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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 (Italy), 15–17 November 2006 Item 10 of the provisional agenda

UNECE INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENT NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

Results of the tests of the UNECE Industrial Accident Notification System

Note by the secretariat

Introduction

1. The representatives of the points of contact for the purpose of accident notification and mutual assistance designated within the UNECE Industrial Accident Notification (IAN) System concluded, at their second consultation (in Rome on 19–20 October 2005), that regular testing of the UNECE IAN System would contribute to improving and maintaining the System's effectiveness.

2. They therefore decided to test the System regularly with two rounds of testing per year. Each round would consist of two subregional tests. The first one would be performed using an exercise notification in English and would be addressed to the countries of Central, Western and South-Eastern Europe and North America. The second test, using a notification in Russian, would be carried out in the countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA).

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3. The Convention's secretariat was requested to prepare a schedule of rounds of testing (available at <u>http://www.unece.org/env/teia/IAN%20System/IANtests.htm</u>) and to initiate them by notifying the points of contact at the beginning of the half-year periods in which the tests are to be performed.

4. In the first round of testing (first half of 2006), the secretariat asked the points of contact from Austria and Bulgaria to carry out the subregional tests, using an exercise notification in English and Russian respectively.

Results of the tests

5. The Bulgarian point of contact performed the subregional test on 15 June 2006. The exercise notification in Russian was sent to points of contact in 10 countries of EECCA.

6. Four points of contact reacted according to the System's procedure. Points of contact from six remaining countries (Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Ukraine and Uzbekistan) did not respond.

7. The Austrian point of contact conducted the second subregional test on 27 June 2006. The exercise notification was sent in English to 26 points of contact in countries of Central, Western and South-Eastern Europe and North America and to the European Commission.

8. The receipt of this notification was acknowledged, in accordance with the procedure under the UNECE IAN System, by 21 points of contact. Points of contact from four countries (Canada, Luxembourg, Turkey and the United States) did not react at all. Due to a system failure, Italy's point of contact failed to respond within a reasonable time frame.

9. Both Austria's and Bulgaria's points of contact informed the secretariat that they had not made any reminder calls to countries which did not acknowledge receipt of the notification.

10. The compiled results of the two recent subregional tests appear in the table below along with the results of subregional tests carried out by Italy and the Russian Federation in 2005. The following conclusions may be drawn:

(a) Six additional points of contact acknowledged the receipt of notification in the 2006 tests as compared to the ones carried out in 2005.

(b) The points of contact of five countries of EECCA which had reacted correctly to the test carried out by the Russian Federation in 2005 did not acknowledge the notification in the 2006 test. These countries are Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. The Russian point of contact, the host of the 2005 subregional test, also did not respond to the Bulgarian test.

(c) The points of contact of Canada, Luxembourg, Turkey and the United States did not react at all in either of the two tests.

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COUNTRY	Responded correctly in first half of 2006	Responded correctly in 2005
AUSTRIA	Carried out the test	YES
BELGIUM	YES	NO
CANADA	NO	NO
CROATIA	YES	YES
CZECH REPUBLIC	YES	YES
DENMARK	YES	NO
ESTONIA	YES	YES
FINLAND	YES	YES
FRANCE	YES	NO
GERMANY	YES	YES
HUNGARY	YES	YES
ITALY	System failure	Carried out the test
LATVIA	YES	YES
LITHUANIA	YES	NO
LUXEMBOURG	NO	NO
NETHERLANDS	YES	YES
NORWAY	YES	YES
POLAND	YES	YES
SLOVAKIA	YES	NO
SLOVENIA	YES	YES
SPAIN	YES	YES
SWEDEN	YES	YES
SWITZERLAND	YES	YES
TURKEY	NO	NO
UNITED KINGDOM	YES	NO
UNITED STATES	NO	NO
EUROPEAN COMMISSION	YES	YES
BULGARIA	Carried out the test	NO
ARMENIA	YES	YES
AZERBAIJAN	NO	YES
BELARUS	YES	YES
GEORGIA	YES	YES
KAZAKHSTAN	NO	YES
KYRGYZSTAN	NO	YES
REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA	YES	YES
RUSSIAN FEDERATION	NO	Carried out the test
UKRAINE	NO	YES
UZBEKISTAN	NO	YES

Results of the 2006 and 2005 subregional tests