

# **UNECE CONVENTION ON THE TRANSBOUNDARY EFFECTS OF INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS**

## **UNECE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND LAND MANAGEMENT**

### **INFORMATION NOTICE**

#### **JOINT SEMINAR ON LAND USE PLANNING AROUND HAZARDOUS INDUSTRIAL SITES**

##### **Introduction**

1. To protect human health and the environment it is important to implement measures to prevent industrial accidents at facilities handling, storing or producing hazardous substances.
2. Decreasing the hazard potential and applying safety measures within the premises of industrial facilities is the responsibility of their operators. Nonetheless, prevention can not stop inside the facilities and preparedness measures need to be set up in their vicinity. To this end, policies have been developed for the siting of new hazardous installations. These mainly require that adequate distances exist to residential, retail, and office areas with high presence of population. Such distances should also be observed with respect to protected areas or to critical infrastructure and strategic natural resources.
3. On the other hand, one can see an increasing amount of development in close proximity of major hazardous installations. Such a situation is mainly a result of urban development coming closer to existing major hazardous facilities. The intensification of real estate developments can increase the number of vulnerable populations in the event of accidents. In order to effectively minimize the effects of accidents policy guidance is needed not only for industrial operators and safety authorities, but also for land-use planning authorities and real estate developers.
4. Hence, it becomes apparent that a stronger cooperation between the above mentioned actors should be encouraged.
5. The UNECE Environment, Housing and Land Management Division hosts the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents and the Committee on Housing and Land Management, and offers a unique platform for exchange of views and experience between authorities and the private sector for land-use planning around hazardous industrial sites. The Conference of the Parties to the Convention and the Committee decided to jointly organize a seminar to exchange experience and listen to the needs of each of the sectors involved. The Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment of the Netherlands kindly offered to host the seminar.
6. This note provides information on the objectives, organization of work and logistics of the seminar.

## Objectives

7. The purpose of the seminar is to facilitate a dialogue at international level aimed at building better understanding between authorities working on industrial safety and land use planning for ensuring safe neighbourhoods around major hazardous industrial facilities.
8. More specific objectives are as follows:
  - (a) To signal safety concerns regarding new developments around major hazardous industrial facilities and to discuss the role of land-use planning in hazard prevention;
  - (b) To identify the priorities and interests for safety authorities, land-use planners, operators of major hazardous industrial facilities and real estate developers in their work and how this relates to hazard prevention;
  - (c) To share experience, good practices and challenges on cooperation between different stakeholder groups from UNECE countries and to discuss the availability of different instruments and policies;
  - (d) To identify possibilities and recommendations on how best to improve cooperation.

## Dates and venue

9. The joint seminar will take place on 11 November (afternoon session) – 12 November (morning session) 2010 in The Hague.
10. It will be held at the premises of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
  
Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken  
Bezuidenhoutseweg 67  
2594 AC The Hague  
Netherlands  
Tel: +31 70 348 64 86  
Fax: +31 70 348 48 48  
<http://www.minbuza.nl>

## Organisation of work

11. The seminar will consist of two sessions.

Session I will aim at building understanding between stakeholders representing the public and the private sector. Safety and land-use planning authorities will present the objectives and priorities in their work, whereas the representatives of industry and developers will speak about their interests in cooperation and integration of safety concerns in the process of land-use planning.

Session II will focus on sharing good practices and challenges and the availability of different instruments and policies for creating safe neighbourhoods around major hazardous industrial facilities. On that basis, solutions on how to integrate the safety aspects into the land-use planning and to improve cooperation in the future will be discussed and, as a result, a set of recommendations should be elaborated.
12. A provisional programme for the seminar will be circulated in September 2010.

## Working languages

13. The seminar will be held in English and Russian.

## Participation

14. Representatives of the public and the private sector from UNECE countries are invited to participate in the seminar. In particular, safety authorities and land-use planners working on policy development and implementation are encouraged to attend. Operators of major industrial facilities and real estate developers are also encouraged to attend.
15. Participants from countries with economies in transition, particularly Parties to the Conventions who are eligible for financial support (see ECE/CP.TEIA/19, annex III) could receive such support to facilitate their participation in the seminar. Requests for financial support should be submitted to the UNECE secretariat as soon as possible, **but not later than 17 September 2010**. The financial support request form is available at: <http://www.unece.org/env/teia/welcome.html>.

