

NATIONS UNIES

ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫЕ НАЦИИ

UNITED NATIONS

—
**COMMISSION ECONOMIQUE
POUR L'EUROPE**

—
**ЕВРОПЕЙСКАЯ ЭКОНОМИЧЕСКАЯ
КОМИССИЯ**

—
**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR
EUROPE**

SEMINAIRE

СЕМИНАР

SEMINAR

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



Distr.
GENERAL

ECE/CP.TEIA/SEM.5/2008/1
30 January 2008

Workshop on strengthening the safety measures at
hazardous activities

Original: ENGLISH

Vadul-lui-Voda (Moldova), 13–14 December 2007

**REPORT OF THE WORKSHOP ON STRENGTHENING THE SAFETY
MEASURES AT HAZARDOUS ACTIVITIES**

Introduction

1. The Workshop on strengthening the safety measures at hazardous activities was held on 13 and 14 December 2007 in Vadul-lui-Voda, Moldova. It was organized within the framework of the implementation phase of the Assistance Programme for the countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus, Central Asia (EECCA) and South-Eastern Europe (SEE), which was initiated by the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting (Rome, 15–17 November 2006; ECE/CP.TEIA/15/Add.1, decision 2006/1). This activity was part of the workplan under the Convention (ECE/CP.TEIA/15/Add.1, decision 2006/4 and appendix II).

2. The State Hydrometeorological Service of the Ministry of Natural Resources of Moldova organized the workshop with financial support from the Government of the Czech Republic.

I. OBJECTIVES

3. The key objective of the workshop was to discuss the legislation, standards and methods necessary for national authorities to ensure adequate safety at hazardous activities, including the legal basis for issuing licences and permits, as well as verification of safety documentation and conducting inspection.

GE.08-20910

4. The workshop enabled participants to share good practice and experience in conducting safety inspections, providing guidance to operators and developing tools and practices through adoption of which safety could be further strengthened. To this end, discussions were devoted to safety culture.

II. PARTICIPATION

5. The workshop was organized to promote the cooperation and application of common standards on safety between Moldova and its neighbouring countries, Romania and Ukraine. The countries were represented by following authorities: from Moldova, the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources and its State Hydrometeorological Service, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Agency for Standardization and Meteorology, and the Ministry of Industry and Infrastructure; from Romania, the Ministry of Administration and the Interior; and from Ukraine, the Ministry of Environmental Protection. The workshop was supported by experts from the Czech Republic and Italy. Representatives of Apa-Canal Service, the operator of a hazardous activity in Moldova, also took part.

III. OPENING, WELCOME ADDRESS, SETTING THE SCENE

6. Mr. Gavril Gilca, Head of the Monitoring Department on Environmental Quality of the State Hydrometeorological Service chaired the workshop. After opening the workshop, he introduced Ms. Violeta Ivanov, Deputy Minister of Environment and Natural Resources of Moldova, and Mr. Valeriu Cazac, Director of the State Hydrometeorological Service.

7. The Deputy Minister welcomed the participants and expressed her satisfaction that the workshop had been organized in Moldova and was a starting point for a process of strengthening safety at hazardous activities operated in Moldova that might potentially cause damage to environmental and human health if safety was not properly ensured. The Deputy Minister thanked the Czech Government for providing financial support for organizing the workshop.

8. The Director of the State Hydrometeorological Service welcomed participants and stressed the importance of the UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents and that its proper implementation should lead to the prevention of emergencies. He wished participants a fruitful exchange of good practice and experience when discussing the subject of ensuring safety at hazardous activities.

9. The UNECE Convention secretariat, welcomed the participants on behalf of UNECE. The secretariat then explained that the process of supporting the efforts of EECCA and SEE countries to apply the Convention had started with an initiation of the implementation phase of the Assistance Programme by the Conference of the Parties, and that the current workshop was a part of the process. Therefore the secretariat foresaw a productive session with a focus on identifying the necessary steps for strengthening safety at hazardous activities.

IV. PROGRAMME

10. The workshop was divided into three sessions:
 - (a) Session I: Discussion, with a focus on the safety requirements provided for in national legislation and standards, as well as on how they are implemented;
 - (b) Session II: The role of authorities in ensuring safety at hazardous activities, including their role in issuing permits and licenses both in planning and operational phase of a hazardous activity, as well as their role in conducting inspections and providing guidance to operators;
 - (c) Session III: Discussion on the steps to be undertaken to strengthen safety.
11. Participants also visited a chlorine storage facility in Chisinau during the afternoon of the first day. During the visit, they were informed about the safety measures and procedures applied by the operator. They were also shown a movie on a response exercise to a simulated emergency situation at the facility. The exercise was discussed in session II and an evaluation of it was made.
12. The workshop programme, including a list of presentations, is given in the annex. The presentations are available on the UNECE website at <http://www.unece.org/env/teia/moldova-document.htm>.

