



Water and Industrial Accidents

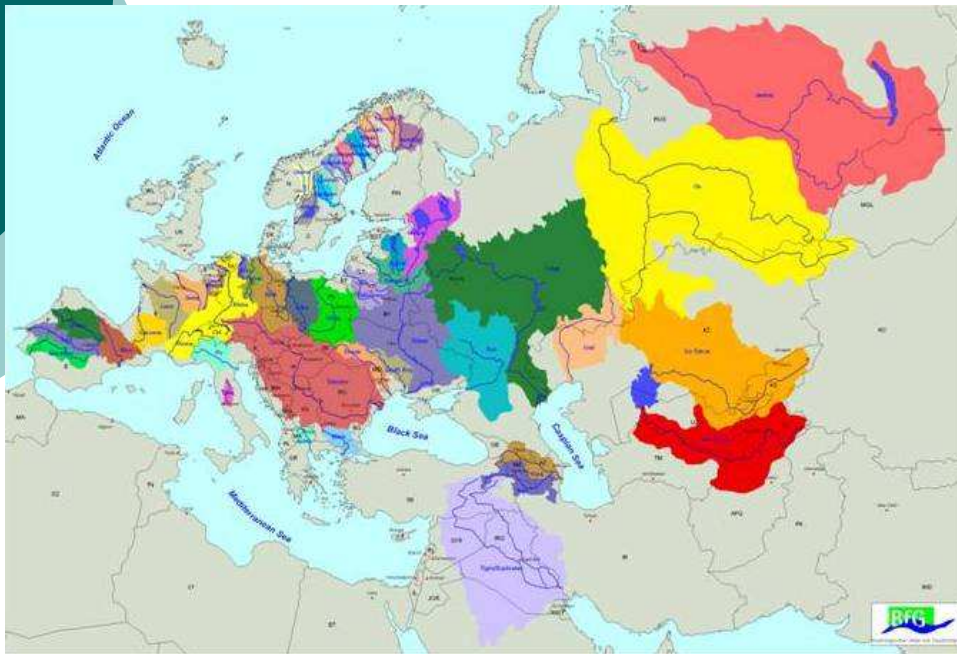
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Convention of the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes

Joint activities of the „Water” and the „Industrial Accidents” Conventions

Joint Expert Group (JEG) - Liability Protocol (LP)



- Liability Protocol – on civil liability and compensation for damages caused by transboundary industrial accidents on transboundary waters
- Signed in 2003 by 22 countries;
- Not in force yet

JEG established to work on accidental water pollution issues (Art 6,8,10,16 of the Industrial Accident Convention, Art 3,9,13 of the Water Convention)
- Co-Chairmanship by the two Conventions

- - **Mission of JEG**
 - assistance in organising exercises, workshops, seminars, conferences
 - drawing up training materials, booklets
 - drafting specific guidelines on good practices and recommendations

1. What has been done in this work area? The main achievements since 2009?

JEG

- **Achievements:** Guiding Documents for Pipelines and Tailing Management Facilities, promotion of using checklist methodology, joint exercises, guidance and assistance to countries in transition etc.

Current Strategy for the JEG

- prepared by the co-chairmen of the JEG in consultation with the Bureaux of the two conventions in June 2009, endorsed by MoP of the Water Convention in Geneva, 10-12 November 2009

- JEG mission and areas of work defined

Seminar on SANDOZ+25 (Bonn, November 2011) and its conclusions

LP

- International workshop (2007, Budapest)
- Consultation with EU COM on the compatibility of the EU and ECE instruments
- Study launched in 2011 on national legislation requirements deriving from international instruments on liability



2. What are the main challenges and lessons learnt?

JEG

- The composition of the JEG was unbalanced in relation to Accident Convention vs. Water Convention.
- Uneven distribution of experts from UNECE regions.
- The JEG should have well defined tasks.
- More active participation is required in present work and in the organization of the meetings. Lack of presence at the meetings is an obstacle.
- There is a need for a sound financial base to support eligible countries/external consultants.

LP

- For EU MSs – analysis of compatibility
- Non-EU Countries – capacitybuilding activities and assistance needed
- Insurance sector has to be prepared



3. What are the ideas for the future work in this area?

JEG

- Completion of the guiding document for transboundary contingency planning (it is a present task, requested by the countries, based on a questionnaire, approved by both bureaux –to be adopted by the MoP)
- Further (demand driven) activities have to be defined (e.g. Sandoz+25 recommendations, synergies with other activities like ICPDR) such as:
 - Exchange of experience on good practices (training, self-training kits, thematic conferences and exercises, bilateral exchanges, web, etc.)
 - Awareness raising and communication in case of accident and building trust and understanding between different stakeholders in transboundary context.
 - Promote transfer of knowledge between generations of safety experts
 - JEG to elaborate the catalog of preventive measures for processing plants (with special attention to handling fire waters at these plants)

LP

- Completion of the study + case study for Moldova/Ukraine
- Encourage ratification in the non-EU countries (+capacity building)



Keep talking” on the LB at different fora

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