

A large industrial facility, possibly a refinery or chemical plant, situated along a body of water. The facility includes numerous white storage tanks, complex piping, and several tall smokestacks. One prominent stack is emitting a thick plume of white smoke that rises into the clear blue sky. The entire scene is reflected in the calm water in the foreground.

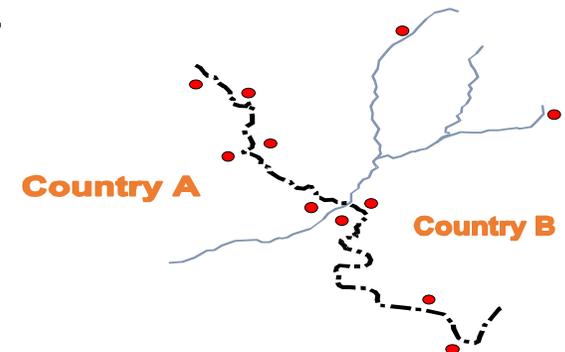
The Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents: Assistance and Cooperation Programme & its Strategic Approach

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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



Application of the Convention

Prevention of, preparedness for and response to industrial accidents capable of causing transboundary effects, including the effects of accidents caused by natural disasters

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
COMMISSION ECONOMIQUE DE S NATIONS UNIES POUR L'EUROPE
ЕВРОПЕЙСКАЯ ЭКОНОМИЧЕСКАЯ КОМИССИЯ
ОРГАНИЗАЦИЯ ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫХ НАЦИЙ

**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



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:

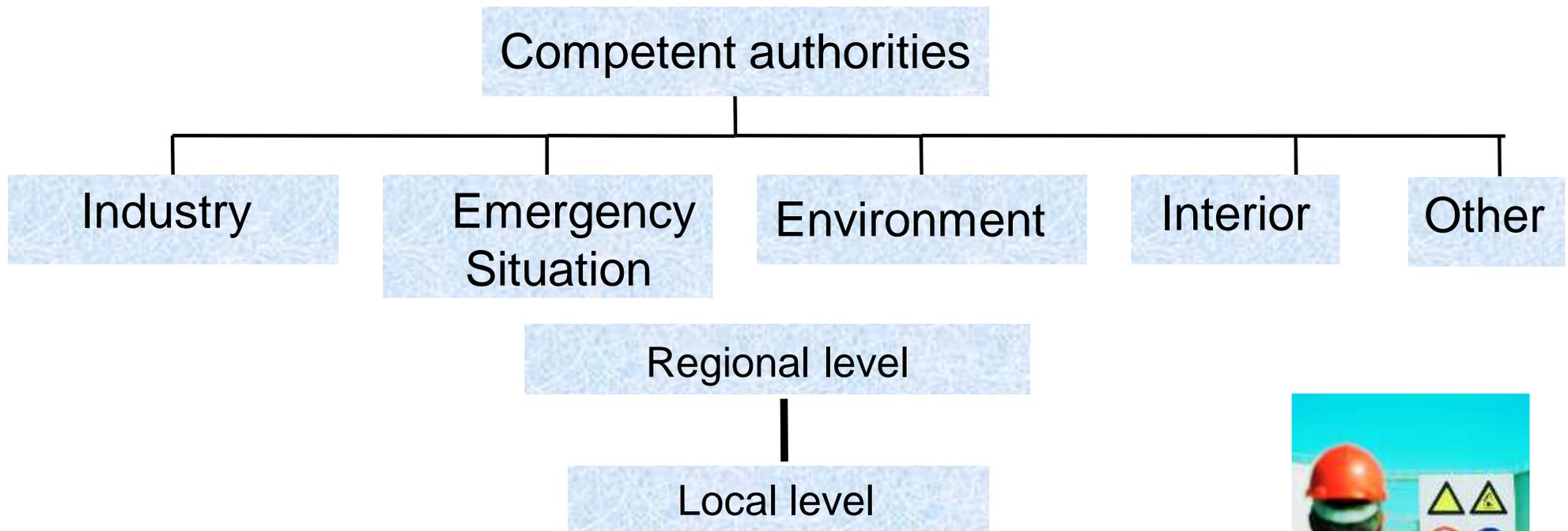
- Fertilizers plants
- Chemical plants
- Oil storage facilities



Status of Ratification: 41 Parties (including the EU)



Focus on governance and institutional structures:
cooperation and coordination between authorities,
industry & the public



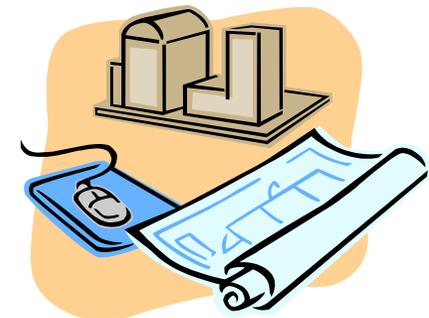
Key obligations

- **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:

Transboundary cooperation

- **Identification** of hazardous activities capable of causing transboundary effects, including with Parties concerned
- **Notification** of existing or proposed hazardous activities capable of causing transboundary effects
- 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**
- The **public** should have an opportunity **to participate** in the preparation of prevention and preparedness measures, as well as have access to judicial proceedings to appeal a relevant decision (article 9)

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**
- The Convention provides a **platform for cooperation** within and between countries and exchange of experience & good practices



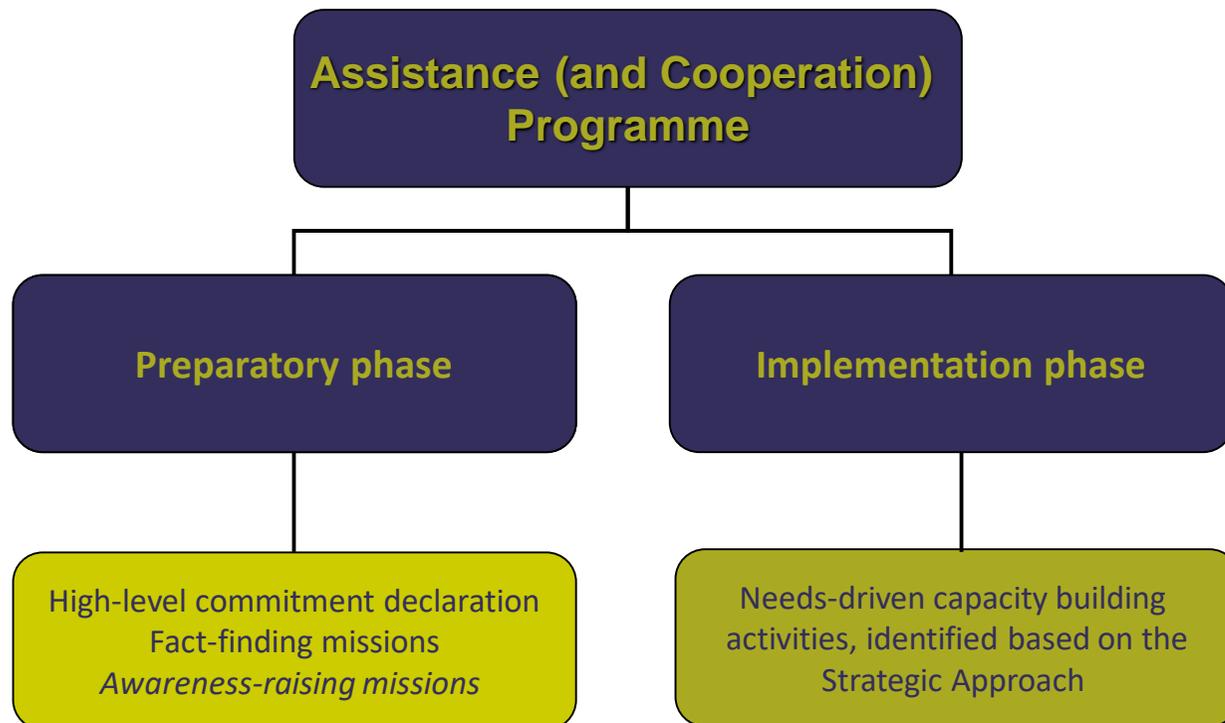
Information to, and participation of the public

- 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 to be equivalent to the public of the Party of origin
- Access to justice



Assistance and Cooperation Programme

- Created in 2004
- Renamed and rebranded in 2018
- **Aim:** To support countries of South-Eastern and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia in the implementation of the Convention. The Programme's beneficiary countries increasingly provide assistance to each other.



Assistance and Cooperation Programme

Cyclic/ strategic approach



Main stages of the Convention implementation / indicators and criteria

Step 1 – Self-assessment of the national mechanisms, determination of existing gaps & challenges

Step 2 – Action plan to address existing challenges and improve existing mechanisms

→ Project proposals

Step 3 – Evaluation of results of the implemented actions

Priority working areas

Six working areas:

Working area 1. Identification of hazardous activities

Working area 2. Notification of hazardous activities

Working area 3. Prevention

Working area 4. Preparedness

Working area 5. Response and mutual assistance

Working area 6. Information to the public and public participation

Two cross-cutting themes (when assessing all six working areas):

- Legislation (both primary and secondary)
- Institutional capacity (at the national and local levels)

Additional working area:

- The siting of hazardous activities

From assistance to cooperation

The Eighth Conference of the Parties:

- (a) Recognized the progress achieved during the 10 years of the Assistance Programme, and the continuous need to provide further assistance to the countries in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia;
- (b) Highlighted the need to enhance the exchange of experiences and good practices among Assistance Programme beneficiary countries;
- (c) Encouraged beneficiary countries to increase their ownership of the Programme, among others, through the preparation of self-assessment and action plans and the submission of project proposals;

The Tenth Conference of the Parties:

- Decided to rename and rebrand the “Assistance Programme” into the “Assistance and Cooperation Programme” by adopting the revised Long-term strategy for the Convention until 2030

Way forward – Assistance and Cooperation Programme

Re-branded to ensure that the Programme remains an effective instrument for delivering assistance and increasing capacity at all levels

- **Beneficiaries** cooperate increasingly and support each-other, taking full ownership for activities carried out
- Objectives:
 - Enhanced information sharing at and across the sub-regional level among beneficiaries
 - Improved transboundary cooperation, through sub-regional projects and activities
 - Leading to enhanced governance, through national policy dialogues on industrial safety, involving all relevant stakeholders
 - Addressing safety of “hot spots”
 - Working increasingly on the TMF safety, Natech risks etc.
- Implementing **multi-year, multi-country projects**

Thank you for your attention

For more information please visit:

www.unece.org/env/teia