

Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on
Access to Information, Public Participation
in Decision-making and Access to Justice
in Environmental Matters

Task Force on Access to Information

Sixth meeting

Geneva, 3-4 October 2019

Item 2 (a) of the provisional agenda

**Effective provision of information in case of an imminent
threat to human health and the environment**

Information document 4

**Overview of the provision of information in case of an imminent threat to human health
and the environment in accordance with article 5, paragraph 1 (c), of the Convention**

Note by the secretariat¹

This information paper directs participants to selected information from the 2017 Synthesis report on the status of implementation of the Aarhus Convention² and national implementation reports submitted by the Parties to the Convention³ in the fifth reporting cycle (2014-2016) and, where not available, 2014 national implementation reports, concerning the provision of information in case of an imminent threat to human health and the environment in accordance with article 5, paragraph 1 (c), of the Convention (questions XI and XIII).

Participants are invited to consult this document in advance of the meeting in order to gain an overview of issues to be discussed under agenda item 2 (a), and to discuss good practices and further needs to be addressed under the auspices of the Task Force on Access to Information and in the update of the Recommendations on electronic information tools.

¹ This document was not formally edited.

² See Document ECE/MP.PP/2017/6 available in English, French and Russian from [http://www.unece.org/env/pp/aarhus/mop6_docs.html/](http://www.unece.org/env/pp/aarhus/mop6_docs.html#/) under Category II heading.

³ Available from <http://apps.unece.org/ehlm/pp/NIR/>. Information from 2017 national implementation reports provided in accordance with their availability to the secretariat by 1 September 2019.

I. Excerpts from the 2017 Synthesis Report on the status of implementation of the Convention

104. With regard to the implementation of article 5, paragraph 1 (c), all Parties reported to have obligatory emergency information systems in place, based on special regulatory requirements, including obligations for owners of facilities to disclose information on possible hazards. Appropriate information is disseminated immediately and without delay, according to the reporting Parties.

105. The operation of the systems of identification and notification in the case of excessive air pollution and water pollution were reported by many Parties from the European Union, Iceland, Norway and Switzerland subregion. In Lithuania, for instance, changes to the Law on Civil Protection improved the alert system in case of emergencies, by enhancing the list of alert measures and by specifying methods for immediate warning. Slovakia reported that it operated an ozone smog warning system, coordinated by the Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute. Hungary reported on the improvements of smog alarm regulations. For South-Eastern Europe, in Albania a governmental decision specifies intergovernmental coordination and the means of communication with and provision of information to the public in cases of civil emergencies and crisis.

106. Georgia passed a new legal framework on public safety enacted during the fifth reporting period detailing, inter alia, notification measures in emergency situations. The key role is allocated to the Ministry of Interior, which coordinates and disseminates information on emergency situations and response measures to the general public.

2. Information provided by the Parties to the Convention in 2017 national implementation reports

<i>Party</i>	<i>Excerpts from 2017 national implementation reports (questions XI and XIII)</i>
Albania	<p>Regarding paragraph 1 point (iii) it is adopted the Decision of Council of Ministers No 965, dated 02.12.2015 “On interinstitutional coordination of governance structures in cases of civil emergencies and crisis”. In this decision are determined which are governance and management structures of civil emergencies and crisis at central level. There are also determined interinstitutional responsibilities in tackling civil emergencies and crisis, mean of communication and information of public.</p> <p>In case of emergencies, information is disseminated immediately by the National Committee of Emergencies which is under the dependency of Prime Minister. Also in line, Ministries – including here also the Ministry of Environment – are established sectors, named sector of information and emergency. Due to the fact that in the recent years Albania has been conditioned by climate changes, there is a recurrence of floods, it is proved that civil emergency structures have coordinated their work with local government in public notifications and also for taking evacuation measures.</p>
Armenia	<p>The Act on the Protection of the Population in Emergencies (02.12.1998) lists requirements to inform the population of a danger or potential danger as one of the fundamental measures to protect the population.</p> <p>(...)</p> <p>Article 2 of the Hydrometeorological Activities Act defines “emergency information on hydrometeorological phenomena and processes” as factual information or forecasts</p>

Party**Excerpts from 2017 national implementation reports (questions XI and XIII)**

about natural disasters and dangerous levels of environmental pollution, to be duly made public immediately after it has been received and processed.

