



Council of the
European Union

048522/EU XXVI. GP
Eingelangt am 19/12/18

Brussels, 19 December 2018
(OR. en)

15763/18

ENV 931
IND 422
PROCIV 95
ONU 115

INFORMATION NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council

To: Delegations

Subject: United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
Tenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on
Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents (TEIA COP 10) (Geneva, 4-6
December 2018)

- Information from the Presidency and the Commission

Delegations will find in the Annex, for information, a report from the Presidency and the Commission on the outcome of the abovementioned meeting.

**United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
Tenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties
to the Convention on Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents (TEIA COP 10)**

- Information from the Presidency and the Commission -

1. INTRODUCTION

The tenth Conference of the Parties to the UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents (TEIA COP 10) was held in Geneva from 4 - 6 December 2018.

TEIA COP 10 was attended by delegations from 37 out of 41 Parties (absent: Bosnia, Denmark, Monaco and Luxemburg) as well as by delegations from Cameroon and Brazil and several observers. TEIA COP 10 was chaired by Ms Jasmina Karba (Slovenia) and, after the election of the officers, by the newly elected chair, Ms Torill Tandberg (Norway).

The EU position was governed by a Council Decision related to negotiations on a potential amendment¹.

2. MAIN OUTCOMES

This section lists the most important outcomes of COP 10, which were all in line with EU positions. However, as expected in the preparations for the meeting, no consensus was reached on the amendment of the Convention. Consultations on an amendment will continue in an informal way.

¹ Council Decision of 1 December 2014 authorising the opening of negotiations on an amendment of the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents (doc. 15615/14).

2.1 Amendment

At TEIA COP 9, the decision on the amendment had been postponed. TEIA COP 10 did not reach consensus on the draft amendment either. The Conference of the Parties encouraged the concerned Parties to continue informal consultations, in particular on the proposed amendments regarding public information, participation in decision-making as well as access to justice. It invited the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the Bureau to facilitate these consultations with a view to respective positions possibly becoming closer, and to report back on the outcome of those consultations to the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

TEIA COP 10 agreed that, should those consultations result in substantial progress towards consensus, the Bureau might propose addressing the issue of the amendments to the Convention at a later meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

2.2 Long-term Strategy

TEIA COP 10 adopted the Long-term Strategy for the Convention until 2030.

The Strategy seeks to strengthen the international recognition of the TEIA Convention as the main international initiative addressing prevention of and mitigation of the effects of industrial accidents, in particular in the context of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction². The Strategy analyses the strengths and achievements of the Convention and sets out a vision and objectives to respond to observed challenges. It includes strong elements of outreach and transboundary cooperation, e.g. through assistance and cooperation programs and strategic partnerships, also beyond the ECE region.

As the TEIA Convention is modelled after the Seveso Directive, the Strategy indirectly promotes EU's best practice and legislation regarding industrial accidents prevention, preparedness and response, both within the ECE region and beyond.

² See <https://www.unisdr.org/we/coordinate/sendai-framework>

2.3 Other outcomes

All other outcomes of TEIA COP 10 were as anticipated and in line with EU positions. Amongst others, the decisions to:

- Amend the guidelines to facilitate the identification of hazardous activities for the purposes of the implementation of the Convention.
- Take note of the information provided by the secretariat on the implementation of the sustainable financial mechanism.
- Adopt the decision on fostering the implementation of the sustainable financial mechanism.
- Adopt the communication, outreach and engagement strategy.
- Adopt the programme of work for 2019-2021.

2.4 Seminar

TEIA COP 10 included a seminar on risk assessment methodologies. The seminar aimed inter alia to inform the risk reduction community about the role of effect and risk assessment and the methodologies for industrial accident prevention, preparedness and response. It allowed exchange of good practices, including models developed by the JRC. The Bureau was invited to reflect on follow-up activities.

3. ELECTIONS

TEIA COP 10 elected its chair (Norway). Slovenia and Austria were elected as new vice chairs.

TEIA COP 10 also elected the members of the Bureau: BY, CH, CZ, DE, EU, FI, and RS. Whilst gender balance improved (4 female Bureau members out of 10 members), regional balance is not satisfactory as only 2 members represent non-EU/non-EEA parties (Belarus and Serbia).

4. NEXT STEPS

TEIA COP 11 is scheduled for the end of 2020 and it will be hosted by Germany.

5. BACKGROUND

The 1992 Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents entered into force in 2000 and aims at protecting people and the environment against adverse effects of major industrial accidents involving hazardous chemicals. The principle is to prevent accidents from occurring, or to reduce their frequency and severity and to mitigate their effects if required. To sum up: Prevention of, preparedness for and response to industrial accidents capable of causing transboundary effects. The Industrial Accidents Convention promotes active international cooperation between countries, before, during and after an industrial accident.

All EU Member States except for Ireland and Malta are Parties to the Industrial Accidents Convention. The European Union signed the Industrial Accidents Convention on 19 March 1992 and approved it on 24 April 1998.

In the EU the corresponding measures are included in Directive 2012/18/EU (Seveso III), which is more stringent than the Industrial Accidents Convention.