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Tenth meeting

Geneva, 4–6 December 2018

Item 2 of the provisional agenda

Seminar on risk assessment methodologies

Seminar on risk assessment methodologies

Prepared by the small group on risk assessment

Summary

The present document includes the programme as well as the background material (objectives, participants, structure and flow, and desired outcomes) of the Seminar on risk assessment methodologies, which has been organized by a small group on risk assessment comprising members of the Bureau, the Working Group on Implementation and the secretariat. The Seminar will be held on 4 December 2018 within the framework of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents (Industrial Accidents Convention).

The main objective of the Seminar is to support Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) member States, including the Parties to the Industrial Accidents Convention and the beneficiary countries of its Assistance Programme, in their efforts to implement the Convention by providing an opportunity for them to exchange information and share experiences and practices with the use of effect and risk assessment in the context of the Convention.

On the basis of the Seminar, the Conference of the Parties will be invited to consider the risk assessment methodologies presented and to identify the resulting opportunities for improving industrial accident prevention, preparedness and response.



I. Introduction

1. In its eighth report on the implementation of the Convention (2014–2015) (ECE/CP.TEIA/2016/10, para. 46), the Working Group on Implementation of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents (Industrial Accidents Convention) welcomed the sharing of effect and risk assessment methodologies developed in the different countries and considered that an exchange of these approaches would be useful. Some countries (e.g. Belgium, Estonia, Netherlands, Russian Federation, Slovenia and Switzerland) had mentioned in their national implementation reports (2014–2015) that they were using these methodologies.

2. The role of national risk assessment in risk prevention, preparedness and response was also emphasized during the joint ECE/Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Seminar on fostering implementation of the sustainable development agenda for industrial accident prevention, preparedness and response¹, held on 28 November 2016 during the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Industrial Accidents Convention (Ljubljana, 28–30 November 2016) and reflected in the Chair's summary (ECE/CP.TEIA/32, annex).

3. On that basis, the workplan and resources for the Convention for 2017–2018 (ECE/CP.TEIA/32/Add.1) includes among its activities, under Exchange of information, an item on "Exchange of experiences and good practices among Parties, for example, regarding risk assessment methodologies".

4. At their joint meeting (Geneva, 31 January 2017), the Bureau and the Working Group on Implementation agreed that a Seminar on risk assessment methodologies should be organized in 2018 and supported by the members of the Bureau and the Working Group in cooperation with the secretariat. A small group on risk assessment comprising three members of the Bureau (representing Austria, Slovenia and Switzerland), one member of the Working Group on Implementation (representing Switzerland), and one member of the secretariat was formed and, in preparation for the Seminar, drafted an initial concept paper, a detailed programme and flyer, guidance notes for the chairs and moderators and the present background document and shared information with the Bureau during its meetings.

5. The Seminar will be held on 4 December 2018 within the framework of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

II. Aims and focus of the Seminar

6. The main objective of the Seminar is to support the participants, and particularly the representatives of the Parties to the Convention and the beneficiary countries of its Assistance Programme, in their efforts to implement the Convention by providing an opportunity for them to exchange information and share experiences and practices with the use of effect and risk assessment methodologies in the context of the Convention.

7. Specifically, the Seminar aims to:

(a) Inform the risk reduction community about the role of effect and risk assessment and the methodologies for industrial accident prevention, preparedness and response;

(b) Raise awareness of effect and risk assessment methodologies used by member States and in particular the Parties to the Industrial Accidents Convention and the beneficiary countries of its Assistance Programme;

¹ Information on the Seminar is available at [http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=42505#/#/](http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=42505#/).

(c) Present the overall approach and concept of effect and risk assessment analysis by explaining the main elements and the relationship between them (including the methodologies used, the origin of the assumptions made and their endpoint values such as risk criteria);

(d) Present the procedures for implementing effect and risk assessment methodologies and the lessons learned from those experiences;

(e) Provide a forum for the exchange of ideas and good practices with a view to their adoption;

(f) Provide input into the future work of the Industrial Accidents Convention.

8. The presentations and discussions will respond to the following questions:

(a) What are the conditions and prerequisites for developing a workable effect and risk assessment procedure?

(b) What impact has the implementation of effect and risk assessment methodologies had on national industrial accident prevention, preparedness and response policies and what impact is it expected to have in the future?

