



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

MP.WAT/AC.3/2001/1
CP.TEIA/AC.1/2001/1

10 September 2001
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

**CONVENTION ON THE PROTECTION AND USE
OF TRANSBOUNDARY WATERCOURSES AND
INTERNATIONAL LAKES**

**CONVENTION ON THE TRANSBOUNDARY EFFECTS
OF INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS**

Intergovernmental Working Group on Civil Liability

First meeting,
Geneva, 21 - 23 November 2001

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FIRST MEETING

to be held at the Palais des Nations
starting at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, 21 November 2001

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Election of officers.

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4. Proposals and working documents on civil liability.
5. Preparation of a legally binding instrument on civil liability for transboundary damage caused by hazardous activities, within the framework of the UNECE Conventions on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes and on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents.
6. Date and venue of future meetings of the Intergovernmental Working Group.
7. Other business.
8. Closing of the meeting.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

The Intergovernmental Working Group to draw up a legally binding instrument on civil liability for transboundary damage caused by hazardous activities, within the framework of the UNECE Conventions on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) and on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents (Industrial Accidents Convention) was established by the Parties to both Conventions at their joint special session at Geneva on 2-3 July 2001 (ECE/MP.WAT/7 - ECE/CP.TEIA/5). Its first meeting was scheduled to take place at Geneva on 21-23 November 2001.

Item 1: Opening of the meeting

The meeting will be opened by a representative of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties to the Industrial Accidents Convention.

Item 2: Adoption of the agenda

The Intergovernmental Working Group is expected to adopt the agenda for its first meeting as set out in the present document.

Item 3: Election of officers

The Working Group will elect a chairman and a vice-chairman from among the participants. The Working Group will also designate a rapporteur.

Item 4: Proposals and working documents on civil liability

The Meeting will have before it two documents that were already considered at the joint special session of the Parties to both Conventions: examples of solutions found in international instruments on liability (MP.WAT/2001/1/Add.1 - CP.TEIA/2001/1/Add.1) and an example of an instrument on liability and compensation, prepared by the delegation of Switzerland (MP.WAT/2001/3 - CP.TEIA/2001/3). Following the decision taken by the Parties to both Conventions at their joint special session, delegations and governmental and non-governmental organizations are invited to submit additional and working documents for consideration by the Working Group to the ECE secretariat well before the meeting.

Item 5: Preparation of a legally binding instrument on civil liability for transboundary damage caused by hazardous activities, within the framework of the UNECE Conventions on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes and on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents

The Meeting is expected to commence work on a legally binding instrument on civil liability for transboundary damage caused by hazardous activities. In doing so, it is expected to take into consideration the issues raised by the Parties to both Conventions at their joint special session and contained in the joint decision (ECE/MP.WAT/7 - ECE/CP.TEIA/5, annex).

Item 6: Date and venue of future meetings of the Intergovernmental Working Group

The Working Group is expected to set the indicative dates for its future meetings and decide on their venues. The secretariat has made preliminary arrangements for meetings to be held in Geneva on: 4-6 February 2002, 8-10 May 2002, 2-4 September 2002 and 4-6 November 2002.

Item 7: Other business

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

Item 8: Closing of the meeting

The Chairman will close the meeting.