



Convention on the Transboundary
Effects of Industrial Accidents



ASSISTANCE AND COOPERATION PROGRAMME



UNECE

Mission to support the accession of Georgia to the UNECE Convention on Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents

Co-organized by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and
the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia

Main Mission Objectives:

- Inform the relevant authorities of Georgia about UNECE's work in the field of environmental governance, industrial safety and the prevention of accidental water pollution
- Raise awareness of the UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents and benefits of accession
- Explain the linkages and complementarities of the Convention and the relevant EU legislation
- Showcase some of the good practices of the Convention's implementation
- Determine next steps for Georgia for the accession to the Convention and enhanced industrial safety and transboundary cooperation in this regard

Date: 7-9 November 2023

Venue: Environmental Information and Education Centre (EIEC) of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, 32G Marshal Gelovani Ave., 0159, Tbilisi

Link for online connection: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86378346344>

The mission is organized with the **financial support** of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection

Main Beneficiaries from Georgia:

Ministry of Environmental Protection and
Agriculture

Ministry of Internal Affairs and its Emergency
Management Agency

Ministry of Economy and Sustainable
Development of Georgia and its Technical and
Constructions Supervision Agency

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia

State Security Service of Georgia

Parliament of Georgia - Environmental
Protection and Natural Resources Committee

Government Administration of Georgia

JSC "Rustavi Azot"

RMG Rich Metals Group

LTD "Batumi Oil Terminal"

JSC "APM Terminals Poti"



Roundtable Meeting

8 November

Opening Session: Setting the Scene

Moderator: Mr. Georgios Georgiadis, Secretary, Industrial Accidents Convention

10:00 – 10:15 **Opening of the Meeting**

Mr. Solomon Pavliashvili, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Georgia

Ms. Ingrid Hanhoff, Director, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection, Germany - remotely

Ms. Torill Tandberg, Chair of the Industrial Accidents Convention, Norway - remotely

10:15 – 10:30 **Tour de Table**

Session I: Introduction to UNECE, its Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents and linkages with respective EU instruments

Moderator: Mr. Alverd Chankseliani, Head of Waste and Chemicals Management Department, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Georgia

10:30 – 10:45 **UNECE's activities in support of Agenda 2030 on strengthening environmental governance and disaster risk reduction**

Mr. Georgios Georgiadis, Secretary, Industrial Accidents Convention

10:45 – 11:00 **The Industrial Accidents Convention: Scope, Benefits, and Main Requirements**

Ms. Liza Rubach, Assistance and Cooperation Programme Manager, Industrial Accidents Convention

11:00 – 11:15 **Importance of the Convention as Key Steppingstone in the Approximation to EU Law in multiple areas including the Seveso-III-Directive and the Union Civil Protection Mechanism**

Mr. Camille Siefriidt, Bureau Member & Focal Point to the Industrial Accidents Convention, Directorate-General for Environment, European Commission – remotely



11:15 – 11:30

Q&A and Discussion

On UNECE activities, the Convention and its benefits and linkages with relevant EU legislation

11:30 – 12:00

Coffee Break

Session II: Implementation of the Industrial Accidents Convention

Moderator: Mr. Georgios Georgiadis, Secretary, Industrial Accidents Convention

12:00 – 12:15

Georgia as a Beneficiary of the Convention's Assistance and Cooperation Programme: Previous activities and progress towards the implementation of the Convention

Ms. Irma Gurguliani, Deputy Head, Waste and Chemicals Management Department, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Georgia

12:15 – 12:30

Example of cooperation between national competent authorities responsible for industrial accident prevention, preparedness and response

Ms. Torill Tandberg, Chair of the Industrial Accidents Convention, Norway - remotely

12:45 – 13:00

Example of an EU Member State: implementation of the Industrial Accidents Convention and the relevant EU legislation in Sweden

Ms. Helena Fridh, Chair of the Convention's Working Group on Implementation (WGI), Sweden – remotely

13:00 – 13:15

Industrial Safety and the Prevention of Accidental Water Pollution: Joint Expert Group (JEG) on Water and Industrial Accidents and activities on the safety of tailings management facilities

Mr. Bojan Srdić, JEG co-Chair, Serbia

13:15 – 13:30

Q&A and Discussion

On implementation and coordination between various national and cross-border authorities responsible for industrial safety, chemicals management, natural resources protection and emergency situations

13:30 – 14:30

Lunch



Session III: Needs, Opportunities and Ways Forward for Georgia

Moderator: Mr. Bojan Srdić, JEG co-Chair, Serbia

14:30 – 14:45 **Needs and challenges of Georgia to Enhance Industrial Safety and Disaster Risk Governance**

Ms. Irma Gurguliani, Deputy Head, Waste and Chemicals Management Department, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Georgia

14:45 – 15:00 **Assistance and Cooperation Programme under the Industrial Accidents Convention and opportunities to further support Georgia**

Ms. Liza Rubach, Assistance and Cooperation Programme Manager, Industrial Accidents Convention

15:00 – 15:45 **Roundtable Discussion – Main Challenges and Next Steps**

Roundtable discussion among participants to discuss plan of action towards accession, possible assistance required, responsibilities, and ways forward towards accession

15:45 – 16:00 **Wrap Up and Conclusions**

Mr. Alverd Chankseliani, Head of Waste and Chemicals Management Department, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Georgia and Mr. Georgios Georgiadis, Secretary, Industrial Accidents Convention