

A large industrial facility, likely a refinery or chemical plant, is shown in the background. It features numerous tall distillation columns, storage tanks, and a complex network of pipes and structural steel. A large plume of white smoke or steam rises from one of the stacks on the right side of the image. The entire scene is reflected in a body of water in the foreground, creating a symmetrical effect.

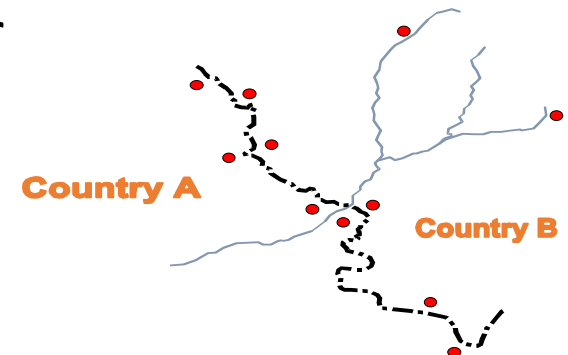
# The Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents: scope and main requirements

Claudia Kamke, UNECE Industrial Accidents Convention secretariat

Minsk, 11-13 April 2017

# Industrial Accidents Convention

- Adopted in 1992, entered into force in 2000
- Negotiated by UNECE member States in response to several major industrial accidents and their transboundary effects (e.g., Sandoz pollution at Schweizerhalle in 1986 affecting all downstream countries along the Rhine)
- Designed to protect people and the environment against industrial accidents
- Helps its Parties to prevent industrial accidents and to prepare for, and respond to, accidents if they occur
- Focus on transboundary cooperation
- 41 Parties



# Status of Ratification: 41 Parties (including the EU)



# Scope of the Convention

What kind of **accidents** are dealt with by the Convention?

- involving hazardous activities (manufacture, use, storage, handling, or disposal of hazardous substances)
- capable of causing transboundary effects

A list of **substances** and categories of substances is included in Annex I to the Convention. The annex was amended at the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, December 2014, Geneva

Examples of hazardous activities:

- Fertilizers plants
- Chemical plants
- Oil storage facilities



# Application of the Convention

- Prevention of, preparedness for and response to industrial accidents capable of causing transboundary effects
- Cooperation platform (implementation support , mutual assistance, R&D, exchange of information & technology)

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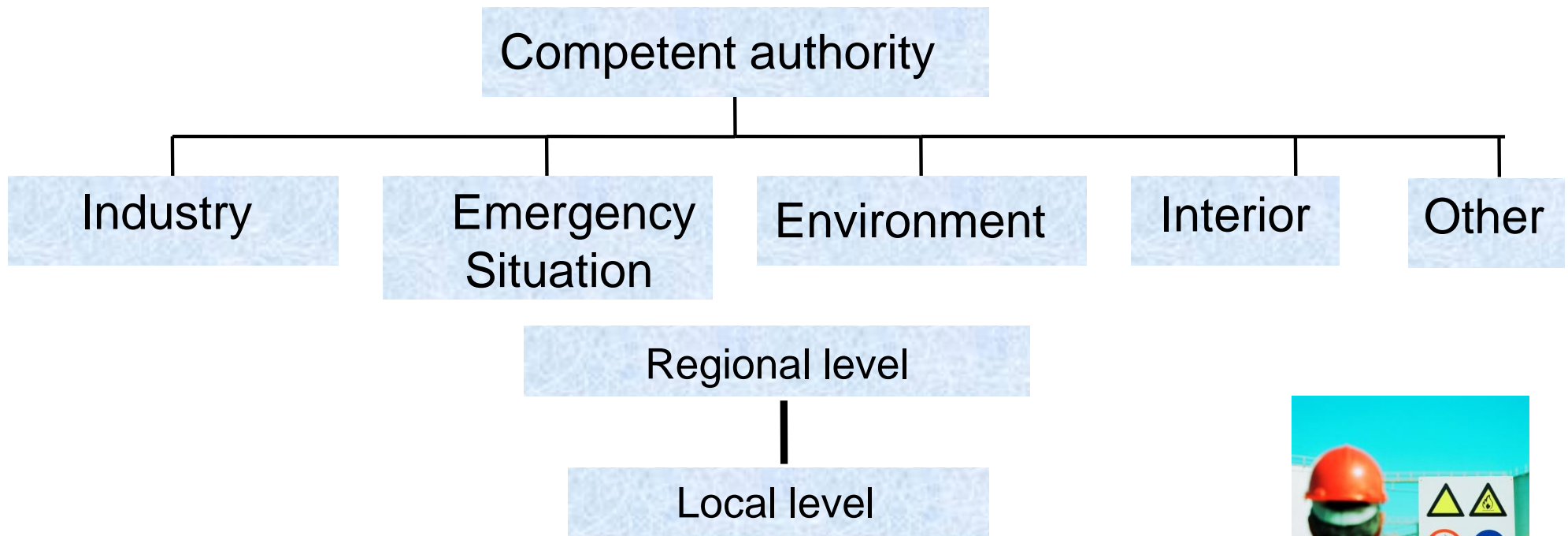
**Convention  
on the Transboundary Effects  
of Industrial Accidents**  
as amended on 19 March 2008