The fundamental principles of hydrometeorological activities are access to data on actual and expected changes in hydrometeorological phenomena, openness of information, reliability and efficient use. The Act enshrines the right of citizens, NGOs and other legal entities to receive reliable information on hydrometeorological phenomena, and the right of citizens and NGOs to conduct independent hydrometeorological monitoring while informing the competent public authority about natural disasters, accidents, and breaches of technical procedures that have had or could have an impact on human life and health or have caused environmental pollution (Article 8). Article 14 of the Act lists among the principal tasks of the Ministry of Nature Protection: alerting the public authorities and the public to hazardous events and natural phenomena (climatic and other phenomena and changes), supplying the forecasting services with essential data on forecasts and expected severe weather, and also meeting the needs of the public and the business sector for information on changes to the hydrological regime of bodies of water.

Under Article 7 of the Freedom of Information Act: 1) “The owner of information shall publish the procedure for providing information and immediately publish or by other means inform the public if the disclosure of information could jeopardize state or public security, public order, the health and the rights of the public, the rights and the freedoms of third parties, the environment or property.”

(...)

In Armenia, information on emergencies is disseminated by the Ministry of Nature Protection, the Emergencies Ministry (which also includes the National Earthquake Protection Service), the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Territorial Administration, the mayors of Yerevan and other towns and the State Water Committee, using all available media.

Such information may include, among other items, recommended safety measures, predictions of the progress of threatening situations, research results, reports on relief operations or measures to prevent threats and other data.

(...)

In addition, the Freedom of Information Act (23.09.2003) (Article 7) stipulates that persons in possession of information:

- (...)
- Shall immediately publicize or by some other means bring to the attention of the public any available information that may prevent danger to state and public property, disturb law and order, or endanger the health and rights of the population, the rights and freedoms of third parties, the environment, property or individuals.

Austria

Paragraph 9, subparagraph 5, of the Austrian Environmental Information Act stipulates that, in the event of imminent danger to human health or the environment, the bodies obliged to provide information shall disseminate all information directly and without any delay. In addition, the owners of plants affected by failure shall, from the outset and without being instructed to do so, disclose the following information (para. 14 of the Austrian Environmental Information Act) to the affected population: general information on the plant (location, plant description), possible hazards and consequences

<i>Party</i>	<i>Excerpts from 2017 national implementation reports (questions XI and XIII)</i>
Azerbaijan	<p>in the event of failure, existing safety precautions and appropriate action to be taken in the event of failure. Also, this information shall be provided appropriately and in a way that it is understandable by the general public. It is the responsibility of the individual companies to determine the appropriate form of information.</p> <p>The Environmental Protection Act tasks the State with establishing rules for distributing information and keeping state statistics relating to environmental protection (article 4), while the Environmental Security Act makes the State responsible for organizing and performing information management (paragraph 2.1 of article 5). In order to accomplish these tasks, state and local self-government authorities are obliged to set up the necessary systems to collect information, disseminate information about emergencies, deal with enquiries and communications within the time frame established by law, continually update environmental databases, and acquaint enquirers with the list of bodies that hold information as well as with documents containing environmental information (article 5 of the Acquisition of Environmental Information Act).</p>
Belarus	<p>The content of information relating to the protection of the population and territories from emergencies is defined by Article 8 of the Act on the Protection of the Population and Territories from Natural and Technological Emergencies. This information is to be transparent and open, unless otherwise specified by legislation. The national government authority in charge of emergencies, other national government bodies, other State agencies under the authority of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus, local executive agencies and administrative authorities and other organizations are required to provide the public through the media with up-to-date and reliable information on the state of protection of the population and territories from emergencies and on methods and means of protecting the population from them.</p> <p>Under Article 20 of the Act, citizens of the Republic of Belarus have the right, in regard to the protection of the population and territories from emergencies, to protection of life, health and personal property if emergency situations arise; to information about the risk to which they may be exposed in particular residential areas within the country, and about essential safety measures; to communicate their concerns to the public authorities, other organizations and also to individual entrepreneurs on matters of protection of the population and territories from emergencies.</p> <p>In accordance with Council of Ministers' Resolution No. 1280 of 23 August 2001, the Ministry of Emergencies must inform the population of potential or actual emergencies through communications and notification systems and the media.</p> <p>In the aim of establishing a mutual information-sharing procedure for operational response to natural and technological emergencies, the Border Service has drawn up an Instruction for organizing the exchange of information between the Border Service and the Ministry of Emergencies' National Centre for Emergency Management and Response. This round-the-clock information exchange is achieved using information technology and communication resources.</p> <p>Article 24 of the Industrial Safety of Hazardous Manufacturing Facilities Act provides that information regarding industrial safety and information about the work of the national government body responsible for industrial safety must be transparent and open.</p> <p>The Drinking Water Supply Act requires the owners of the drinking water supply system, drinking water supply enterprises and State public health inspection bodies to inform consumers immediately if drinking water fails to comply with regulatory standards,</p>

