



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

CP.TEIA/2001/4
MP.WAT/WG.1/2001/2

26 April 2001
Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

**CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE
CONVENTION ON THE TRANSBOUNDARY
EFFECTS OF INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS**

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

**INDUSTRIAL SAFETY AND WATER PROTECTION
IN TRANSBOUNDARY RIVER BASINS**

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP AND EXERCISE

**Information Notice by the delegation of Hungary
and the Convention's secretariats**

Introduction

1. In accordance with articles 6, 8, 10 and 11 of the UN/ECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents (Industrial Accidents Convention), the Parties have to take appropriate measures for the prevention of industrial accidents, establish and maintain adequate emergency preparedness to respond to them, mitigate their transboundary effects and provide for the establishment and operation of efficient industrial accident notification systems. The Parties to the UN/ECE Convention on the

Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) have to minimize the risk of accidental water pollution, develop contingency planning, establish warning and alarm procedures and provide mutual assistance should a critical situation should arise, in accordance with its articles 3, 9, 14 and 15.

2. The Conference of the Parties to the Industrial Accidents Convention, at its first meeting in November 2001, agreed that experience should be shared and assistance provided in establishing and implementing preparedness and response measures. It encouraged the organization of bilateral and multilateral response exercises (ECE/CP.TEIA/2, annex IX, Part One, programme element 5.1). In this connection, it welcomed Hungary's proposal to organize an international workshop and exercise on "Industrial safety and water protection" and recommended that it should be an activity within the joint ad hoc expert group on water and industrial accidents, established under the Industrial Accidents and the Water Conventions (ECE/CP.TEIA/2, para. 41 and annex IX, Part Two, programme element 5.1.1).

3. The Bureau of the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention, at a joint meeting with the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties to the Industrial Accidents Convention, on 19-20 February 2001, expressed its support for the organization of the workshop and exercise and recommended that the Parties to the Water Convention take an active part in these events, which would be held jointly within the framework of both Conventions.

4. The present document contains preliminary information on the international workshop and exercise "Industrial safety and water protection in transboundary river basins", to be held on 3-5 October 2001, in Tiszaújváros, at the invitation of the Government of Hungary.

Objectives of the workshop and exercise

5. The key objectives are to:

(a) Review the national and international regulations on the prevention, preparedness and response to industrial accidents involving hazardous substances;

(b) Provide a forum for the exchange of experience in introducing and implementing preparedness and response measures;

(c) Provide a forum for the exchange of experience regarding civil defence organizations at local level;

(d) Demonstrate the role of civil defence organizations in emergencies;

(e) Demonstrate response systems and procedures for eliminating the consequences of major accidents involving hazardous substances and accidental water pollution.

6. The workshop and exercise will be organized by the National Directorate General for Disaster Management, the Chemical Plant of the Tisza Chemical Works Co. Ltd., the local Defence Committee of Tiszaújváros, and the Regional Coordinating Centre for the Prevention of Industrial Accidents, under the auspices of the Hungarian Ministries of the Interior, Environment, Economic Affairs, and Transport and Water Management.
7. The workshop and exercise will be sponsored by leading Hungarian chemical and oil companies.
8. An international steering group will provide advice to the Hungarian authorities on the final programme of the workshop and the concept of the exercise and will assist them in inviting speakers.
9. The workshop and exercise will take place in Tiszaújváros (Hungary), located in the Tisza river basin, from 3 to 5 October 2001. Accommodation will be provided in Hotel Fénix.

Preliminary programme of the workshop and exercise

First day:

Opening and welcome addresses

Session 1 - Transposition of the provisions of international regulations into national law – status of implementation

Experience related to the implementation of the UN/ECE Conventions on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents and on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes and of Council Directive 96/82/EC on the control of major-accident hazards involving dangerous substances.

Session 2 – Measures for preventing industrial accidents involving hazardous substances

The role of national authorities, international river commissions and industry in measures for preventing industrial accidents, with special emphasis on the establishment of a safety management system and the implementation of safety measures.

Session 3 - Measures for responding to industrial accidents involving hazardous substances

The role of national authorities, international river commissions and industry in measures for responding to industrial accidents, with special emphasis on the establishment of on- and off-site emergency plans, both in the national and transboundary contexts and on the information of the public.

Second day:

Session 4 - Prevention of harm to the public and the environment

The role of national authorities, international river commissions and industry in the elimination of the consequences of industrial accidents and diminishing their harmful effects on the public and the environment, including appropriate measurement methods.

Exercise 1 - Chemical hazard (see annex).

Exercise 2 – Water hazard (see annex).

Third day:

Session 5 – The role of civil defence organizations at local level

Cooperation among civil defence organizations at local level and their tasks in industrial accident prevention.

Session 6 – Round table on industrial safety

Domestic and foreign case studies on accidents leading to the pollution of the environment, lessons learned (cyanide pollution of the river Tisza, the elimination of consequences of accidents abroad).

Conclusions and closing of the workshop.

Annex

Concept of the exercises

1. Two field exercises are planned on the second day of the workshop at locations near the town of Tiszaújváros.
2. The following organizations will participate in the exercises: Directorate General for Disaster Management of the county of Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén; Local Defence Committee of Tiszaújváros; Civil Defence Office and Civil Defence Organizations of Tiszaújváros; Professional Fire Brigade of the Local Government of Tiszaújváros; “Fire Fighting and Technical Rescue” Ltd., Tisza Chemical Works Co. Ltd.; “AES II. Tisza” Heat Power Station; Northern Hungarian Directorate for Water Management Directorate; Inspectorate for Environmental Protection of the county of Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén; National Ambulance Service (Tiszaújváros, Miskolc); State Public Health and Medical Officer Service (Tiszaújváros); Central Police Station of the city of Tiszaújváros; River Police. (Tiszaújváros); ÉMÁSZ (power supplier) Ltd. (Tiszaújváros); Special Reconnaissance and Rescue Group of the city of Miskolc; Air Rescue Service; representatives of civil defence platoons of secondary schools).

Exercise 1

3. Location: Tisza Chemical Works Co. Ltd., Tiszaújváros - Borsod County.
4. Main elements of the exercise:
 - (a) Management of the response to an explosion in a hazardous establishment;
 - (b) Hazard elimination;
 - (c) Technical rescue;
 - (d) Provision of medical assistance to injured persons;
 - (e) On-site test of the relevant siren and communication systems.

5. Scenario:

There is a leak on the entering stub of the C4-C5 raw material evaporating heat-treating fraction at the 16th level of the decomposing furnace of the Olefin Plant of the Tisza Chemical Works Co. Ltd. which leads to a gas explosion and a fire. Four persons are seriously injured. Besides the fire-fighting and technical hazard elimination, the Tisza Chemical Works Co. Ltd., the “Fire Fighting and Technical Rescue” Ltd., safety experts and professionals of the Directorate General for Disaster Management of the county of Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén are taking continuous measurements.

Exercise 2

6. Location: the premises of the Aquatic Sports Club (“Power Station” housing estate), Tiszaújváros.

7. Main elements of the exercise:

- (a) Accidental water pollution, identification of pollutant;
- (b) Localization of pollutant;
- (c) Neutralization of the pollutant;
- (d) Clean-up.

8. Scenario:

A lorry carrying barrels of fuel oil overturns into the Tisza river together with its cargo at the pontoon bridge of Tiszadob. In the area of Tiszaújváros the ÉVIZIG, the “AES II: Tisza” Heat Power Station and local civil defence bodies collect and remove the pollution from the river together. The Inspectorate for Environmental Protection of the county takes environmental measurements.