

Parties to the Convention are therefore invited to inform the secretariat of the name(s) of their representative(s) at their earliest convenience, and to submit the credentials to the secretariat before the opening of the meeting.

Item 6. Implementation of the Convention

Background documents:	
Decision 2004/1 on strengthening the implementation of the Convention	ECE/CP.TEIA/12, annex I
Minutes of the joint meeting of the Bureau (seventh meeting) and the Working Group on Implementation (third meeting)	COPB14/7 October 2005 WGI6/7 October 2005
Minutes of the joint meeting of the Bureau (eighth meeting) and the Working Group on Implementation (fourth meeting)	COPB16/6 March 2006 WGI8/6 March 2006
Minutes of the fifth meeting of the Working Group on Implementation	WGI10/5 May 2006
Reporting format for the third report on the implementation of the Convention	CP.TEIA/2005/4

Document for endorsement:	
Report of the training session on drawing up national implementation reports	CP.TEIA/2005/6
Document for adoption:	
Third report on the implementation of the Convention	ECE/CP.TEIA/2006/2

(a) Presentation of activities of the Working Group on Implementation

The Conference of the Parties, at its first meeting, established the Working Group on Implementation (ECE/CP.TEIA/2, annex III, decision 2000/2) to monitor the implementation of the Convention, prepare reports on the Convention's implementation, and draw conclusions and make recommendations.

Mr. Bernard Gay (Switzerland), Chairman of the Working Group on Implementation, will report on the outcome of the Group's three meetings held since the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties: Warsaw, 14 September 2005, Geneva, 15 December 2005 and Vienna, 3–5 April 2006. The first two meetings were held jointly with the Bureau in preparation for and as follow-up to the High-level Commitment Meeting.

He will also report on the outcome of the training session on drawing up national implementation reports (Warsaw, 12–13 September 2005).

The Conference of the Parties is invited to discuss the outcome of the work of the Working Group on Implementation and endorse the report of the training session.

(b) Presentation of the third report on the implementation of the Convention

The Working Group's Chairman will inform the Conference of the Parties on the status of reporting on the implementation of the Convention by Parties and other UNECE member countries within the third round of reporting.

The Chairman will then introduce the third report on the implementation of the Convention, including its conclusions and recommendations, prepared by the Working Group on the basis of the reporting forms that it received from Parties and other UNECE member countries. The third report will reflect a change of emphasis from a mainly quantitative to a more qualitative assessment of the national implementation reports by the Working Group. He will focus on the following:

(i) Identification and notification of hazardous activities

Information will be provided on the status of the identification of hazardous activities by Parties and the process of notifying them to the potentially affected neighbouring countries.

Parties that have not yet identified their hazardous activities within their jurisdiction and notified their neighbouring countries will have an opportunity to explain their delay in complying with the above provision of the Convention.

(ii) Establishment of bilateral cross-border cooperation under the Convention

Insight will be provided into the bilateral discussions and cooperation that were undertaken and reported by Parties in order to exchange information and draw up joint preparedness and response measures.

(iii) Challenges in implementing/acceding to the Convention

The key challenges to implementation of/accession to the Convention that were reported to the Working Group will be highlighted.

(c) Discussion and adoption of the third report on the Convention's implementation

The Conference of the Parties is invited to discuss and evaluate the process of reporting on implementation. Parties that did not report on the implementation of the Convention will have an opportunity to explain their lack of reply.

The Conference of the Parties is invited to adopt the third report on the implementation of the Convention as contained in ECE/CP.TEIA/2006/2.

(d) Good practices in implementing the Convention

The delegation of Hungary agreed to share its experience in establishing and expanding cooperation arrangements with neighbouring countries. The Conference of the Parties will have an opportunity to hear the delegation's presentation.

(e) Election of members of the Working Group on Implementation for 2007–2008

According to the terms of reference of the Working Group on Implementation (ECE/CP.TEIA/2, annex III, decision 2000/2, appendix), the Conference of the Parties is invited to elect up to 10 members of the Working Group from among the candidates nominated by Parties for a term to last until its next meeting.

At its third meeting, the Conference of the Parties elected Ms. Anahit Aleksandryan (Armenia), Mr. Armin Heidler (Austria), Mr. Nikolay Savov (Bulgaria), Mr. Pavel Forint (Czech Republic), Mr. Leo Iberl (Germany), Ms. Judit Mogor (Hungary), Mr. Massimo Cozzone (Italy), Mr. Dmitri Y. Poletaev (Russian Federation), Mr. Tomas Trcka (Slovakia) and Mr. Bernard Gay (Switzerland) as members of the Working Group on Implementation. In accordance with the terms of reference, the members of the Working Group are eligible for re-election.

