

High-level awareness-raising mission on the UNECE Convention on Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents

Main Objectives:

- Inform the relevant authorities of Ukraine of UNECE's work in the field of environmental governance, industrial safety and the prevention of accidental water pollution
- Raise awareness of the UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents and its Assistance Programme, including benefits for Ukraine
- Explain the linkages and complementarities of the Convention with EU legislation
- Showcase some of the good practices of the Convention's implementation
- Raise awareness of the results of previous activities conducted in Ukraine, notably on hazard and crisis management in the Danube Delta and the safety of tailings management facilities
- Determine next steps for Ukraine towards enhancing its industrial safety, in view of the UNECE Industrial Accidents Convention and the relevant EU legislation

Dates: 18 - 19 April 2018

Venue: Kyiv, Ukraine

18 April

Bilateral meetings of the UNECE secretariat and Chair of the Conference of the Parties with:

- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine
- The State Emergency Service of Ukraine
- Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine

19 April

High-level awareness-raising meeting on the UNECE Convention on Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents¹, co-organized by the UNECE and the State Emergency Service of Ukraine

Main Findings and Outcomes:

- Ukraine is one of the very few countries in the UNECE region which is not yet a Party to the Convention. At the same time it acceded to all other UNECE multilateral environmental agreements
- As a representative of the State Emergency Service concluded, "Ukraine desperately needs to accede to the UNECE Industrial Accidents Convention". Accession to the Convention and its implementation would enable the country not only to enhance industrial safety at the national level but also to play an important role in enhancing regional and cross-border cooperation
- Ukraine was host to a fact-finding mission within the Convention's assistance programme in 2006 and since then has benefited from over a dozen assistance activities. There is high expectation that Ukraine demonstrates significant progress towards accession to the Convention and its implementation

¹ Meeting agenda, list of participants and presentations are available on the meeting web-page: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=48482>

- Ukraine has not yet designated a competent authority(-ies) under the Convention, nor a focal point²
- The implementation of the Industrial Accidents Convention is strongly linked to the implementation of EU Seveso III Directive which Ukraine undertook to finalize in 2019
- Acceding to the Convention will help Ukraine to approximate to EU industrial safety and environmental protection standards, in view of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement.

Proposed next steps:

- The Government of Ukraine to designate a competent authority to lead the work under the Convention. Such lead authority should be supported by a (inter-agency) working group of all relevant stakeholders responsible for the prevention of, preparedness and response to industrial accidents, which may take the form of a national policy dialogue on industrial safety
- The lead authority to appoint a focal point responsible for liaison with the Convention's secretariat
- The Government of Ukraine to consider acceleration of its accession to the Convention
- The Government of Ukraine to sign the Declaration of Intent "Towards Improved Hazard and Crisis Management in the Danube Delta" between Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Romania, which was one of the outcomes of the Danube Delta project under the Convention's assistance programme³
- The Government of Ukraine to inform the Convention secretariat, should it require any additional assistance in the process of accession to and implementation of the Convention. The secretariat, the Bureau and the Working Group on Implementation stand ready to support Ukraine in this process, including in setting up the mentioned national policy dialogue on industrial safety
- The Government of Ukraine is invited and encouraged to report to the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Geneva, 4-6 December 2018) on the progress made since the high-level meeting in Kyiv in April 2018.

Acceding to the Industrial Accidents Convention will enable Ukraine to:

- Progress in protecting human health and the environment, including in cases of major accidents with transboundary effects in a nearby countries
- Minimize the costs of industrial accidents
- Enhance the country's capacities to prevent, prepare for and respond to industrial accidents, including those with transboundary effects
- Strengthen regional and cross-border cooperation and information sharing
- Contribute to the implementation of Ukraine - EU Association Agreement
- Obtain additional support from donors and thus enhance the opportunities for securing necessary funding to address industrial safety issues in Ukraine
- Contribute to the implementation of global commitments, such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction
- Influence the development of international treaty law and policy
- Join the community of Parties and benefit fully from the existing platform for cooperation and mutual support.

² List of Competent Authorities and Focal Points from other countries as well as the explanation of their Roles and Tasks are available here: <http://www.unece.org/env/teia/contact.html>

³ The Ministry of Environment of Romania sent the original of the Declaration duly signed by the representatives of Romania and the Republic of Moldova to the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine