Legal, Policy & Governance Frameworks
defining industrial/chemical accident risk management
and their implementation

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TRANSBOUNDARY EFFECTS OF INDUSTRIAL
ACCIDENTS, ON BEHALF OF THE CO-
ORGANIZING ORGANIZATIONS

EUROPEAN FORUM ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION
FOCUSED THEMATIC DISCUSSION ON INDUSTRIAL AND CHEMICAL
ACCIDENTS
24 NOVEMBER 2021
UNECE Industrial Accidents Convention

Negotiated following Sandoz chemical accident at Schweizerhalle in 1986
Adopted in 1992, in force since 2000

41 parties in the UNECE region incl. EU and 25 of its MS, Norway, Switzerland, UK, SEE, 4 in EE and Caucasus, and Kazakhstan

Designed to protect people and the environment against industrial accidents by preventing, preparing for and responding to accidents
Covers NATECH (natural-hazard triggered technological) events

Focus on transboundary cooperation

Assistance and cooperation programme for countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia
Convention’s Vision until 2030

• Legal instrument for risk reduction under the Sendai Framework
• Supporting SDG implementation
• Increase industrial safety and reduce the risk of technological disasters by ensuring the Convention’s full implementation
• Example for prevention of and preparedness for industrial accidents through transboundary cooperation, including beyond the UNECE region
“Initially developed for the European region…, the approaches and experience [under the Industrial Accidents Convention] offer insights to countries pursuing Sendai Framework commitments in technological disaster risk management”
Guidelines and checklists recommended for use by Parties and UNECE member States by the Conferences of the Parties; implementation supported through Assistance and Cooperation Programme.
European Green Deal

A zero pollution ambition for a toxic-free environment:

• Improve industrial accident prevention
• Review EU measures to address pollution from large industrial installations
• Make sectoral legislation consistent with climate, energy and circular economy policies
• Chemicals strategy for sustainability, to protect citizens and the environment against hazardous substances
## EU Seveso Directive & Union Civil Protection Mechanism

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>EU Seveso Directive</th>
<th>Union Civil Protection Mechanism</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>✓ EU’s main instrument to implement the Industrial Accidents Convention</td>
<td>✓ Close linkages with Industrial Accidents Convention, in part. since 2019 and 2021 amendments to strengthen transboundary cooperation</td>
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<td>✓ Covers lower-tier and upper-tier establishments with dangerous substances above thresholds, (annex I), Upper tier = Convention’s annex I</td>
<td>✓ Risk assessment and management</td>
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<td>✓ Land-use planning/siting</td>
<td>✓ Preparedness</td>
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<td>✓ Preparedness: On-site plans; off-site plans to provide information to other MS in case of major accidents with transboundary effects</td>
<td>✓ Accident notification, response and mutual assistance: Information-sharing with affected MS and Commission in case of accidents with potential transboundary effects</td>
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<tr>
<td>✓ Response</td>
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<td>✓ Public information and participation:</td>
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European Investment Bank

- Supports UNECE guidance development and implementation, e.g. on land-use planning and the siting of hazardous activities
- Supports addressing emerging risks, such as Natural-hazard triggered technological accidents (Natech)
- Contributed to the development of an analysis of technological risk management in the UNECE region (chapter in forthcoming UNDRR Regional Assessment Report for Europe and Central Asia)
OECD Programme on Chemical Accidents

Share experience and recommend appropriate policy options for enhancing the prevention of, preparedness for, and response to, chemical accidents.
OECD Legal Instruments relating to Chemical Accidents: now being reviewed and consolidated

Recommendation concerning Chemical Accident Prevention, Preparedness and Response (2003) OECD/LEGAL/0319
Recommendation concerning the Application of the Polluter-Pays Principle to Accidental Pollution (1989) OECD/LEGAL/0251
Other legal instruments

ILO Conventions
- Prevention of Major Industrial Accidents Convention, 1993 (No. 174)
- Chemicals Convention, 1990 (No. 170) and its recommendation (No. 177)

World Health Organization International Health Regulations (2005) and chemical events
Selected policy instruments

- UNDRR Words in Action Guidelines Implementation Guide on man-made and technological hazards
  - Prepared with contributions from the Inter-agency coordination group on industrial/chemical accidents
- UNEP Flexible Framework Chemical Accidents Prevention and Preparedness
- UNEP/OCHA Joint Environment Unit Flash Environmental Assessment Tool (FEAT)
Governance Frameworks: working jointly to address industrial/chemical disaster risk & strengthen safety

- Conference of the Parties (CoP) to the Industrial Accidents Convention, OECD Working Party on Chemical Accidents, among others
- Supporting implementation of legal and policy instruments, building on mutual linkages and complementarities
- Coordination and carrying joint messages through Inter-agency coordination group on industrial/chemical accidents
- Advancing policy dialogue & facilitating exchange of information, good practices and lessons learned
- Addressing emerging issues, such as Natech risk management, in the wake of climate change
- Fostering governance and transboundary cooperation
- Supporting capacity development
Thank you for your attention!

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OR VISIT THE WEBSITE  HTTP://WWW.UNECE.ORG/ENV/TEIA.HTML