



UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION
FOR EUROPE



Side Event

in the framework of the seventh session of the
Meeting of the Parties to the UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of
Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes

UNECE tools and approaches for preventing accidental water pollution and its transboundary consequences

Wednesday, 18 November 2015

8:30 am – 9:45 am

Budapest Congress Center, Plenary Room

organized by the

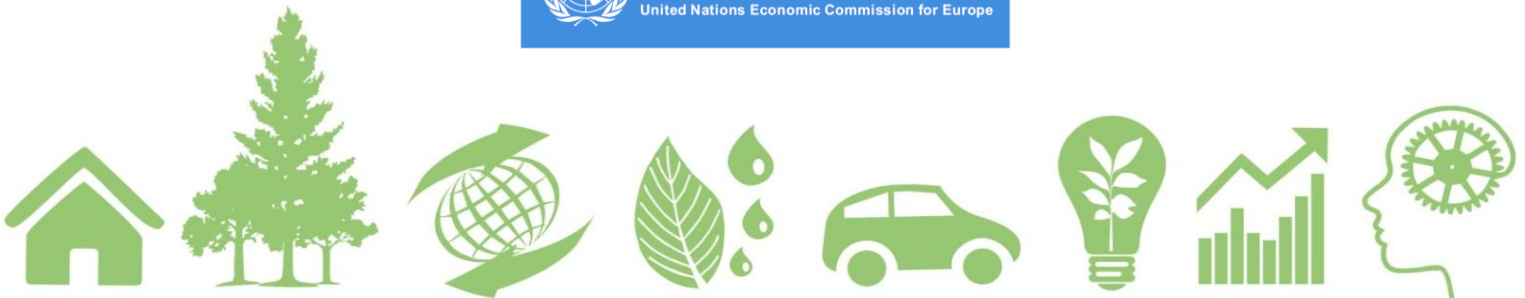


Ministry of Interior of Hungary

Umwelt
Bundesamt

German Federal Environment Agency

in cooperation with the **Secretariat to the Convention on the
Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents of the
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)**



Objectives

- Raise awareness of potential transboundary implications of industrial accidents and ways to prevent them
- Present the tools and practical guidance materials developed by the UNECE Joint Ad Hoc Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents (JEG) to avoid accidental water pollution
- Support Parties to the UNECE Water and Industrial Accidents Conventions and beneficiary countries to the Industrial Accidents Convention's Assistance Programme to implement the provisions of the Conventions
- Offer an opportunity for the Parties to the Water Conventions as well as other relevant stakeholders to familiarize themselves with the UNECE Industrial Accidents Convention

Relevance

Industrial accidents may cause far-reaching cross-border effects, in particular along transboundary watercourses. The devastating effects on humans and the environment of such incidents as well as their far-reaching and severe transboundary consequences have been demonstrated by major past accidents in the UNECE region, such as the: (i) Fire at the Sandoz chemical plant at Schweizerhalle, near Basel, Switzerland (1986); (ii) Dam break of a tailings pond at a mining facility in Baia Mare, Romania (2000); (iii) Aluminium sludge spill in Kolontar, Hungary (2010); or (iv) Accident at the Talvivaara Mining Company in Finland (2012).

Against this background, the UNECE Water and Industrial Accidents Conventions decided to cooperate on issues related to the prevention of accidental water pollution and established in 1998 a **Joint Ad Hoc Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents (JEG)**. Among others, JEG elaborated safety guidelines and good practices for pipelines (2006) and tailings management facilities (2008) as well as a checklist for contingency planning for accidents affecting transboundary waters (2014). These tools were endorsed by the meetings of the Parties of both Conventions and recommended for application in UNECE countries.

At the occasion of the **15th commemoration of the accident in Baia Mare in Romania and the 5th commemoration of the accident in Kolontar in Hungary**, the side event aims at raising awareness about the danger of industrial accidents and presenting UNECE tools, elaborated by JEG, to support UNECE countries in the prevention of accidental water pollution.

Registration

In order to be granted access to the Budapest Congress Center, participants attending the side event need to **register by 1 November 2015** for the seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties of the Water Convention under the following link: www2.unece.org/uncdb/app/ext/meeting-registration?id=cnP4bl.

SIDE EVENT PROGRAMME

Moderated by Mr. Sergiusz Ludwiczak, Acting Director, Environment Division, UNECE

Opening

Mr. Peter Kovacs, Hungary, JEG co-Chair from the UNECE Water Convention

Lessons learned and the UNECE Joint Expert Group's strategy for risk reduction

Mr. Gerhard Winkelmann-Oei, Germany, JEG co-Chair from the UNECE Industrial Accidents Convention
Q&A

Preventing accidental water pollution based on the UNECE Safety Guidelines and Good Practices for Tailings Management Facilities

Ms. Iryna Nikolaieva, Ecoplatform LLC, and Mr. John Vijgen, International HCH & Pesticides Association
Q&A

Preventing accidental water pollution based on the UNECE Checklist for Contingency Planning for Accidents affecting Transboundary Waters

Mr. Claes-Hakan Carlsson, Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency
Q&A

ICPDR Accident Risk Spot and Contaminated Site inventories

Mr. Adam Kovacs, Secretariat to the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR)
Q&A

General discussion and conclusions