



WGMA/2003/9

Fourth meeting

St. Michielsgestel, The Netherlands, 12-13 September 2003

Working paper:

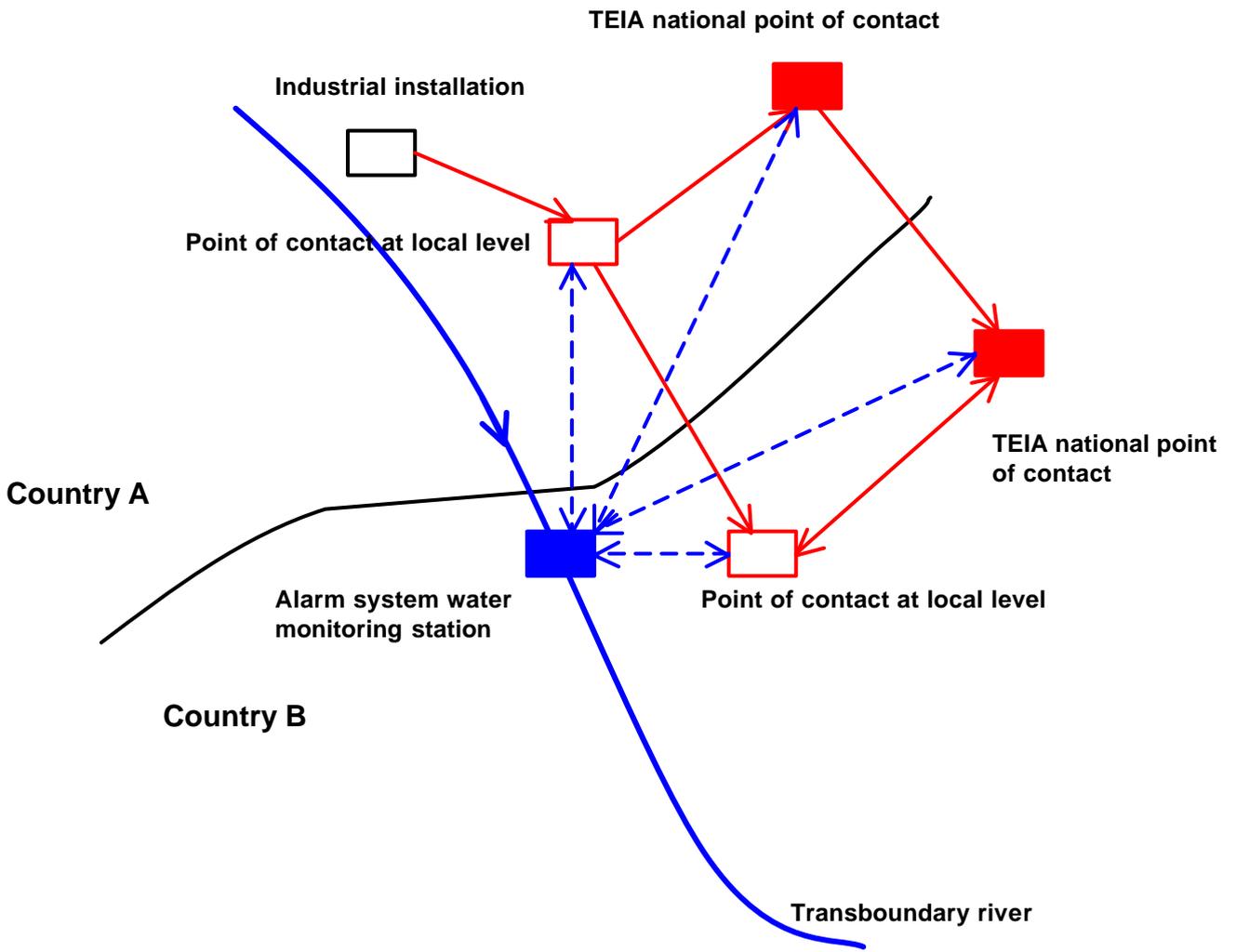
MONITORING, WARNING AND ALARM, AND NOTIFICATION SYSTEMS: LINKS WITH THE CONVENTION ON THE TRANSBOUNDARY EFFECTS OF INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS

The Joint ad hoc expert group on water and industrial accidents decided, at its first meeting (18-19 October 2001), to improve the exchange of information on the functioning of existing alarm and notification systems at national, regional and local levels within the framework of the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents (TEIA) and the international river commissions (Rhine, Elbe and Danube) through joint consultations of points of contact and river alarm experts to investigate issues of common interest and/or possible areas for joint action.

First consultations, carried out in Switzerland, showed that the Rhine alarm system and the Swiss part of the industrial accidents notification system could be easily linked through fax or other communication channels. Similar optimizations could be made in other countries (see figure).

On 10 - 11 November 2003, in Bratislava, at the invitation of the Government of Slovakia, a consultation among the points of contact under the Industrial Accidents Notification system will be held. A major objective of this meeting is to provide a forum for discussion on links and possible harmonization of the Industrial Accidents Notification System with other systems, in particular with existing alarm systems within international river commissions. For more information please refer to document CP.TEIA/2003/7 (<http://www.unece.org/env/documents/2003/teia/cp.teia.2003.7.pdf>)

The consultation meeting would benefit from the participation of a water expert to describe the specific case of a transboundary alarm system in place, e.g. Meuse, Scheldt, Elbe. The Working Group may wish to discuss and support such a contribution, taking into account that the joint ad hoc expert group on water and industrial accidents requested Hungary (Mr. Kovacs) and the Netherlands (Mr. Huijes, RIZA) to examine the compatibility of the river alarm and industrial accident notification systems for the respective national parts of the Danube and the Rhine.



→
TEIA notification system

↔
Possible integration of
notification and alarm
systems