## Registration of participant

16. Each participant should complete a registration form available at the following website <http://www.unece.org/env/teia/welcome.html> and send it to the host country with copy to the UNECE Secretariat to the addresses indicated on the registration form as soon as possible, but **not later than 17 September 2010**.
17. Each registered participant will receive a confirmation in October 2010, together with other necessary information.

## Arrival of participants, transport and hotel accommodation

18. Participants are requested to arrange their own transfer from Amsterdam Schiphol Airport to the meeting venue in The Hague on arrival and back to the airport upon departure. There are frequent train services between Amsterdam Schiphol Airport and The Hague Central Station (30 minutes) (<http://www.ns.nl/cs/Satellite/travellers>).
19. Participants are advised to arrive in The Hague on Wednesday, 10 November 2010. Accommodation should be arranged by the participants. Accommodation suggestions are contained in annex I.
20. A registration desk will be open on 11 November 2010 from 10.00 – 12.00 a.m.
21. The joint seminar will be held back-to-back with the 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents, which will be held on 8 to 10 November at the same venue. Participants attending the Conference of the Parties are requested to register for both events separately.

## Visas

22. Participants requiring an entry visa should contact the nearest diplomatic representation of the Netherlands. The Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment, at request, will provide participants with invitation letters.

## **Additional information**

23. For additional information, please contact:

UNECE secretariat  
Palais des Nations  
CH - 1211 Geneva 10  
Switzerland  
Tel.: +4122 91 724 39  
Fax: +41 22 91 701 07  
E-mail: [teia.conv@unece.org](mailto:teia.conv@unece.org) / [housing.landmanagement@unece.org](mailto:housing.landmanagement@unece.org)  
Internet: <http://www.unece.org>

Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment  
Rijnstraat 8  
2515 XP The Hague  
Netherlands  
Tel.: +31 70 33 94 602  
E-mail: [secretariaatcm@minvrom.nl](mailto:secretariaatcm@minvrom.nl)  
Internet: <http://www.vrom.nl>

## **Annex I**

# **Hotel suggestions**

### **Mercure Den Haag Centraal**

<http://www.accorhotels.com/nl/hotel-1317-mercure-den-haag-central/index.shtml>

Spui 180  
2511 BW Den Haag  
The Netherlands

Tel: +31 (0)70 363 67 00  
Fax: +31 (0)70 363 93 98

### **Ibis hotel**

<http://www.ibishotel.com/nl/hotel-3701-ibis-den-haag-city-centre/index.shtml>

Jan Hendrikstraat 10  
2512 GL Den Haag  
The Netherlands

Tel: +31 (0)70 318 43 18  
Fax: +31 (0)70 318 43 19

### **Parkhotel**

<http://www.parkhoteldenhaag.nl/>

Molenstraat 53  
2513 BJ Den Haag  
The Netherlands

Tel: +31 (0)70 362 43 71  
Fax: +31 (0)70 361 45 25

### **Eden Babylon**

<http://www.edenbabylonhotel.com/nl/overview.aspx>

Bezuidenhoutseweg 53  
2594 AC Den Haag  
The Netherlands

Tel: +31 (0)70 381 49 01

Fax: +31 (0)70 382 59 27

**NH Hotel Prinses Margrietplantsoen**

<http://www.nh-hotels.nl/nh/nl/hotels/nederland/den-haag/nh-den-haag.html?nhagentid=10167&nhsbagentid=101670000000>

Prinses Margrietplantsoen 100  
2595 BR Den Haag  
The Netherlands

Tel: + 31 (0)70 381 23 45  
Fax: +31 (0)70 381 23 23

**Hotel 't Centrum, Veenkade**

<http://www.hotellaville.nl/>

Veenkade 5  
2513 EE Den Haag  
The Netherlands

Tel: + 31 (0)70 346 36 57  
Fax: + 31 (0)70 310 64 60