Contribution to the UN/OECD Risk Management Workshop by the UNECE Industrial Accidents Convention

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Tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents

Geneva, Switzerland, 4-6 December 2018
NATECH = Natural-hazard-triggered TECHnological disasters

Cyanide spill, gold mine in Baia Mare, Romania: an example of an extreme weather-related industrial accident (2000)
Session 6 - Transboundary cooperation on Natech

- Transfrontier Hazard Maps prepared by Republic of Moldova, Romania and Ukraine (Septimius MARA, Ministry of Water and Forests of Romania)

- Providing International Assistance for Response to and Readiness for Natechs (Margherita Fanchiotti, UN Environment/OCHA Joint Unit)
Highlights of UNECE secretariat presentation in session 6

Legal provisions related to Natech

The Convention is a useful framework for tackling NATECH issues and promoting risk management. Scope of the Convention includes:

“industrial accidents caused by natural disasters”
Highlights of UNECE presentation in session 6

Activities related to Natech

NATECH risk reduction is being mainstreamed through the Convention’s various activities to raise awareness and help countries to address Natech.
Panel discussion, Session 6:

- Look beyond the national level and enhance transboundary cooperation.
- Information-sharing on natural and technological hazards.
- Joint hazard mapping between neighbouring countries is an important step.
- Convention is already involved in mapping:
  - Project on Hazard and Crisis Management in the Danube Delta, and
  - Mapping of TMFs in the Project on mining/tailings safety in Kazakhstan and beyond.
Key conclusions from the Workshop incl. session 6

- Awareness of NATECH has increased + inclusion of NATECH into legislation and regulations improved.
- Authorities sometimes do not have adequate training on NATECH.
- Incorporation of NATECH into RA methods and licencing requires improvement.
- Transboundary cooperation (incl. on joint hazard mapping and early warning system) also requires improvement.
Key recommendations / potential follow-up activities


- International or national guidance on Natech Risk Management for industry and operators.

- Guidance materials on how to observe and evaluate climate change indicators.

- A database for good practice examples.

- Criteria for hazard mapping, incl. cross-border hazard maps.
Cooperation with other international organizations

A cross-sectoral approach to addressing industrial accidents and NATECH events
Conclusion / Next steps

Enhance awareness of the Convention’s role in Natech.

Strengthen partnerships.

Maintain its role in important forums e.g. UNISDR STAG.
Thank you for your attention!

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