(c) What kind of support do countries need in order to implement effect and risk assessment methodologies effectively? How can ECE support countries' efforts to do so within the framework of its activities on industrial accident prevention, preparedness and response under the Convention?

(d) What opportunities can effect and risk assessment methodologies offer ECE member States? How can these opportunities be used to improve industrial safety and reduce chemical risks?

III. Participants in the Seminar

9. ECE member States, and particularly the Parties to the Convention and the beneficiary countries of its Assistance Programme, are the main target audience. United Nations Member States and international organizations from beyond the ECE region are also welcome to attend the Seminar as observers to the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

IV. Structure and flow of the Seminar

10. The Seminar will include four sessions with presentations. Session I will provide an overview of risk assessment methodologies in the context of the ECE Industrial Accidents Convention, the Sendai Framework for Risk Reduction 2015–2030 (Sendai Framework) and the Sustainable Development Goals. At Sessions II–IV, the speakers will summarize and discuss the most important issues relating to the implementation of effects and risk assessment methodologies, including existing methodologies, evaluation criteria for the protection of people and the environment, risk acceptance values and the experience of Parties to the Convention in implementing such methodologies and applying them in a transboundary context.

11. The Seminar will continue with a panel discussion on needs and opportunities related to the implementation of effect and risk assessment methodologies under the Convention, which will address the following issues:

(a) Implementation of effect and risk assessment methodologies and their advantages and disadvantages from the panellists' points of view and those of their institutions;

- (b) Prerequisites for developing a workable effect and risk assessment procedure;
- (c) The use of effect and risk assessment methodologies to improve industrial safety, reduce chemical risks and strengthen industrial accident prevention, preparedness and response;
- (d) The benefits of effect and risk assessment methodologies for implementation of the Industrial Accidents Convention and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly in a transboundary context;
- (e) The type of support needed in order to implement effect and risk assessment methodologies effectively.

V. Desired outcomes of the Seminar

12. The outcomes and conclusions of the Seminar will:
 - (a) Provide an overview of the effect and risk assessment methodologies used by ECE member States, and particularly the Parties to the Convention;
 - (b) Highlight the importance of risk assessment methodologies, the methodologies used and their scope of application;
 - (c) Identify opportunities for the use of risk assessment methodologies in order to improve industrial accident prevention, preparedness and response.
13. Following the Seminar, the presentations will be posted on the ECE website, and the secretariat will prepare a written summary of the main conclusions of the Seminar.
14. The draft workplan and resources for the Convention for 2019–2020 (ECE/CP.TEIA/2018/7, table 1) includes an item on “Follow-up to the exchange of experience and good practices among Parties on risk assessment methodologies, perhaps through the development of a publication/repository of good practices and/or the holding of a follow-up Seminar [to be determined in light of the outcome of the 2018 Seminar on risk assessment]”. It is envisaged that the Bureau, at its fortieth meeting, to be held jointly with the thirty-seventh meeting of the Working Group in early 2019, will determine the specific activities to be carried out during the period 2019–2020, taking into consideration the discussions at the Seminar and the opinions expressed by the participants in their evaluation forms.

VI. Programme of the Seminar on risk assessment methodologies

4 December 2018

10–10.15 a.m **Opening of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the ECE Industrial Accidents Convention by the Chair (see the annotated provisional agenda (ECE/CP.TEIA/36))**

10.15 – 11 a.m **Session I: Setting the scene: Linking effect and risk assessment methodologies with the ECE Industrial Accidents Convention, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals**

Moderator: Ms. Jasmina Karba, Ministry of Environmental and Spatial Planning, Slovenia, Chair of the Conference of the Parties and member of the small group on risk assessment:

- Mr. Martin Merkofer, Federal Office for the Environment, Switzerland and member of the small group on risk assessment: *Introduction to effect and risk assessment methodologies: defining the scope of the Seminar and selecting the cases*
- Mr. Leo Iberl, Bavarian State Ministry of the Environment and Consumer Protection, Germany and Chair of the Working Group on Implementation: *Scope of the Industrial Accidents Convention, evaluation of implementation reports and recommendations of the Working Group on Implementation*
- ECE secretariat: *The relevance of risk assessment in the light of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the Sustainable Development Goals and the Convention's draft long-term strategy*
- United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction: *Link to the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction Words into Action guidelines on national disaster risk assessment*

