NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT

SECOND REGIONAL MEETING OF NATIONAL AUTHORITIES OF STATES PARTIES IN EASTERN EUROPE
PRAGUE-ŘEŽ, CZECH REPUBLIC
30 JUNE - 2 JULY 2003

1. On behalf of the Government of the Czech Republic and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the Director-General wishes to invite representatives of National Authorities to nominate participants to attend the Second Meeting of National Authorities of States Parties in Eastern Europe, which will be held in Prague-Řež, Czech Republic, from 30 June – 2 July 2003. The meeting is designed as a working space for personnel of National Authorities who deal on a day to day basis with the issues of the national implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention. Individuals nominated for participation in the meeting are therefore expected to be actually responsible for the specific tasks of implementing the Convention at the national level.

2. This meeting builds on the results of the First Meeting of National Authorities of States Parties in Eastern Europe which took place in Dunajská Streda, Slovak Republic in April 2002. It is intended to provide a framework within which National Authority representatives can review and discuss issues relating to the practical implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) under the following thematic clusters:

(a) role of the National Authorities in the implementation of CWC in individual States Parties participating in the Meeting: their organisation, position in the government structure, rights and responsibilities;
(b) administrative requirements for the successful functioning of a National Authority;
(c) summary and immediate practical consequences for National Authorities of the conclusions of the First CWC Review Conference; and
(d) implementation support projects in the region.

3. One practical objective of the meeting will be to collect contact data of Eastern European and other interested National Authorities and to establish personal working relationships, leading to the establishment of a regional network in support of the sustained implementation of the CWC, in particular in areas where collective action might be required, such as tracking transfers of scheduled chemicals, development of effective national implementing legislation, assistance and protection against chemical
weapons, and procedures for clarification. All participants in the meeting will be expected to make presentations on the organisation of their National Authorities and on the mechanisms for coordinating the implementation of the CWC in their States Parties. Participants will visit the Czech laboratory of the State Institute for Nuclear, Chemical and Biological Protection in Příbram.

4. The provisional programme of the meeting is contained in annex 1 to this Note.

5. The Technical Secretariat (hereinafter the “Secretariat”) expects to be able to sponsor the participation of a limited number of representatives of National Authorities. The nominations should specify whether sponsorship is a precondition for the participation of the proposed candidates. For sponsored participants, the Secretariat will cover the costs of travel, accommodation, meals and medical insurance. It will also provide a limited subsistence allowance to cover sundry expenses of the sponsored participants. The Secretariat will cover the cost of accommodation only if it makes these arrangements. Participants who neither need nor intend to use the accommodation provided by the Secretariat are requested to inform the Secretariat as early as possible, so that hotel cancellation fees can be avoided. The daily subsistence allowance will remain unchanged for those participants who opt to make their own accommodation arrangements. When making travel arrangements for sponsored participants, the Secretariat will seek to use the most economic options available. Tickets will be purchased by the Secretariat, and will be sent to participants. Participants will be allowed to purchase tickets locally only when this leads to further savings to the Secretariat and when this is authorised by the Secretariat in advance. Any costs due to changes or cancellations made by participants after the tickets have been purchased shall be borne by the participants. Non-sponsored participants are requested to make their own travel and accommodation arrangements, although, if necessary, the Secretariat can arrange accommodation at reduced rates.

6. Participants are requested to obtain any necessary visas (including transit visas) before travelling to the Czech Republic.

7. All activities during the meeting will be conducted in English. No interpretation services of any kind will be provided. Nominated participants are therefore expected to have a good command of the English language, both written and oral.

8. Interested National Authorities are invited to submit the nominations of their representatives to participate in the meeting to the Secretariat, not later than 3 May 2003, using the nomination form contained in annex 2 to this Note. It is important that all the details requested on the form will be provided, and that the form is fully filled in, so that the Secretariat can communicate directly with the proposed candidates. Please be advised that an OPCW acceptance letter is a prerequisite for the registration of participants. The completed nomination forms should be addressed to the Director, International Cooperation and Assistance Division, OPCW, Johan de Wittlaan 32, 2517 JR The Hague, the Netherlands. Nominations may also be submitted by fax (+31-(0)-70-306-3535), or by e-mail (ipb@opcw.org).

9. Additional information about the workshop may be obtained from the Implementation Support Branch, International Cooperation and Assistance Division. The contact
persons are: Ms Katerina Minarikova (+31-(0)-70-416-3823), and Ms Maria Elena Bruno Pousadela (+31-(0)-70-416-3825).

Annexes

Annex 1: Provisional programme
Annex 2: Nomination form
Annex 1
SECOND REGIONAL MEETING OF NATIONAL AUTHORITIES OF STATES PARTIES IN EASTERN EUROPE
PRAGUE-ŘEŽ, CZECH REPUBLIC
30 JUNE - 2 JULY 2003
PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Sunday
29 June
19:00 – 21:00 Welcome dinner

Monday
30 June
09:00 – 09:30 Opening ceremony Authorities of the Czech Government, Czech National Authority, and OPCW Secretariat

Role of the National Authorities in the implementation of CWC
09:30 – 10:00 Presentation of the Czech National Authority
10:00 – 10:30 Coffee break
10:30 – 12:30 Presentations of individual National Authorities
12:30 – 13:30 Lunch

13:30 – 15:00 Presentations of individual National Authorities
15:00 – 15:30 Coffee break
15:30 – 17:30 Presentations of individual National Authorities
17:30 – 18:00 Discussion
19:00 – 21:00 Dinner

Tuesday
1 July
09:00 – 12:00 Visit to the State Office for Nuclear Safety (National Authority of the Czech Republic)
12:00 – 12:30 Lunch
12:30 – 16:00 Visit to State Institute for Nuclear, Chemical and Biological Protection, Příbram
18:00 – 20:00 Dinner
Wednesday
2 July

Summary and immediate practical consequences for National Authorities of the conclusions of the First CWC Review Conference

09:00 – 10:30 Report of the OPCW Secretariat
10:30 – 11:00 Coffee break
11:30 – 12:30 Discussion
12:30 – 13:30 Lunch

Implementation support projects in the region

13:30 – 14:30 Report of the OPCW Secretariat
14:30 – 15:30 Discussion
15:30 – 16:00 Coffee break
16:00 – 17:00 Conclusions and recommendations, closing ceremony

18:30 – 21:00 Dinner
SECOND REGIONAL MEETING OF NATIONAL AUTHORITIES OF STATES PARTIES IN EASTERN EUROPE
PRAGUE-ŘEŽ, CZECH REPUBLIC
30 JUNE - 2 JULY 2003

NOMINATION FORM

Please submit the completed form by 3 May 2003 to:
The Director, International Cooperation and Assistance Division, OPCW, Johan de Wittlaan 32, 2517 JR The Hague, the Netherlands.
Fax: +31-(0)-70-306-3535; e-mail: ipb@opcw.org

Please use BLOCK LETTERS

1. Government body nominating the participant

2. Family name

3. First name

4. Date of birth Day Month Year

5. Citizenship

6. Male/Female* male female

7. Passport no.

8. Date of issue Day Month Year

9. Date of expiry Day Month Year

10. Place of issue

11. Description of duties in regard to CWC implementation

12. Employer

Name of the organisation:

13. Contact address

Street

Number Post code

City

Country

14. E-mail address
15. Telephone no. (home/work)  

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16. Fax no. (home/work)  

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17. Has nominee previously attended a meeting of this kind?*  

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<th>Yes</th>
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<th>If “Yes”, when and where?</th>
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18. Is sponsorship a precondition for participation?*  

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<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
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* Please tick appropriate box.