Item 7. Assistance programme for the East European, Caucasian and Central Asian and South-East European UNECE member countries to enhance their efforts in implementing the Convention

Background documents:	
Draft internationally supported assistance programme for the East European, Caucasian and Central Asian and the South-East European countries to enhance their efforts in implementing the Convention	CP.TEIA/2004/2
Report on the High-level Commitment Meeting	CP.TEIA/2005/12
Documents for endorsement:¹	
Report on the results of the preparatory phase of the assistance programme	ECE/CP.TEIA/2006/3
Report on the fact-finding mission to Tajikistan	ECE/CP.TEIA/AP.1
Report on the fact-finding mission to Belarus	ECE/CP.TEIA/AP.2
Report on the fact-finding mission to Azerbaijan	ECE/CP.TEIA/AP.3
Report on the fact-finding mission to the Republic of Moldova	ECE/CP.TEIA/AP.4
Report on the fact-finding mission to The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	ECE/CP.TEIA/AP.5
Report on the fact-finding mission to Bulgaria	ECE/CP.TEIA/AP.6
Report on the fact-finding mission to Romania	ECE/CP.TEIA/AP.7
Report on the fact-finding mission to Armenia	ECE/CP.TEIA/AP.8
Report on the fact-finding mission to Georgia	ECE/CP.TEIA/AP.9
Document for adoption:	
Draft action plan for the implementation phase of the assistance programme	ECE/CP.TEIA/2006/4

(a) High-level Commitment Meeting

Mr. Zaal Lomtadze (Georgia), Chairman of the High-level Commitment Meeting, and Mr. Grosset will report on the key outcome of the High-level Commitment Meeting, in particular on the declaration adopted by the heads of delegations of countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) and South-Eastern Europe (SEE) (CP.TEIA/2005/12, annex).

(b) Report on the results of the preparatory phase of the assistance programme

In accordance with the assistance programme (CP.TEIA/2004/2, chapter V, para. 52), the Secretary, on behalf of the outgoing Chairperson and the Chairman of the Working Group on Implementation, will present an overall report on the results of the programme's preparatory phase, in particular on the outcome of fact-finding missions to countries of EECCA and SEE.

¹Reports on fact-finding missions, which will have taken place after the document submission deadline may be available only in draft form.

The Conference of the Parties is invited to discuss the overall report and the summaries of the teams' conclusions as to whether the visited countries have implemented the basic tasks under the Convention, as specified in CP.TEIA/2004/2, chapter IV.

The Conference of the Parties is invited to endorse the report on the results of the preparatory phase of the assistance programme. It is also invited to take a decision qualifying the candidate EECCA and SEE countries to take part in the implementation phase of the programme. The Parties may also wish to decide on the modalities for taking similar decisions with regard to countries that will be visited after this meeting.

(c) Panel discussion on the outcome of the first cluster of fact-finding missions

Mr. Ernst Berger, Mr. Ludwig Dinkloh, Mr. Bruno Frattini, Mr. Ryszard Grosset, and Mr. Kees van Kuijen, the team leaders who have led fact-finding missions thus far, will report on their impressions and experience gained during their missions. They are invited to make recommendations for the fact-finding missions that will take place after the meeting. The Conference of the Parties is invited to express its views and may wish to give guidance to future fact-finding teams.

(d) Presentation of the draft action plan for the implementation phase of the assistance programme

The secretariat will present the draft action plan for the implementation phase of the assistance programme, including the proposed capacity-building activities for the next two years (2007–2008) and the required human and financial resources needed to implement them.

(e) Discussion and adoption of the draft action plan

The Conference of the Parties is invited to discuss the implementation of the draft action plan, including the provision of the required financial resources, and subsequently to adopt it.

Item 8. Discussion and adoption of the decision on strengthening the implementation of the Convention

Document for decision:	
Draft decision on strengthening the implementation of the Convention	ECE/CP.TEIA/2006/5

The Bureau of the Conference of the Parties, in consultation with the Working Group on Implementation, has prepared a draft decision on strengthening the implementation of the Convention, taking into account the conclusions and recommendations contained in the third report on implementation and the report on the results of the preparatory phase of the assistance programme.

The Chairperson will introduce this draft decision.

The Conference of the Parties is invited to discuss the draft decision and give guidance to the Bureau and the Working Group on Implementation for their further work and activities to strengthen the implementation of the Convention throughout the UNECE region, especially through the implementation phase of the assistance programme.