**Convention  
sur les effets transfrontières  
des accidents industriels**  
telle que modifiée le 19 mars 2008

**Конвенция  
о трансграничном воздействии  
промышленных аварий**  
с поправками от 19 марта 2008 года



# Governance and institutional structures: cooperation and coordination between authorities, industry & the public

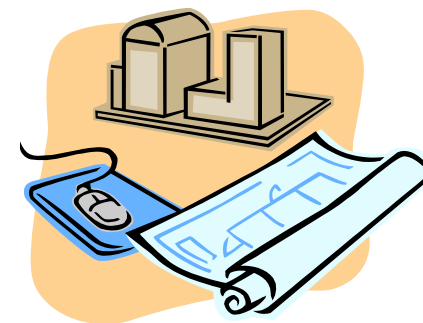


# Key obligations

- **Identification and notification** of hazardous activities
- Development and implementation of policies, strategies and measures for:
  - **Prevention** of industrial accidents
  - Emergency **preparedness**
  - Emergency **response**, including industrial accidents notification & mutual assistance
- Information to and participation of the public

# Prevention:

- Control and monitoring system over the operation of hazardous activities
- Establishment of policies on the siting of new hazardous activities and on significant modifications to such existing activities





# Preparedness



- Emergency planning inside and outside industrial installations
- Emergency preparedness measures (Annex VII) pursuant to article 8, which requires development of transboundary emergency plans
- National emergency plans compatible with those of neighbouring countries to be able to respond to transboundary impacts

# Response

- Coordination of response within a country and between countries
- Industrial accident notification system
- The Convention encourages Parties to assist each other and cooperate in their response to industrial accidents, as well as in research & development and sharing of information & technology



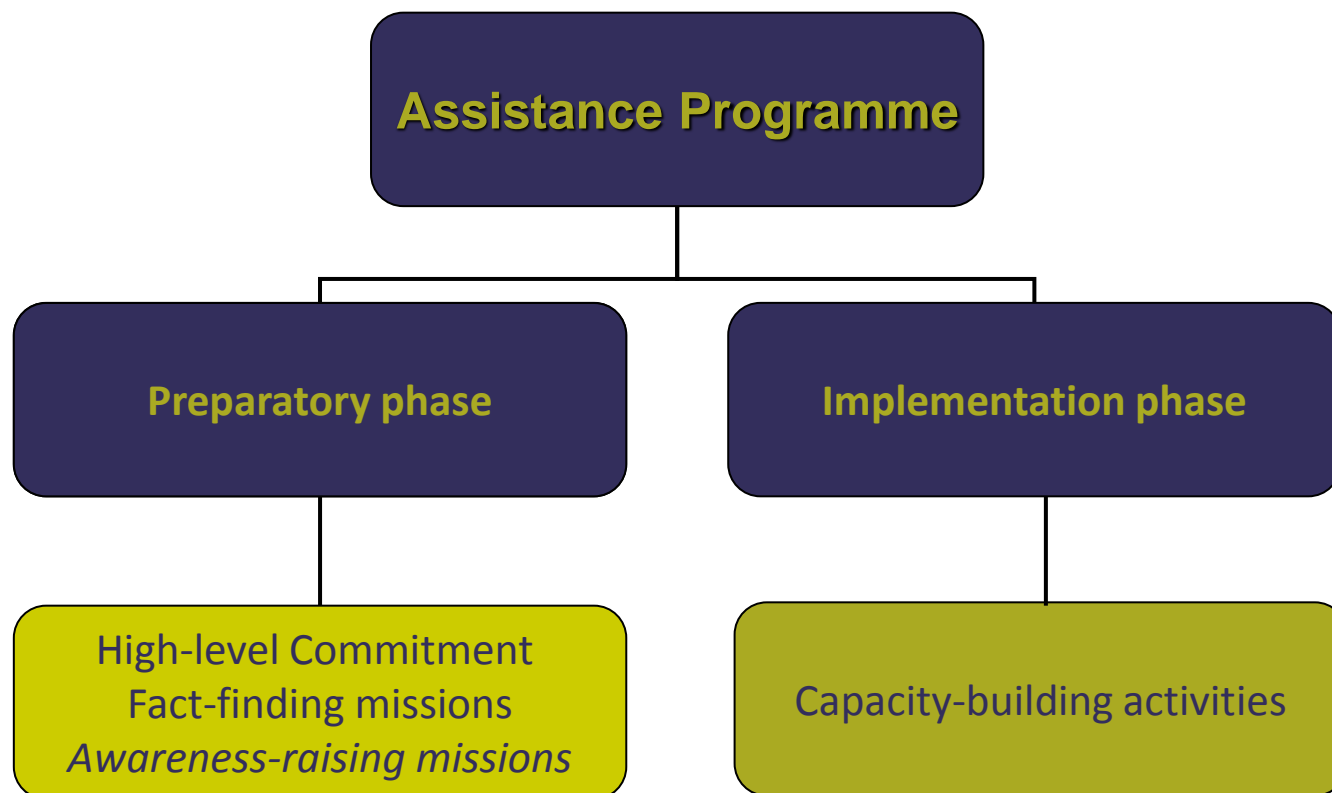
# Information to, and participation of the public