V. CONCLUSIONS

13. The workshop was a fruitful event for the participants, as it provided them with a forum for an in-depth discussion on safety, allowing an exchange of good practices and structural approaches.
14. Participants agreed the following:
 - (a) Sound national legislation on major accidents prevention was a starting point for ensuring safety at hazardous activities. Legislation should provide for classification of hazards, assessment of risk, safety programmes/reports, internal and external emergency planning, information policy, inspection and insurance. Legislation should give the State administration the right to efficiently enforce the obligations;
 - (b) An integrated system was needed for executing the obligations set by legislation. Therefore, all concerned authorities of the State administration dealing with safety needed to cooperate, and ideally a coordinating body should be nominated to manage the process;
 - (c) A role of State administration was to help enable the operators to comply with the requirements of the legislation. Major accident prevention management needed to facilitate the training of operators, e.g. in drawing up safety reports;

(d) Safety culture was very important and should be established so that the individuals and groups dealing with safety were committed to having common values, attitudes and perceptions, etc.

15. Participants concluded that there was room for improvement vis-à-vis strengthening safety. On the one hand, the legislation needed to be reviewed; on the other, different authorities within the State administration had to work jointly in an integrated system, one in which “who”, “what” and “how” were clearly specified.

16. The State administration in each country needed to work out its own integrated system; however, seeing how other countries had applied their systems could be a helpful tool in this process. To this end, a Czech expert offered to investigate the possibility of organizing an event in the Czech Republic, during which the Czech system could be presented and a training performed on the actions to be taken in applying the integrated system.

17. The training should be open to those experts nominated to introduce the integrated system within their authorities, and who were able to train other staff in this respect.

18. Participants also concluded that response exercises to simulated accidents were a good tool for verifying if safety was adequately addressed at the operator level and if effective response measures could be applied. The Moldavian experts informed the workshop that they would greatly benefit from participating as observers in exercises to a simulated industrial accident, so as to learn how such exercises were organized and evaluated.

VI. CLOSING OF THE WORKSHOP

19. The Chair thanked the participants for their contributions to the discussion. He appreciated the fine work done by the Czech and Italian experts and the UNECE secretariat leading up to and during the workshop. Speaking as the focal point to the Convention, he noted that it had been important for Moldova to host this workshop and that the discussion on safety would continue in Moldova among all concerned State administration, so that an integrated system could be introduced. The Chair also expressed his hope that Moldova would be further supported in its efforts to implement the Convention and that after the country had identified all its State administration as part of an integrated system for ensuring safety at hazardous activities, a training would be organized for them.

20. The secretariat thanked the workshop attendees for their active participation and encouraged them to keep up the momentum by continuing the discussion in their respective countries on the integrated system for ensuring safety, which would in turn lead to introducing safety culture. He also invited them to review legislation in their countries to see if it provided for all the provisions discussed in the workshop. He thanked the organizing team for all their efforts in arranging the workshop, and the Czech and Italian experts for their admirable contributions.

Annex**WORKSHOP PROGRAMME**

SESSION I: Legislation and Standard on safety	
1.	Legislation and standards on safety adopted in Moldova – Ms. Tatiana Plesko , expert of the Department of Environmental Policy and Strategy of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, Moldova
2.	Legislation and standards on safety adopted in the Czech Republic – Mr. Milos Palecek , expert on safety standards and legislation, the Czech Republic
SESSION II: The role of authorities in ensuring safety at hazardous activities	
1.	The licensing process and verification of safety documentation: assessment of risks and verification of safety management system by inspectors based on a case-study for chlorine storage – Mr. Mihai Mustea , expert of the State Ecological Inspectorate of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, Moldova
2.	Risk management at hazardous activities – Mr. Pavel Danihelka , expert on safety issues, the Czech Republic
3.	Safety measures applied by an operator of the chlorine storage in Chisinau - Mr. Sergiu Pislaru , representative, chlorine storage facility, Moldova
4.	Inspections at hazardous activities performed by the Standardization and Meteorology Service - Mr. Sergiu Croitor , Head of Technological, Radioactive and Chemical Inspectorate, the Standardization and Metrology Service, Moldova
5	Inspection at hazardous activities in the Czech Republic – Mr. Milos Palecek , expert of safety standards and legislation, the Czech Republic
6	Good practice in providing safety guidelines to operators – Mr. Neil Manning – expert on safety standards, ICARO Ltd, Italy; supported by Mr. Francisc Senzaconi – expert on safety standards, Romania
5.	Assistance expected from the authorities – Mr. Arcadie Rusnac , expert on Environment and Civil Protection Division, Apa–Canal Service, Moldova
Section III: The steps to be undertaken to strengthen the safety	
Discussion on what steps should be undertaken with regard to improving safety at hazardous activities – Mr. Danihelka, Mr. Manning and Mr. Palecek , facilitators	
