

# *Roundtable meeting to support Georgia in the implementation of 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*

## **UNECE Industrial Accidents Convention: Scope, Benefits, and Main Requirements**

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UNECE Industrial Accidents Convention



# UNECE Industrial Accidents Convention



NEGOTIATED FOLLOWING  
SANDOZ CHEMICAL ACCIDENT  
AT SCHWEIZERHALLE IN 1986  
ADOPTED IN 1992, IN FORCE  
SINCE 2000



42 PARTIES IN THE UNECE  
REGION INCL. EU AND 25 OF  
ITS MS





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**



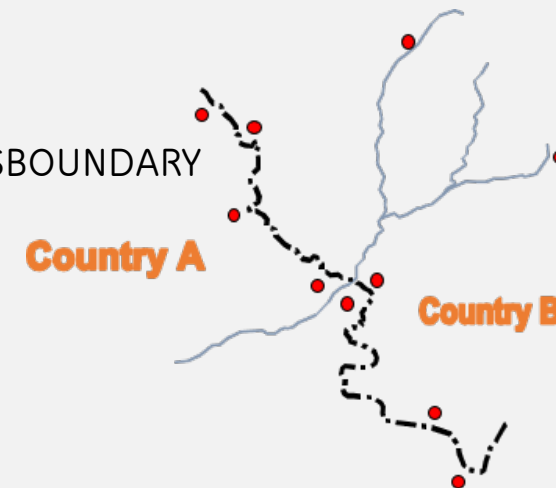
*Sandoz spill,  
Schweizerhalle,  
Switzerland  
(1986)*



 Parties  
 Non-Parties



FOCUS ON TRANSBOUNDARY  
COOPERATION



UNECE

# Status of Ratification: 42 Parties (including the EU)

-  Parties
-  Non-Parties
-  The US and Canada are signatories



# 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



# 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

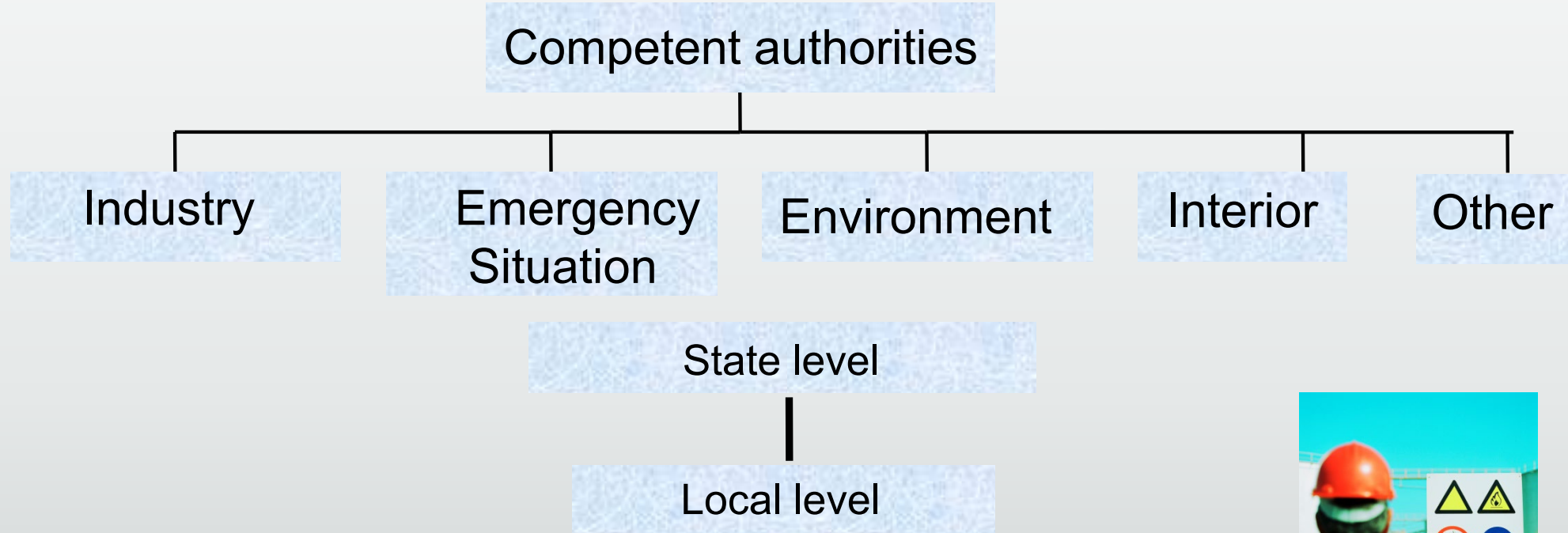
A list of **substances** and categories of substances is included in Annex I to the Convention. The annex was amended at the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, December 2014, Geneva



