Human induced hazards: Minimization of industrial accident risk in the context of the ECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents
Industrial Accidents Convention

- Adopted in 1992, entered into force in 2000, was negotiated by ECE member countries in response to several major industrial accidents and their transboundary effects (e.g. Sandoz spill at Shweizerhalle in 1986 effecting all downstream countries along the Rhine)
- Designed to protect people and the environment against industrial accidents
- Helps its Parties to prevent industrial accidents and to prepare for, and respond to, accidents if they occur
- Currently 41 Parties to the Convention, including EU
History, rationale and status of the Industrial Accidents Convention

- Part of a pan-European legal environment framework:
  - Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution and its eight Protocols;
  - Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes and its Protocol on Water and Health;
  - Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context; and
  - Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters
The Convention: Working areas

Prevention

Work areas

Response

Preparedness
Cooperation between stakeholders

- Prevention
- Preparedness
- Response

- Ministry of Environment
- Ministry of Interior / Emergency Situations
- Other ministries

- Industry
- Regional and local authorities
- Public
Land-use planning in the context of the Convention
Land-use planning in the context of the Convention

• Main objective - minimizing the risk from industrial accidents with (transboundary) effects to the population and the environment
  • Decreasing the likelihood of an occurrence of industrial accidents (NATECH and domino effect)
  • Minimizing the consequences of industrial accidents

• Main tool - establishment of policies on the siting of new hazardous activities, on significant modifications to existing hazardous activities and on significant developments around existing hazardous activities
Land-use planning in the context of the Convention

• Tools and information used
  • Results of risk analysis and evaluation
  • Results of consultations and public participation
  • Analysis of the increase or decrease of the risk caused by any development in the immediate vicinity of an existing hazardous activity
  • Evaluation of the environmental risks, including any transboundary effects;
  • Identification and evaluation of new hazardous activities, sources of risk
  • Consideration of safe distances from existing centres of population and safety areas around hazardous activities
Linkages of the land-use planning requirements of the Convention with other ECE working areas

- Environment
  - ECE Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context
  - Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment
  - Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes

- Housing and Land Management
  - Sustainable Urban Development

- Transport Division
  - Globally Harmonised System for Classification of Chemicals
Planned activities

• Sharing of good practices on safety and land-use planning and development of guidance on safety and land-use planning/siting
  • In cooperation with the ECE Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment and the ECE Committee on Housing and Land Management
  • Examining synergies between the legal instruments
  • Taking into account experience and good practices in the ECE member countries

• Input to the Policy Brief on Urban Planning, prepared by the Committee on Housing and Land Management
Thank you for your attention!

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