

# Assistance Activities implemented since the last meeting of the Working Group

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**UNECE**

# 2017 subregional workshops on industrial accident prevention: chemicals management, identification and notification of industrial hazardous activities



Zagreb, February 2017



Minsk, April 2017

# Subregional workshop for South-Eastern Europe on industrial accidents prevention, Zagreb, Croatia, 21 - 23 February 2017

## Main Objectives:

- To increase the administrative capacity in South-Eastern Europe in the area of identification and notification of hazardous activities, in line with Annex I of the Convention, and the upper-tier requirements of Annex I of the EU Seveso III Directive;
- To identify linkages and synergies with the relevant legislation of the European Union in the area of chemicals management and industrial accident prevention;
- To increase the awareness in Eastern Europe with regard to sustainable development agenda



# Subregional workshop for South-Eastern Europe on industrial accidents prevention, Zagreb, Croatia, 21 - 23 February 2017

## Key outcomes:

- Countries should finalize their work on self-assessments and national action plans
- Main linkages between the UNECE Industrial Accidents Convention and the Seveso III Directive became clearer
- Countries should consider setting up inter-institutional groups with all responsible actors
- Countries do not have mechanisms for consultation with neighbouring countries on identification of hazardous activities
- There is a need for improved coordination and cooperation regarding identification of hazardous activities and classification of hazardous substances
- Countries would appreciate having a simple guide / template for the notification of hazardous activities



# Subregional workshop for Eastern Europe and Caucasus on industrial accident prevention, Minsk, Belarus, 11 – 13 April 2017



## Main Objectives:

- To familiarize the countries in Eastern Europe and Caucasus with the Convention to enhance industrial safety, safeguard human health and the environment and enhance sub-regional cooperation
- To increase the expert and administrative capacity in the area of identification and notification of hazardous activities, in line with Annex I of the Convention, aligned with the Globally Harmonized System for the Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS)
- To increase the awareness of the countries in Eastern Europe and Caucasus with regards to the sustainable development agenda, including the Sustainable Development Goals and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030

# Subregional workshop for Eastern Europe and Caucasus on industrial accident prevention, Minsk, Belarus, 11 – 13 April 2017

## Key conclusions:

- Some countries are harmonizing their legislation with EU legislation, thus more information on linkages between the Convention and Seveso III Directive is important to them
- A training on the on risk assessment techniques and on the notification of industrial accidents was requested
- Importance of subregional workshops was highlighted several times as the opportunity to consult experts from other countries
- Several times the need of having an on-line platform for exchange with experts from other countries was highlighted
- The necessity to improve coordination between competent authorities at national level
- Practical hands-on training was particularly appreciated



# Key conclusions from the two subregional workshops held in 2017

- Need to **benefit from experiences of other countries** and importance of **subregional workshops** as the opportunity to consult experts from other countries were highlighted
- Need to have **contingency plans for industrial accidents** in place and **increase collaboration with neighbouring countries and with industry** that has installations close to borders
- Countries should **benefit from the Convention's Assistance Programme** and **finalize their work on self-assessments and national action plans**
- Countries face a need to **improve coordination between various competent authorities at the national level**
- Countries do not have mechanisms for **consultation with neighbouring countries**
- Countries requested having a simple **guide, a template for and a training on the notification of hazardous activities**
- **Linkages between the UNECE Industrial Accidents Convention and the Seveso III Directive** are important for countries wishing to integrate with the European Union
- **Participants emphasized a need to consult each other**, in particular when working on determining potential transboundary effects of hazardous activities, e.g. through an online platform
- Countries should **exchange information and share best practices** on potential transboundary effects arising from their hazardous activities



# Questions? Comments? Reflections?



# Project on Strengthening Industrial Safety in Central Asia



# Goals of the project

**To strengthen the implementation of and accession to the UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents in Central Asia and support the Central Asian countries in enhancing industrial safety and, thus, protecting human health and the environment**



## Expected outcomes of the project :

- Raised awareness and improved understanding of the **key requirements of the Industrial Accidents Convention** and industrial safety by key target groups in the five beneficiary countries.
- **Enhanced capacities for assessment of industrial safety** and development of national action plans for the implementation of and accession to the Industrial Accidents Convention.
- One **self-assessment** undertaken by each of the five countries of Central Asia.
- One **action plan** on industrial safety developed by each of the five countries of Central Asia.
- **Enhanced transboundary cooperation** in Central Asia.