**Examples of hazardous activities:**

- Fertilizers plants
- Chemical plants
- Oil storage facilities

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

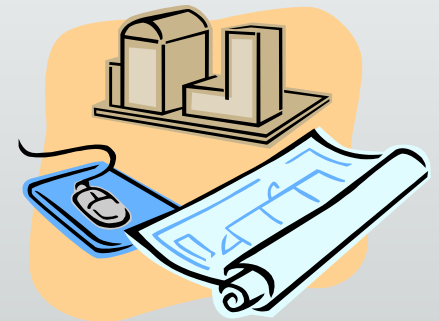


# Key obligations

- **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



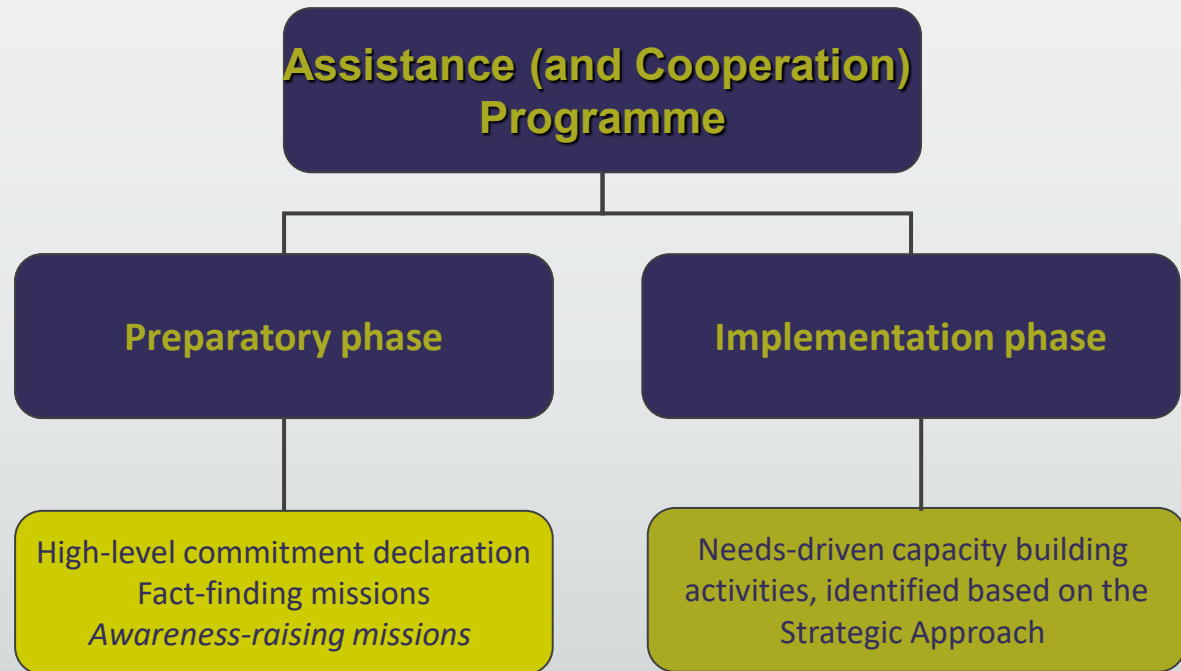
# Information to, and participation of the public