Finally, the Parties are invited to adopt the decision on strengthening the implementation of the Convention, on the basis of the draft and the outcome of the discussion.

Item 9. Review of annex I to the Convention and its amendment

Background documents:	
Decision 2004/4 establishing the Working Group on the Development of the Convention	ECE/CP.TEIA/12, annex IV
Minutes of the first meeting of the Working Group on the Development of the Convention	WGD2/27 June 2005
Minutes of the second meeting of the Working Group on the Development of the Convention	WGD4/7 April 2006
Document for decision:	
Draft decision amending annex I to the Convention	ECE/CP.TEIA/2006/6

(a) Review of annex I to the Convention by the Working Group on the Development of the Convention

The Conference of the Parties, at its third meeting, established the Working Group on the Development of the Convention (ECE/CP.TEIA/12, annex IV, decision 2004/4) to review, as a priority, annex I to the Convention and submit, if appropriate, recommendations and proposals for amending the Convention.

Mr. Tobias Biermann (European Commission), Chairman of the Working Group, will report on the outcome of the Group's review of annex I to the Convention with a view to updating it and achieving as much convergence with the annex of the "Seveso II" Directive as possible and appropriate. The Group held two meetings – in Geneva on 20 May 2005 and 28 March 2006 – and a number of smaller consultations.

As a result of the above, the Group agreed on a proposal to amend annex I to the Convention and through its Chairman submitted it together with a draft decision to the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties. The Bureau, at its ninth meeting in Warsaw on 22–23 May 2006, endorsed the proposal and the draft decision.

(b) Presentation of the Group's proposal to amend annex I to the Convention

The Working Group's Chairman will present the draft decision amending annex I to the Convention, to which the Group's proposal is annexed. This document will have been circulated to the Parties before the meeting in accordance with article 26, paragraph 2, of the Convention.

(c) Discussion and adoption of the draft decision to amend annex I

The Conference of the Parties is invited to discuss the proposal and the related draft decision (ECE/CP.TEIA/2006/6) and subsequently adopt it. If adopted by the Conference of the Parties, the amendment will be communicated to the Parties and recommended for approval in accordance with article 26, paragraph 4 (a), of the Convention.

Item 10. UNECE Industrial Accident Notification (UNECE IAN) System

Background documents:	
Report on the second consultation and the first meeting of the task force	CP.TEIA/2005/11
Results of tests of the UNECE Industrial Accident Notification System	ECE/CP.TEIA/2006/7
Document for decision:	
Draft decision on increasing the effectiveness of and enhancing the communication procedures within the UNECE IAN System	ECE/CP.TEIA/2006/8

(a) Outcome of the second consultation for points of contact for the purpose of accident notification and mutual assistance designated within the UNECE IAN System

The Conference of the Parties, at its first meeting, decided that the points of contact designated for the purpose of accident notification and mutual assistance within the UNECE IAN System should review the System regularly to monitor its operability and effectiveness (ECE/CP.TEIA/2, annex I, decision 2000/1).

Mr. Fabrizio Colcerasa (Italy), Chairman of the second consultation, will report on its outcome (CP.TEIA/2005/11, Part I). The consultation was held on 19–20 October 2005 in Rome, back-to-back with the first meeting of the task force to review the communication procedures under the UNECE IAN System.

The Secretary will provide information on the current status of the network of points of contact and will report on the recent tests of the UNECE IAN System.

Parties that have not yet designated points of contact or whose points of contact were not operational during the test will have an opportunity to explain their delay in complying with the relevant provisions of the Convention.

The Conference of the Parties is invited to discuss the outcome of the consultation, the recommendations made by its participants and the results of the tests.

(b) Outcome of the first meeting of the task force to review the communication procedures within the UNECE IAN System

At their third meeting, the Parties established a task force to review the communication procedures within the UNECE IAN System (ECE/CP.TEIA/12, para. 58).

Ms. Giuliana Gasparri (Italy), who chaired the first meeting of the task force, will report on its outcome (CP.TEIA/2005/11, Part II. The meeting was held on 21 October 2005 in Rome.

The secretariat will briefly introduce the simple Web-based notification application developed jointly by the UNECE and the Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit and will present the steps required to implement the recommendation of the task force to enhance the communication procedures within the UNECE IAN System.

The Conference of the Parties is invited to discuss the proposal by the task force to enhance the communication procedures within the UNECE IAN System by introducing Web-based technology notifications.

(c) Adoption of the decision on increasing the effectiveness of and enhancing the communication procedures within the UNECE IAN System

The Conference of the Parties is invited to adopt the draft decision on increasing the effectiveness of and enhancing the communication procedures within the UNECE IAN System as contained in ECE/CP.TEIA/2006/8.

