

Thematic session 5: Scientific and technical cooperation and exchange of information

UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents

*Seminar on good practices and lessons learned in implementing the
UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents*
Geneva and online, 3-4 February 2022

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UNECE

Industrial Accidents Convention: Article 14 on Research and development

- The Parties shall, as appropriate, initiate and cooperate in the conduct of research into, and in the development of methods and technologies for the prevention of, preparedness for and response to industrial accidents.
- The Parties shall encourage and actively promote scientific and technological cooperation, including research into less hazardous processes aimed at limiting accident hazards and preventing and limiting the consequences of industrial accidents.

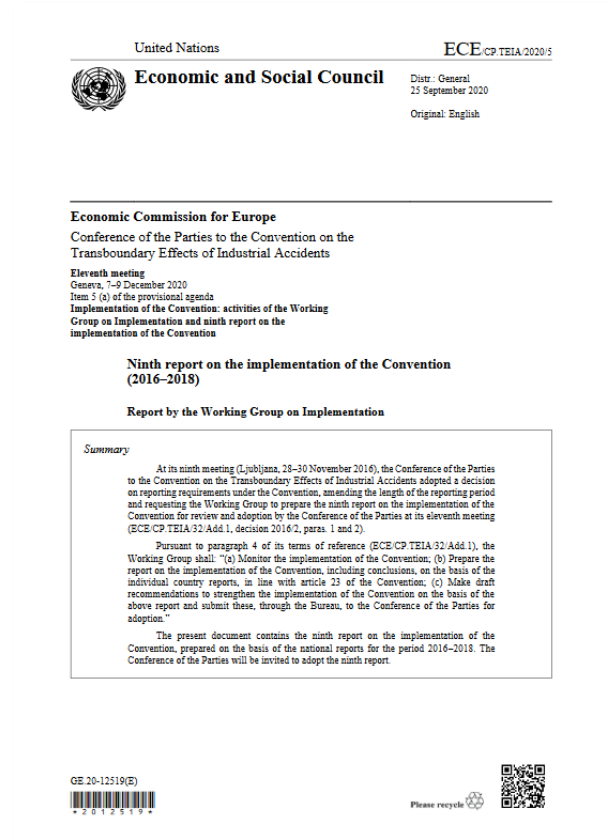


Importance of implementing Article 14

- The accident risk assessment involves a set of scientific and technical methods to study the risks of potential accidents and their consequences, including the identification of hazards, a determination of their potential severity and the development of measures to reduce such risks.
- Cooperation in the sphere of industrial safety at hazardous production sites is a key element for success in the implementation of cross border cooperation and harmonization of different practices related to the implementation of the Convention.

9th report on implementation: *Key findings of the WGI*

- Some countries indicated that they had no bilateral or multilateral activities/programmes for exchange of information, experiences and/or technology or that they had not enhanced institutional cooperation with other departments responsible for managing aspects related to disaster risk reduction.
- Many countries mentioned a variety of examples for cooperation through bilateral and/or multilateral programmes and concrete projects to exchange information, experience and technology.



9th report on implementation:

Key recommendations of the WGI

- WGI “Recommends that Parties, committed countries and other reporting countries that have not done so increase their efforts to establish bilateral and multilateral agreements, as appropriate, especially between countries sharing the same river basin or border and among different regional economic integration organizations, as a basis for effective prevention of, preparedness for and response to industrial accidents with transboundary effects” (para. 20)

Decision 200/2: Strengthening the implementation of the Convention

- Recommends that Parties, committed countries and other reporting countries that have not done so increase their efforts to establish bilateral and multilateral agreements, as appropriate, especially between countries sharing the same river basin or border and among different regional economic integration organizations, as a basis for effective prevention, preparedness for and response to industrial accidents with transboundary effects;

ECE/CP.TEIA/42/Add.1

Decision 200/2 Strengthening the implementation of the Convention

The Conference of the Parties.

Recalling articles 18 and 23 of the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents,

Recognizing that 31 out of 41 Parties reported on the implementation of the Convention within the deadline set for the ninth (2016–2018) reporting round,

Recognizing also that only one out of five committed countries¹ not yet Parties to the Convention reported on the implementation of the Convention within the deadline set for the ninth reporting round,

Taking into account and recognizing with appreciation the work done by the Working Group on Implementation in monitoring the implementation of the Strategic Approach for the Assistance Programme (ECE/CP.TEIA/2005/5) and the support provided by the Bureau to ensure the availability of financial and in-kind resources for the implementation of the Assistance and Cooperation Programme,

Recognizing with appreciation also the valuable work carried out by the Working Group on Implementation in monitoring the implementation of the Strategic Approach for the Assistance Programme (ECE/CP.TEIA/2005/5) and the support provided by the Bureau to ensure the availability of financial and in-kind resources for the implementation of the Assistance and Cooperation Programme,

Welcoming the activities conducted under the Assistance and Cooperation Programme in the period 2019–2020, as outlined in the progress report on the implementation of assistance activities in 2019–2020 (ECE/CP.TEIA/2020/7).

General

1. Adopts the ninth report on the implementation of the Convention (2016–2018) (ECE/CP.TEIA/2020/5), as prepared and submitted by the Working Group on Implementation;

2. Calls on Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, which have not yet submitted their national implementation reports, to do so without further delay, and invites other non-Parties, including Turkmenistan, which also benefits from activities under the Assistance and Cooperation Programme, to submit such reports on a voluntary basis;

3. Strongly urges Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, which failed to provide their implementation reports for several consecutive rounds, to submit their national reports for the current reporting round without further delay;

4. Stresses the need for the timely submission of national implementation reports, in line with the agreed deadlines,² and calls on all Parties, committed countries and other reporting countries to comply with those deadlines in the future;

5. Requests all Parties and beneficiary countries of the Assistance and Cooperation Programme³ to review and, as appropriate, make use of existing good practices in the

¹ Through the adoption of the commitment declaration (CP.TEIA/2005/10) at the High-level Commitment Meeting (Geneva, 14 and 15 December 2005), countries of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia committed to enhancing industrial safety through their participation in the Assistance Programme and the implementation of the Convention, as well as to submitting national implementation reports. The committed countries are Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

² See decision 2016/2 on reporting requirements under the Convention (ECE/CP.TEIA/32/Add.1).

³ The following countries benefit from activities under the Assistance and Cooperation Programme: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan,

How to implement Article 14, the related WGI recommendations and Decision 2020/2?

- Czechia, Romania and Azerbaijan will demonstrate good practices in implementing Article 14 in their presentations in this session; additional Good Practices exist too (next slide).
- The table of good practices on the UNECE website provides many very good examples, including with transboundary aspects.

Other relevant good practices (reported)

Netherlands	The dutch Programme Safety Delta Netherlands, in which competent authorities, industry and science institutions cooperate to improve safety in the chemical industry with the aim to become by 2030 the world's safest chemical industry
EU	The EU IMPEL seminars on lessons learnt from industrial accidents. Since 1999, a number of seminars on lessons learnt have been held in order to ease the dissemination and exchange of information between inspecting bodies of the Member States.
Sweden	Reported an annual (Seveso) conference for operators and authorities, which included opportunities for information exchange about preparedness and response and sometimes representatives from neighbouring countries Held regularly meetings with Norway and Finland to discuss differences in regulations and to exchange information