- 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

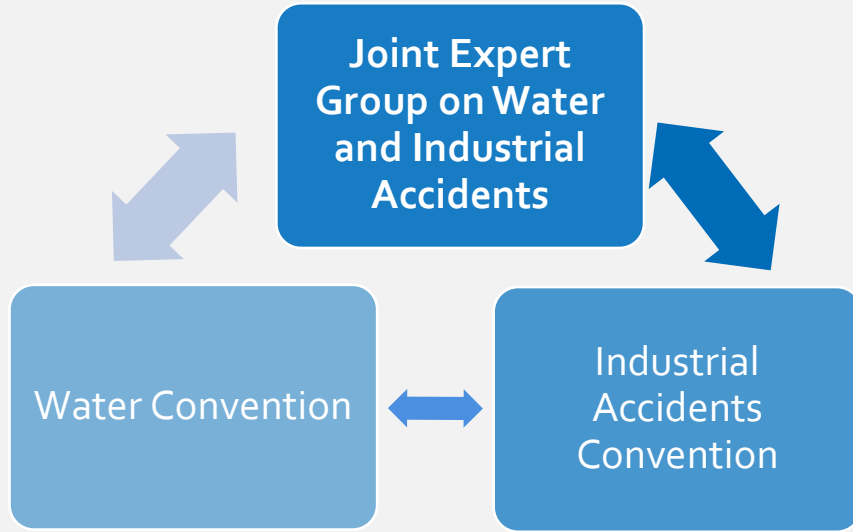


# Assistance and Cooperation Programme

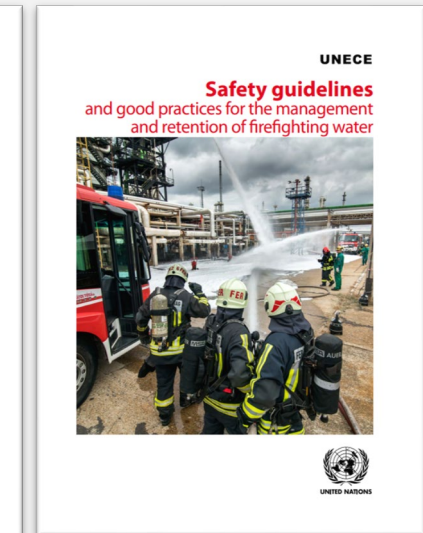
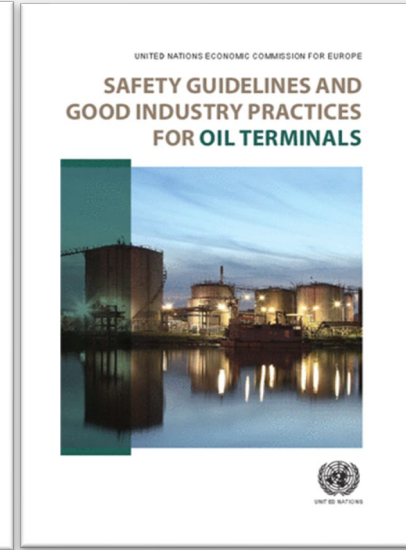
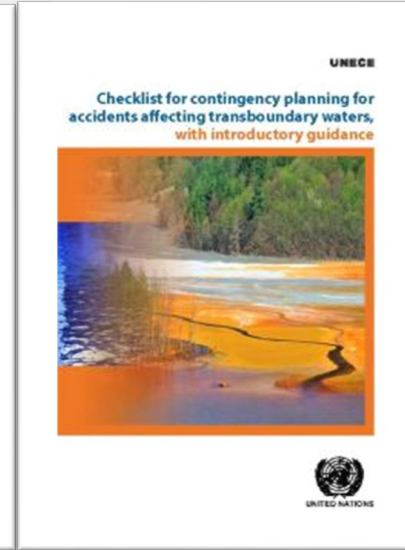
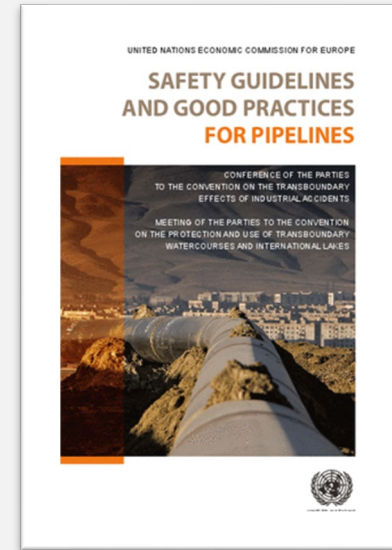
- Created in 2004
- Renamed and rebranded in 2018
- **Aim:** To support countries of South-Eastern and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia in the implementation of the Convention. The Programme's beneficiary countries increasingly provide assistance to each other



# UNECE Safety Guidelines & Good Industry Practices



*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*



Thank you for your attention!

## Contact

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