11–11.20 a.m **Coffee break**

11.20 a.m–1 p.m **Session II: Overview of different effect and risk assessment methodologies among ECE member States**

Moderator: Mr. Michael Struckl, Federal Ministry for Digital and Economic Affairs, Austria and member of the Convention's Bureau and of the small group on risk assessment:

- Ms. Elisabeth Krausmann, European Commission Joint Research Centre, Major Accident Hazards Bureau: *Analysing the risks of chemical accidents, including natural-hazard-triggering technological disasters (NATECH)*
- Mr. Dino Poggiali and Mr. Roberto Emmanuele, National Fire Brigade, Italy: *Twenty years of safety reports in Italy: risk assessment methodologies employed*
- Mr. Mikhail Lisanov, Centre for Risk Analysis, Russian Federation: *Methodological framework for risk assessment in the Russian Federation*
- Ms. Karola Imbrechts, Department of Environment and Spatial Development, Belgium: *The New Manual for Risk Calculations in Flanders as the result of the Project Unification*
- Mr. Bojan Srdic, Ministry of Environmental Protection, Serbia: *Methodology of the Safety Report development with a special focus on risk assessment methodology that is applied in Serbia*

1–3 p.m **Lunch**

3–3.45 p.m **Session III: Evaluation criteria for risks related to major accident hazards for the protection of humans and the environment and risk acceptance values**

Moderator: Mr. Gerd Winkelmann, Federal Environmental Agency, Germany and member of the Convention's Bureau:

- Ms. Anneke Raap, Ministry of Infrastructure and Water, Netherlands: *Evaluation criteria for Seveso establishment in the Netherlands*
- Mr. Raphaël Gonzalez, Federal Office for the Environment, Switzerland and member of the Working Group on Implementation and the small group on risk assessment: *Quantitative evaluation criteria for humans and the environment in Switzerland*
- Ms. Rachel McCann, Health and Safety Executive, United Kingdom and member of the Working Group on Implementation: *Evaluation criteria used by the Health and Safety Executive, United Kingdom*

3.45–4.30 p.m **Session IV: Specific application of effect and risk assessment criteria by ECE member states in a transboundary context**

Moderator: Mr. Pawel Dadasiewicz, Chief of the Inspectorate for Environmental Protection, Poland and Vice-Chair of the Conference of the Parties:

- Mr. Michael Struckl, Federal Ministry for Digital and Economic Affairs, Austria and member of the small group on risk assessment: *Summary of the ECE Guidance on Land-Use Planning, the Siting of Hazardous Activities and related Safety Aspects*
- Ms. Svetlana Stirbu, ICS Danube Logistics SRL, Giurgiulesti International Free Port, Republic of Moldova: *Risk assessment at oil terminal in Danube Logistics SRL*
- Mr. Balázs Kovács, General Directorate for Disaster Management, Hungary: *Experiences of and lessons learned from an accident prevention and water quality damage control exercise – Danube river*

4.30–4.50 p.m Coffee break

4.50–5.50 p.m **Session V: Panel discussion – Needs and opportunities related to the implementation of effect and risk assessment methodologies in the ECE Industrial Accident Convention agenda**

Moderator: Mr. Chris Dijkens, consultant, formerly with the Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment of the Netherlands

Panellists:

- Representative of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
- Mr. Eivitas Tupikas, Ministry of the Interior Fire and Rescue Department, Lithuania
- Ms. Svetlana Stirbu, ICS Danube Logistics SRL, Giurgiulesti International Free Port, Republic of Moldova
- Ms. Anneke Raap, Ministry of Infrastructure and Water, Netherlands
- Ms. Torill Tandberg, Norwegian Directorate for Civil Protection, Norway, Chair of the OECD Working Group on Chemical Accidents and member of the Convention's Bureau
- Ms. Irma Gurguliani, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Georgia
- Ms. Zsuzsanna Gyenes, Institution of Chemical Engineers (ICChemE)

5.50–6 p.m **Wrap-up** of the Seminar by Michael Struckl, Federal Ministry for Digital and Economic Affairs, Austria and member of the small group on risk assessment.
