
Terms of Reference of the Accident Prevention and Control Expert Group

ICPDR IKSD

International Commission
for the Protection
of the Danube River

Internationale Kommission
zum Schutz der Donau

Terms of Reference of the Accident Prevention and Control
Expert Group (APC EG) of the ICPDR

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Accident Prevention and Control Expert Group (APC EG) is an Expert Body of the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR).
- 1.2 The ToR provide a mandate to the APC EG to take action in the subject areas described below. The ToR also provide guidance to the work, which the APC EG is expected to undertake, and to its general working arrangements.
- 1.3 The tasks of the APC EG deal with specific tasks carried out by former Task Groups: Accident Prevention Task Group (AP TG - activities related to prevention and controlling accidental pollution) and the Accident Emergency and Warning System Task Group (AEWS TG - dealing with the operation and maintenance of the Danube Accident Emergency and Warning System). The APC EG will ensure a comprehensive integration of the accidental prevention and control tasks as well as of those related to the maintenance and operation of the AEWS of the ICPDR.

2. Objective

The overall objective of the APC EG is to support ICPDR activities to reduce accidental water pollution including safety measures, to limit accidents caused by substances hazardous to water and especially their transboundary effects in the Danube basin and to maintain, operate and as needed further develop the Accident Emergency Warning System (AEWS) in the Danube River Basin ensuring its timely re-sponse to the relevant accidents.

3. Responsibilities

- 3.1 The APC EG is responsible for initiating, guiding and ensuring the successful completion of the work required under its ToR.
- 3.2 The APC EG will report regularly to the ICPDR and its Standing Working Group on the implementation of ongoing activities, on proposed activities and the results achieved.
- 3.3 The APC EG is responsible for the establishment - subject to the approval of the ICPDR or its Standing Working Group - and guidance of time limited Task Groups to provide needed input to fulfil the tasks listed below.
- 3.4 Proposed activities with policy or financial implications for the ICPDR must be approved, in advance, by the ICPDR.

4. Main tasks of the PM EG

The APC EG is entrusted to carry out the following main tasks:

Accident Prevention and Control Tasks

- 4.1 Finalize basin-wide compilation and update of ARS inventories
- 4.2 Evaluate and improve operational tools for prevention and control:
 - develop risk assessment and evaluation based on risk inventories
 - propose a sectoral framework programme for technical prevention, safety and control measures in close cooperation with the PM EG and the Joint Programme of Measures of the DRBM Plan 2015
 - investigate the existing accidental pollution means to be used during emergency situation at national level, as well in the cross border areas, and propose solution to strengthen the countries capacities in dealing with crises management
 - evaluate experience gained with substances hazardous to water in cooperation with PM EG; analyse and resume available codes of conduct and specific regulations regarding the handling of such substances and its preventive implications
 - Assess the application of safety measures during accidental pollution events, propose specific recommendations which should be further monitored, and ensure exchange of experience and lessons learned during accidents
- 4.3 Address emergency issues of accidents in flooded areas by undertaking risk assessments for contaminated sites and taking into consideration the provisions of the Flood Risk Management Plan and the flood risk maps
- 4.4 Develop a proposal to support the Danube countries to reduce the risk and prevent industrial accidents to the extent possible, through prevention, preparedness, response and notification obligations:
 - Prepare guidelines on how to provide assistance to major incidents in other Danube countries when requested and to seek the assistance of international support if required
 - Provide recommendations on how to make polluters liable for all response costs associated with a pollution incident.

Accidental Emergency Warning tasks

- 4.5 Operation of the Accident Emergency Warning System (AEWS) in the Danube River Basin ensuring its 24/7 preparedness
- 4.6 Upgrading of the Danube AEWS in response to the software and hardware development and with the view of maintaining its trouble-free operation
- 4.7 Organizing of regular tests of the Danube AEWS operation performance utilizing the lessons-learned from this activity
- 4.8 Reporting annually on the performance of AEWS as well as on the accidents which triggered AEWS

General tasks

- 4.9 Preparation, as appropriate, of project proposals in support of its tasks and following up on project implementation
- 4.10 Review its ToR on a regular basis and propose amendments for approval by the ICPDR

- 4.11 Preparation of appropriate information for dissemination to interested bodies and the public about APC EG activities in close cooperation with the PP EG
- 4.12 Prepare a Work Program for future activities of the APC EG. This will be prepared according to the requirements of the ICPDR and should include action(s) planned for the following three years.

5. Cooperation with other ICPDR bodies

The APC EG will collaborate closely with all other ICPDR Expert Bodies, as appropriate.

6. Membership

- 6.1 The APC EG consists of the representatives as nominated by the Contracting Parties to be a standing member of the APC EG. Additional experts may also participate in meetings if their particular specialist knowledge is required
- 6.2 Each Contracting Party may propose candidates (one or more) to participate in time-limited Task Groups organised to address specific issues
- 6.3 Representatives of other organisations may become accredited observers to the APC EG and/or its Task Groups by following the relevant procedures of the ICPDR relating to observer status

7. Working Arrangements

The general working arrangements for the APC EG are provided by the ICPDR Rules of Procedure.