UN ECE Industrial Accidents Convention

Industrial accidents in transboundary context

To prevent accidents and to mitigate the consequences

Spatial character of harmful consequences of industrial accidents

Takind hazards of industrial accidents into account in LUP and siting policies and practice = obligatory for Parties (art. 7)

Development versus safety?
Obligations relating to LUP and siting

Parties shall establish a policy:
1. on the siting of new hazardous activities
2. on significant modifications to existing hazardous activities
3. on significant developments in areas which could be affected by transboundary effects of industrial accidents

why? .... to minimise the risk for the population and the environment

the challenge ..... how?

Assistance: consider matters set out in:
Annex V: analysis and evaluation of the hazardous activity
Annex VI: decision making on siting
Annex VI (decision making on siting)

Matters to be considered pursuant to obligations on LUP and siting policies:
- results of risk analysis and evaluation,
- results of public consultation and participation,
- analysis of an increase or decrease of risk caused by any development,
- evaluation of environmental risks,
- evaluation of risk caused by the new hazardous activity,
- siting of new hazardous activities and significant modifications to existing hazardous activities at a safe distance from existing centres of population,
- the establishment of a safety area around hazardous activities and examination of developments which would increase the population at risk.
Matters to be considered in the analysis and evaluation of hazardous activities:
- quantities and properties of hazardous substances on the site,
- scenarios of representative sample of industrial accidents,
- detailed analysis of each scenario,
- the site and distribution of the population in the vicinity,
- the age, mobility and susceptibility of that population,
- the severity of harm potentially affecting people and environment,
- the distance at which the harmful effects on people and environment may occur.
Nov 2010 Seminar on land use planning around hazardous industrial sites - 1

Organised together by UN ECE Industrial accidents convention and UN ECE Committee and Land Management, Hague, November 2010

Objective: to facilitate a dialogue at international level aimed at building better understanding between stakeholders working on industrial safety and land use planning for ensuring safe neighbourhoods around major hazardous industrial facilities.

Conclusions:
- safety aspects not well integrated in land use planning,
- lack of cooperation and transparent division of responsibilities between the main stakeholders,
- guidelines exist (such as publicly available EU Guidelines).
National level recommendations:
1. transparent procedures (legally binding or by means of a protocol) to be introduced to ensure cooperation and communication between parties involved in safety and land use planning at an early stage of any development,
2. understanding and trust among LUP and safety authorities to be built,
3. easy accessible information on risk assessment to be ensured,
4. land use plans for areas in vicinities of hazardous industrial sites to be open for review by safety authorities before their approval.

International level recommendations:
1. periodical meetings at international level to be organized to discuss challenging cases in safety and land use planning and brainstorm on alternative developments scenarios, and through it identify possible solutions and learn from each other,
2. criteria/standards for safety and land use planning incorporating long-term trends to be jointly developed by a group of safety and land use planning experts and to consider different level of development by different countries;
3. publication containing best available practices on safety and land use planning and addressing clearly and simply the societal risks should be prepared;
4. an advisory community on the web for discussing challenging cases to be considered.