Item 11. Prevention of accidental water pollution

Background documents:	
Report on the Seminar on the Prevention of Chemical Accidents and Limitation of their Impact on Transboundary Waters	CEP/WG.4/SEM.1/1999/3
Decision 2000/5 on the prevention of accidental water pollution	ECE/CP.TEIA/2, annex VI
Minutes of the sixth meeting of the Joint Ad Hoc Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents	JEG12/16 March 2006
Minutes of the seventh meeting of the Joint Ad Hoc Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents	JEG14/23 June 2006
Minutes of the meeting of the Chairpersons of the governing bodies of the Industrial Accidents and the Water Conventions	COPB18/16 May 2006
Report on the Workshop on the Prevention of Water Pollution Due to Pipeline Accidents	CP.TEIA/2005/3 MP.WAT/WG.1/2005/3
Report on the Workshop on the Prevention of Accidents of Gas Transmission Pipelines	ECE/CP.TEIA/SEM.1/2006/2 ECE/MP.WAT/SEM.7/2006/2
Documents for endorsement:	
Progress report of the Joint Ad Hoc Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents	ECE/CP.TEIA/2006/9 ECE/MP.WAT/2006/7
Report on the implementation of the conclusions and recommendations of the seminar on the prevention of chemical accidents and limitation of their impact on transboundary waters in Central and Western Europe	ECE/CP.TEIA/2006/10 ECE/MP.WAT/2006/9
Safety guidelines and good practices for pipelines	ECE/CP.TEIA/2006/11 ECE/MP.WAT/2006/8

(a) Progress report of the Joint Ad Hoc Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents

Mr. Gerhard Winkelmann-Oei (Germany), Co-Chairman of the Joint Expert Group will present the Group's progress report containing information on accomplished tasks, challenges in its work and a proposal for a future work plan.

Mr. Grosset will inform the Conference of the Parties about the outcome of a meeting between the Chairpersons of the governing bodies of the Industrial Accidents and Water Conventions to discuss issues of common concern (Geneva, 25 April 2006). The Chairmen recognized the achievements of the Joint Expert Group, agreed with the proposed elements of its future work plan (including their order of priority) and committed to striving to increase awareness of the Group's activities, especially among experts representing the Water Convention.

Mr. Manuel Varela (Spain), Chairman of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, will address the Conference of the Parties.

The Conference of the Parties is invited to discuss the progress report, in particular the future work plan of the Joint Expert Group, as well as the issues addressed in the introductory statements. Finally, it is invited to endorse the report and to adopt the Group's future work plan.

(b) Report on the implementation of the conclusions and recommendations of the seminar on the prevention of chemical accidents and limitation of their impact on transboundary waters in Central and Western Europe

The Conference of the Parties, at its first meeting, endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of the Seminar on the Prevention of Chemical Accidents and Limitation of their Impact on Transboundary Waters (ECE/CP.TEIA/2, annex VI, decision 2000/5) and requested Parties to implement them by 2005 (for market-economy countries) and by 2010 (for countries with economies in transition) and report to the Conference of the Parties and the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention. The Joint Expert Group was given the task of seeking the relevant information from the Parties and preparing an overall report on the implementation of these conclusions and recommendations.

The Conference of the Parties is invited to review the implementation of the Hamburg recommendations, based on the Joint Expert Group's report, and to subsequently endorse it.

(c) Safety guidelines and good practices for pipelines

The Conference of the Parties and the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention requested the Joint Expert Group to prepare safety guidelines and good practices for pipelines (ECE/CP.TEIA/2, annex VI, decision 2000/5). At its third meeting, the Conference of the Parties supported the Group's proposal to include two workshops, one focusing on the safety of oil pipelines and the other on the safety of gas pipelines, in the process of drawing up the guidelines

(ECE/CP.TEIA/12, paras. 50–51). The Joint Expert Group established a steering group with expertise on pipelines to draw up the guidelines.

The delegations of Germany and the Netherlands (host countries) and the secretariat will inform on the outcome of the workshops on:

- (i) The Prevention of Water Pollution Due to Pipeline Accidents (Berlin, 8–9 June 2005);
and
- (ii) The Prevention of Accidents of Gas Transmission Pipelines (The Hague, 8–9 March 2006).

The Joint Expert Group's Chairman will introduce the guidelines, which have been drawn up by the steering group, considered by the Joint Expert Group at its seventh meeting in Geneva on 10–11 April 2006 and finalized by the Group's co-chairmen after a final consultation round among Parties to the Conventions and representatives of the private sector, in particular of pipeline operators.