# Key milestones of the Project

DATE	ACTIVITY
28 - 30 November 2016	Launch of the Project at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in Ljubljana, Slovenia
May 2017	National Expert Group Meeting in Kyrgyzstan
June 2017	National Expert Group Meeting in Kazakhstan
November 2017 - March 2018	National Expert Group Meetings in Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan
June 2018	Dissemination of the Guide on the Key Requirements of the Convention for Central Asia
September 2018	Final subregional workshop

# Main objectives of the National Expert Group Meetings

- Provide forum for discussion for the representatives of different state authorities dealing with industrial safety, environmental protection and water management with engagement of civil society and private sector
- Allow exchange of experience between the international and local experts
- Improve the understanding of the Industrial Accidents Convention and its Strategic Approach, including the benchmarks with its indicators and criteria to measure progress
- Support the national expert in the elaboration and finalization of the national self-assessment
- Set grounds for the preparation of a national action plan



# National Expert Group Meeting, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, 16-18 May 2017



## Main observations & conclusions:

- Kyrgyzstan would need to identify its hazardous activities falling under the scope of the Convention and elaborate modalities for their notification
- Access to the UNECE IAN System might have been lost as it was not entirely clear who has the necessary login information
- Further discussions should be held and decisions should be taken at the sub-regional level in respect of the notification of hazardous activities
- The country will need help with creating a template for notification of hazardous activities
- Following the meeting, **national experts finalized the self-assessment and the national action plan** indicating clearly timeframe and responsible parties for the implementation of identified priorities/actions
- The Deputy Director of the Central Asia Centre for Emergency Situations and Disaster Risk Reduction in Almaty invited to host the subregional workshop



# National Expert Group Meeting, Borovoe, Kazakhstan, 20-23 June 2017



## Main observations & conclusions:

- There is a lack of coordination between the three nominated competent authorities under the Convention
- These competent authorities established a working group which will work, as a first step, on the identification of hazardous activities
- Lack of clarity on the point of contact under the IAN system was revealed and needs to be addressed
- A need for the facilitation of a dialogue with Kyrgyzstan on the management of tailing dams was expressed
- Central Asia Centre for Emergency Situations and Disaster Risk Reduction in Almaty expressed its interest to become a user of the IAN System under the Convention
- National expert, in consultation with the national working group, will finalize the self-assessment and the action plan for the implementation of identified priorities/actions
- A discussion on the Convention Implementation Guide clarified what the Guide should contain

# Key conclusions from the national meetings under Central Asia Project

- Countries need to **identify** hazardous activities under the Convention
- Clarification on how to carry out **notification of hazardous activities** is needed, a **template** and a detailed procedure were requested
- Importance of clarifying the role of the point of contact under the UNECE **IAN system** and restoring access to it, where relevant
- **Kyrgyz** national experts managed to promptly finalize the **self-assessment and action plan** following the meeting and sent the final version to the secretariat which was further shared with the WGI
- **Kazakh** national expert was unable to finalize the documents within a month following the meeting; the finalized **self-assessment and action plan** are expected to be finished before end of September 2017
- Central Asia Centre for Emergency Situations and Disaster Risk Reduction will host the **subregional workshop** under its Project (preliminary – September 2018)
- Questions to be addressed at the subregional workshop mainly relate to the notification of hazardous activities

# Implementation Guide on the Key Requirements of the Convention



- Will address specific needs of Central Asian countries
- Will be drafted in Russian
- Group of authors determined
- Peer reviewers from Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan determined
- Peer reviewers from the WGI?
- 1<sup>st</sup> draft – before end 2017
- 2<sup>nd</sup> draft – March 2018
- Final draft – June 2018
- June-August 2018 -> dissemination in advance of the subregional workshop



# XV meeting of the CIS Inter-State Council on Industrial Safety, 14 - 15 September 2017, Khujand, Tajikistan



The outcome document of the meeting:

Encourages the Council's member States to conduct a self-assessment to evaluate the actual situation with respect to the implementation of the Convention and the level of industrial safety, and develop an action plan to address the challenges identified in the self-assessment



## Planned activities (dates are tentative)

- November 2017 - National Expert Group Meeting in Turkmenistan
- January/February 2018 - National Expert Group Meeting in Uzbekistan
- March 2018 - National Expert Group Meeting in Tajikistan
- **Early 2018 - possible high-level mission to Ukraine**
- September 2018 - subregional workshop for Central Asia

# Questions? Comments? Reflections?



# Thank you for your attention!

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