Party	Excerpts from 2017 national implementation reports (questions XI and XIII)
Belgium	<p>indicating the time frame for the non-compliance to be rectified as well as precautionary measures, additional means of treating water or times and places where drinking water that complies with regulatory standards will be made available.</p> <p>Federal Authority In emergencies, appropriate information is disseminated immediately and without delay. Paragraph unchanged.</p> <p>Brussels-Capital Region See Ord. [of 18 March 2004 on access to environmental information] art.18 · Alerts are sent out to the public via the mass media if certain air pollution thresholds are exceeded. · A “pollumeter” (air quality indicator in Brussels) is available 24/7 on www.brusselsenvironment.be and via a telephone answering machine. · The population is informed of events that may generate pollution, e.g. risks of a fire at a former industrial site, via the Brussels Environment-IBGE website, press releases and social networks (Twitter, Facebook).</p> <p>Flemish Region Several authorities are involved, with regulations on: - exchange of information about projects with cross-regional environmental effects - controlling the hazards of major accidents which involve dangerous substances - civil protection - reporting and warning obligation in accidental emissions and breakdowns. Up-to-date information about flooding danger and air quality is available on the Internet.</p> <p>Walloon Region For emergencies, Wallonia has set up an environmental incident watch and intervention service within the Environmental Police and Control Division called “SOS Pollutions” that is accessible to everyone around the clock.</p>
Bosnia and Herzegovina	<p>In addition, legislation ensures that in case of emergencies, information is distributed without delay.</p> <p>In the event of immediate threat to human health or the environment, the relevant minister shall present representatives of the public with all data in possession by bodies of public administration that could enable the public to take measures to prevent or reduce the damage that could result from a specific threat, as mandated under the provisions of Article 29(3) of LoPE FBiH and Article 29(2) of LoPE BD. The public should be informed of emergency situations, such as interventions in the event of incident pollution, through the media and on the website, as well as in direct contacts and during public events. In line with the provisions of Article 9, Paragraph (2) of the Rulebook on Air Quality Monitoring of BD (Official Gazette of BD: 30/06), interested public is informed of air quality in real time, if pollutant concentration exceeds critical values of air quality and if technical features of the air sampling facility enable provision of information in real time.</p> <p>Article 42 of the Rulebook on Measures of Prevention and Decrease of Air Pollution and Improvement of Air Quality (Official Gazette of RS: 03/15, 51/15, 47/16) mandates that the annual emissions report should be entered into the information system.</p> <p>In line with the provisions of articles 3 and 8 of the LoS BiH, BHAS distributes statistical data to all relevant institutions in BiH, interested parties, scholars and other interested individuals, upon request.</p>

In accordance with the provisions of Article 6 of the LoF, BiH FSA disseminates risk information to enable the relevant bodies in BiH, its entities and BD, companies involved in trade of food and animal feed, consumers and other relevant institutions and interested parties to get timely, reliable, objective and understandable information about risks related to food and animal feed. In addition, pursuant to the provisions of Article 10 of the LoF, BiH FSA undertakes steps if it is suspected that food or animal feed could pose risk to human or animal health and notifies the public of the risks to health, identifying the food or animal feed products affected, explaining the risk they pose and specifying the measures undertaken or to be undertaken to prevent, decrease or eliminate the risk.

During 2014 flood crisis, in line with its competences mandated under the law, the Soil Department operating within the FAPI prepared a Programme of Emergency Measures of Recovery of Flooded Agricultural Land on the Territory of the FbiH and distributed it to municipal institutions, Federation Civilian Protection HQ and the Government.

On the basis of the decision of the FbiH Government, upon the initiative of Gračanica Municipality, Monitoring of the River Spreča Underflow was initiated in 2014. This monitoring initiative is still ongoing. In the focus of the research was soil contamination with organic pollutants. Upon the initiative of Zenica Municipality, and based on the subsequent decision of the FbiH Government, monitoring has been initiated to monitor pollution of soil with inorganic and organic pollutants on the territory of Zenica. This monitoring initiative is still ongoing. All reports prepared by FAPI, focusing on direct threat to human health and the environment are presented by FAPI director in the sessions of the FbiH Government. The reports are distributed to municipalities and cantons covering the territory where soil contamination has been detected. These reports are also posted on the FAPI website. Director and other staff of FAPI acting upon approval of the Director, make statements to the media, if necessary. If soil contamination is detected with specific pollutant that poses risk to human health and the environment, the FAPI releases preliminary report immediately upon completion of laboratory testing and performs further testing in the contaminated area.

