

*Convention on the
Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents*

*Enhancing industrial safety in the
United Nations Economic Commission
for Europe region*

*Geneva, Palais des Nations
Friday 5 December 2014
10.00-13.00*

*Seminar organized in the framework of the
8th meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the UNECE Convention on the Transboundary
Effects of Industrial Accidents*

*For registration
Deadline 26 November
<http://www.unece.org/env/teia/cop8.html#/>*

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**UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION
FOR EUROPE**

Objective

The seminar's objective is to foster the exchange of information, experiences and good practices among Parties and other stakeholders and as such, support the implementation of article 15 of the Industrial Accidents Convention. In particular the seminar aims to:

- Present different forums and means to exchange information and good practices on industrial safety throughout the ECE region
- Highlight selected good practices with regard to prevention of, preparedness for and response to industrial accidents with potential transboundary effects - attention will be given to underlying policies, strategies, laws as well as institutional frameworks.

On the basis of the exchange of information and good practices during the seminar, the Conference of the Parties will be invited to:

- take note of the good practices presented,
- reflect on their applicability to other countries in the ECE region, and
- consider approaches and measures to further enhance industrial safety and the implementation of the Convention throughout the ECE region.

Background

When it comes to the prevention of, preparedness for and response to industrial accidents with transboundary consequences, exchange of information is vital. It is important to exchange information and experiences at different levels:

- within the country, among the different authorities involved, and among the different stakeholders (industry, the public, etc.)
- between neighbouring countries which could be potentially affected by the consequences of accidents
- at the international level among countries, to share information and knowledge on improvements, to identify good practices

The Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents provides a legal framework for countries in the ECE region to promote enhancement of industrial safety through the prevention of, preparedness for and response to industrial accidents with potential transboundary effects.

The seminar organized in the framework of the Conference of the Parties provides an opportunity for representatives of the Parties to exchange information, experience and good practices with regard to legislative and administrative measures, policies, objectives and priorities for prevention, preparedness and response

Outline of the seminar

Part 1:

Setting the scene: Mechanisms for exchanging information between neighbouring countries and selected good practices

Three presentations, highlighting each good practice to exchange information, will open the seminar. Two good practices (from Switzerland and Belarus) were identified through the review of national reports of implementation of the Convention. The third, presentation will highlight the activities of the CIS Interstate Council on Industrial Safety to exchange information and good practices amongst its members.

- **Consultation with neighbouring countries and notification of hazardous activities: an experience from Switzerland**

Mr. Martin Merkofer, Swiss Federal Office for the Environment

- **Transboundary response exercises involving Belarus, Latvia and Lithuania**

Mr. Evgenij Baranovskij, Ministry for Emergency Situations Belarus

- **Exchanging information and good practices among the Commonwealth of Independent States in the framework of the Inter-State Council on Industrial Safety**

Mr. Safar Gurbanov, Azerbaijan, Chair of the CIS Inter-State Council on Industrial Safety

Part 2:

Panel discussion: Exchanging information, identifying good practices on enhancing industrial safety and considering their applicability in the UNECE region

A panel discussion will be organized comprising representatives of **Parties, Industry, and Non-governmental Organizations to discuss:**

- Effective ways to exchange experiences and good practices amongst Parties, industry, academia and other stakeholders
- Identifying and promoting the use of good practices to enhance industrial safety throughout the region.

Part 3:

General discussion with seminar participants: Jointly working towards enhancing industrial safety in the UNECE region

Representatives of Parties, of international organizations, NGOs, industry and academia will be invited to share how they contribute to improving industrial safety in the UNECE region through exchanging experiences and good practices.