



MONTENEGRO

Environmental Protection Agency



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Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism

Prevention of industrial accidents, preparedness and response in Montenegro



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CONVENTION ON CROSS-BORDER EFFECTS OF INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS

- Montenegro is a Party to the Convention since 19 May 2009
- By accepting provisions from the Convention Montenegro took an obligation to achieve a number of objectives of which the most important are:
 - 1) Identification of hazardous activities that can cause cross-border effects
 - 2) Prevention of industrial accidents
 - 3) Joint emergency plans for hazardous activities
 - 4) Establishment of a notification system for industrial accidents
 - 5) Provision of mutual assistance and mitigation of consequences
 - 6) Scientific and technological cooperation
 - 7) Reporting on industrial accidents
 - 8) Exchange and provision of information



NATIONAL LEGISLATION

- Convention on the transboundary effects of industrial accidents(Helsinki 1992) has been transposed in Montenegro thru set of laws and regulations:
- Environment Law("Official Gazette of Montenegro ",no. 48/08)
- Law of accepting Convention on cross-border effects of industrial accidents ("Official Gazette of Montenegro " ,no. 09/08)
- Regulation on inventory of types of hazardous substances, allowed quantities and criteria for categorisation of hazardous substances ("Official Gazette of Montenegro ",no. 05/11)

NATIONAL LEGISLATION

- Ministry of Interior affair(Sector for Emergency Situations) has adopted law, internal regulations and strategic documents regulating area of emergency situations:
- Law on Protection and Rescue ("Official Gazette of Montenegro ",no. 13/07), which is an umbrella act when it comes to sector for emergency situations.
- National plan for the protection from chemical accidents, adopted in 2010, through which the recognized operators(identified list) are already obliged to develop Accident prevention plans, Reports on safety and Accident protection plans. Also, with this plan, Ministry adopted all measures for the protection and rescue and formed Coordination and National Team for action for any kind of accidents.
- Ministry of Interior affair(Sector for Emergency Situations) also has signed memoranda on cooperation and action with the surrounding states where one of the components is also acting during industrial accidents.

IDENTIFICATION OF HAZARDOUS ACTIVITIES BASED ON THE QUANTITY AND THE CRITERIA FOR CATEGORIZATION OF HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES

- In the Regulation on the inventory of types of hazardous substances, allowed quantities and criteria for categorisation of hazardous substances
 - Partial transposition of the Seveso II Directive and its Annex I
 - Amendments are needed
- By the end of 2014 - new Environment Law
 - legal base for adoption of a set of by laws transposing provisions of Seveso III Directive and taking into account the proposed amendment of Annex I of the Convention

MONTENEGRO AND THE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME



- Montenegro has submitted national implementation reports for all reporting rounds
- The seventh Conference of the Parties (November 2012, Rome) decided to invite Montenegro to join the Assistance Programme
- In 2012 Montenegro nominated national competent authority and focal point
- The ECE secretariat contacted the national competent authority to start cooperating in organizing capacity-building activities

MONTENEGRO AND THE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME

- A workshop on the implementation of the Industrial Accidents Convention was held on 9 -10 April 2014 in Podgorica, Montenegro
 - Part of the project “Transforming Environmental and Security Risks in the SEE Region” within the Environment and Security Initiative (EnvSec)
 - Main topics
 - Implementation of the Industrial Accidents Convention.
 - Identification of Hazardous activities
 - The Assistance Programme
 - 20 representatives of the national competent and enforcement authorities of Montenegro (Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism, Ministry of Interior, State Agency on Environment Protection), representatives from the industry and NGOs
 - International participants from neighbouring countries and territories



FUTURE PLANS

- MSDT is working on the development of the new Environment Law. Adoption has been planned for IVQ this year (which means the Parliament will adopt it only in IIQ of the following year, sessions begin in March)
- The new law defines more precisely the obligations of Seveso facilities operators – Article 41, paragraph 3 states „An operator of a Seveso facility, i.e. complex in which activities are being implemented in which one or more hazardous substances may be present, in quantities equal or higher than the prescribed ones, is obliged to submit a Notice i.e. develop a Plan for accident prevention or a Report on Safety or a Plan for protection of accidents, depending on the quantities of hazardous substances with which it carries out those activities “.
- After the adoption of the new law, based on Article 41 MSDT will adopt a Regulation to develop a more precise inventory of types of hazardous substances, manner of determining quantities, allowed quantities and criteria for categorization and characterization of hazardous substances, the content of the notice, Plan of accident prevention, Report on safety and the Plan of protection from accidents, depending on the quantity of hazardous substances, as well as other issues of importance for the accident prevention procedure. It has been planned to adopt this regulation by the end of IVQ 2015 depending on the dynamics of the new law adoption.

CONCLUSIONS

- We recognize the Assistance Programme as an excellent mechanism through which firstly, we could comply with the existing national regulations and documents with the requirements of the Convention, as well as all other provisions required by Convention;
- There is a need for additional support regarding the preparation of self assessment and a national action plan as stipulated by the Strategic approach for the Assistance Programme;
- There is a need for further capacity building through national and/or regional workshops and for obtaining information on good practices and tools for the implementation of the Convention
- Establish close international cooperation with the objective of harmonizing important parts that are not fully defined in the current laws, as well as with the objective of removing the noticed vagueness and overlapping of competencies of particular inspections and expert services;
- Develop a system on the existing resources and avoid introduction of entirely new services that require new human resources;
- Strengthen legal instruments for inter-ministerial planning, coordination, management and monitoring of such a complex system as the prevention, readiness and removal of consequences, in the event of chemical accidents;
- Dedicate attention to post-accident programme - the programme for removing the consequences of chemical accidents as well as establishing existing EU network reporting

A composite image of Earth from space, showing the Americas and parts of Europe and Africa. The sun is visible in the upper right, creating a bright lens flare. The text "THANK YOU FOR THE ATTENTION" is overlaid in a green, serif font with a white outline.

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