The Conference of the Parties is invited to endorse the guidelines and good practices.

Item 12. Protocol on Civil Liability and Compensation for Damage Caused by the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents on Transboundary Waters

Background documents:	
Protocol on Civil Liability and Compensation for Damage Caused by the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents on Transboundary Waters	ECE/MP.WAT/11 ECE/CP.TEIA/9
Report on the second joint special session and the joint decision on the Protocol on Civil Liability and Compensation for Damage Caused by the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents on Transboundary Waters	ECE/MP.WAT/12 ECE/CP.TEIA/10
Minutes of the meeting of the Chairpersons of the governing bodies of the Industrial Accidents and Water Conventions	COPB18/16 May 2006

The Secretary will briefly recall the main decisions taken by the Parties to the Industrial Accidents and to the Water Conventions at their second joint special session, held in Kiev on 21 May 2003, in particular the adoption of the Protocol on Civil Liability and Compensation for Damage Caused by the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents on Transboundary Waters. He will also recall the decisions taken by the Conference of the Parties in this respect at its third meeting.

Mr. Grosset and Mr. Varela will refer to the outcome of their meeting (Geneva, 25 April 2006). In particular, they will introduce a proposal to organize a consultation (in place of a formal third joint special session of the two governing bodies) among the Parties to both or one of the Conventions in order to review the reasons for the current ratification status of the Protocol (one ratification) and the steps taken by UNECE member countries to ratify it.

The Conference of the Parties is invited to discuss the proposal and its possible involvement in and further contribution to promoting the Protocol's early entry into force.

Item 13. Plan of action under the Convention

Background documents:	
Decision 2004/5 on the priorities, programme of work and resources under the Convention for 2005–2006	ECE/CP.TEIA/12, annex V
Minutes of the ninth meeting of the Bureau	COPB19/16 June 2006
Document for endorsement:	
The use of financial resources under the Convention in 2000–2006	ECE/CP.TEIA/2006/12
Document for decision:	
Draft decision on the priorities, work plan and resources under the Convention for 2007–2008	ECE/CP.TEIA/2006/13

(a) Priorities and work plan

The Conference of the Parties is invited to entrust the secretariat, in cooperation with the Bureau, to update the long-term programme of work under the Convention (ECE/CP.TEIA/12, annex V, decision 2004/5, appendix I, part one) to reflect the work carried out since its third meeting as well as the decisions taken at this meeting.

The Conference of the Parties is also invited to decide on its priorities and the elements of the work plan for 2007–2008 on the basis of a proposal made by the Bureau (ECE/CP.TEIA/2006/13, para. 2 and annex I, respectively). In doing so, it may also wish to take into account the long-term programme of work under the Convention and the outcome of its discussions on the previous agenda items (in particular the assistance programme).

(b) Resources

The Secretary will report on the use of resources under the Convention in 2000–2006 on the basis of a note (ECE/CP.TEIA/2006/12), which the Conference of the Parties is invited to endorse.

The Conference of the Parties is also invited to decide on funding arrangements under the Convention and the budget to facilitate the implementation of the work plan for 2007–2008 on the basis of a proposal made by the Bureau (ECE/CP.TEIA/2006/13, annex II).

The Conference of the Parties may also wish to make arrangements to support the participation of experts from countries with economies in transition in meetings held under its auspices and in the activities within the assistance programme. It is therefore invited to decide on criteria for such support, taking into account a proposal made by the Bureau (ECE/CP.TEIA/2006/13, annex III).

(c) Draft decision on the priorities, programme of work and resources under the Convention for 2007–2008

The Conference of the Parties is invited to officially adopt its decision on the priorities, work plan and resources under the Convention for 2007–2008, taking into account the outcome of the discussions on the previous two items (13 (a) and (b)).

Item 14. Date and venue of the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties

The Conference of the Parties is invited to take a unanimous decision to hold its fifth ordinary meeting in 2008. Delegations are encouraged to offer to host the fifth meeting so that the Conference of the Parties can decide on its next venue.

Item 15. Other business

At the time of writing, the secretariat had no points to propose under this item.

Item 16. Review of decisions and final statements

The Chairperson will review all the decisions taken by the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting. The Conference of the Parties is invited to entrust the Secretary, in consultation with the Bureau, with finalizing the report of its fourth meeting.

Item 17. Final statements and closing of the meeting

The Chairperson and representatives of the host country will be invited to make final statements. The Chairperson will then officially close the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.