- Adequate information to be given to the public in areas capable of being affected by an industrial accident arising out of a hazardous activity
- Public to be provided with opportunity to participate in relevant procedures on prevention and preparedness
- Opportunity to be given to the public of affected Party should be equivalent to the public of the Party of origin
- Access to justice



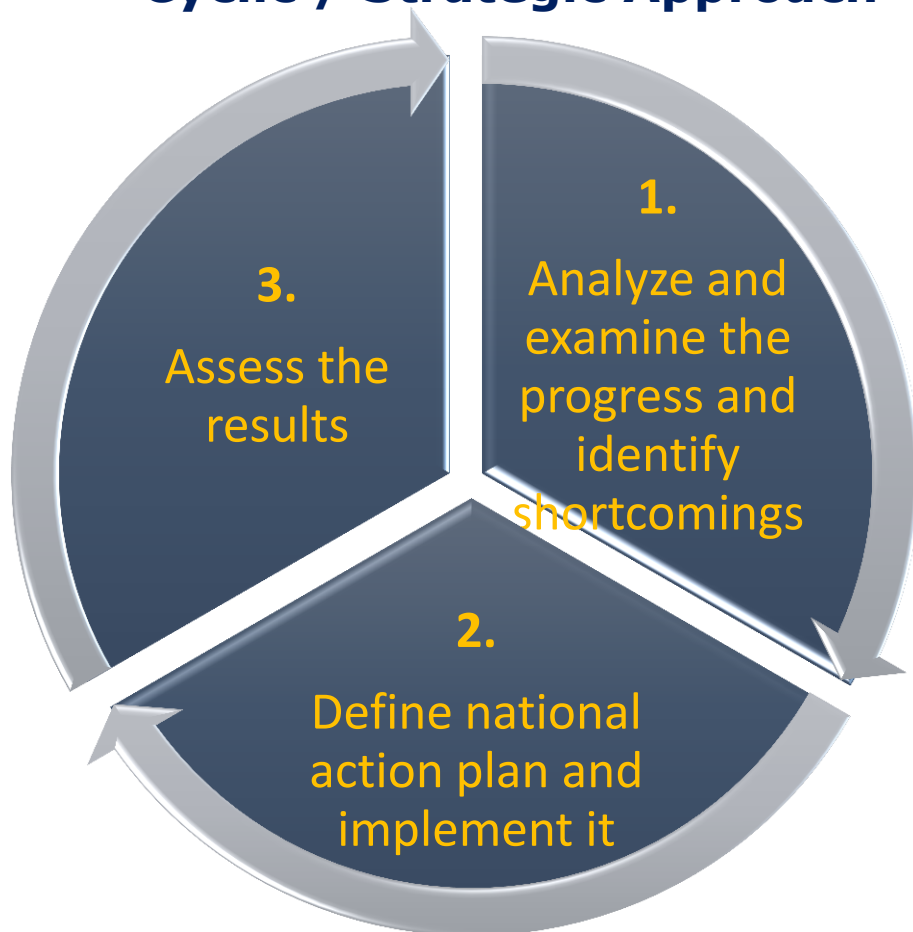
# The Assistance Programme

- Established in 2004
- **Aim:** To assist countries of South-Eastern and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia to address the challenges in implementing the Convention



# Assistance Programme

## Cyclic / Strategic Approach



## Benchmarks on the Implementation of the Convention / Indicators & Criteria

**Step 1 – Self-Assessment** of national mechanisms, identification of gaps

**Step 2 – Action plan** to eliminate gaps and improve mechanisms

→ Project proposals

**Step 3 – Evaluation** of results achieved through the undertaken actions

**Thank you for your attention!**

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**[www.unece.org/env/teia](http://www.unece.org/env/teia)**