Due to May 2014 floods in the Sava river basin, FbiH Sava River Basin Agency (SRBA) facilitated monitoring of quality of surface water to determine the baseline for major rivers, down the stream from major cities or at the locations where the risk of spilling of harmful substances existed.

The Sector of Water Testing took samples at 35 locations from a total of 23 rivers in the Sava river basin on the territory of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina during the period between 20 May and 4 June 2014. The samples were tested for physical, chemical, sanitary and microbiological quality parameters, in accordance with the Decision on Characterisation of Surface and Ground Water, Reference Conditions and Parameters for Water Monitoring (Official Gazette of the FbiH: 1/14), Ordinance on Harmful and Hazardous Substances in Waters (Official Gazette of the FbiH: 43/07) and Ordinance on Classification of Water and Categorisation of Waterways (Official Gazette of the RS: 44/01). At all sampling locations, screening analysis was performed using gas chromatographer with mass detector, with the view of determining qualitative composition of samples taken. Around 70 parameters have been tested. At sampling locations where screening analysis indicated presence of harmful substances in the water, another on-site testing was arranged to test for presence of harmful substances and if found, determine their concentration. In accordance with the Decree issued by the FbiH Civilian Protection HQ No: 02-44/13-68/14 of 24 May of 2014, the results of monitoring of water quality in the Sava river basin on the territory of the Federation of

Party	Excerpts from 2017 national implementation reports (questions XI and XIII)
	<p>BiH have been presented to the FbiH Civilian Protection HQ and FbiH Public Health Institute.</p>
	<p>In line with the provisions of articles 98 to 106 of the LoW of FbiH, water information system has been put in place. The system is managed by the relevant agencies in the FbiH. With reference to procedures of disseminating information to the public in cases of incidents, defined under the provisions of Article 14 of the Rulebook on Procedures and Measures in Cases of Accidents Involving Waterways and Surrounding Land Areas, ASRBA also uses Operative plan of Measures in cases of emergencies and pollution incidents.</p>
	<p>In accordance with the provisions of Article 156, Paragraph 1, Item 6 of the Law on Waters (Official Gazette of FbiH: 70/06) and the Rulebook on Procedures and Measures in Cases of Accidents Involving Waterways and Surrounding Land Areas (Official Gazette of FbiH: 71/09), and pursuant to the provisions of Article 47 of the Statute of the Agency for Sava River Basin in Sarajevo, Director of the Agency for Sava River Basin issued the Operative Plan of Measures in cases of emergencies and pollution incidents in the Sava river basin. This plan is available on the website of the Agency for Sava River Basin in Sarajevo (www.voda.ba).</p>
	<p>In the event of immediate threat to human health, the relevant information is immediately disseminated by the FPHI and FMH to the public and to the relevant institutions, with recommended protection measures. Examples: provision of information and implementation of activities with the view of protecting the health of the population in the event of extreme weather conditions (air pollution, extreme heat or cold, floods), or in the event of food and water contamination, emergence of epidemics of communicable diseases, etc.</p>
	<p>In line with the provisions of Article 29 of the LoPE FbiH, the practice in Zenica-Doboj Canton is that the relevant Minister addresses the public and presents all information held by the relevant Ministry that could enable the public to undertake measures to prevent or reduce the effects of damage that could result from a given risk. In the event of incident pollution, the public is informed of the situation by the media, the relevant websites, as well as through direct contacts and public events. With reference to air quality, the interested public is informed of the air quality through publication of results of testing that could be read on displays installed at three locations on the territory of the City of Zenica.</p>
Bulgaria	<p>According to article 23, paragraph 1 of the EPA, in emergency or other pollutions which are in violation of the rates of discharge of pollutants into the environment established in statutory or administrative acts, the polluters, as well as the persons responsible for observance of the limit values, are be obliged to immediately notify the competent regional governors, mayors of the municipalities concerned, the relevant Regional Inspectorates of Environment and Water, the basin directorates, and the authorities of the State Agency for Civil Protection and, in case of change of the radiation level, the Nuclear Regulatory Agency as well.</p>
	<p>In accordance with article 23, paragraph 2 of the EPA competent authorities within the scope of paragraph 1, are required to immediately notify the Ministry of Health and the affected population for the ensuing excessive pollution and propose measures to protect human health and property.</p>

Party	<i>Excerpts from 2017 national implementation reports (questions XI and XIII)</i>
Croatia	<p>With respect to the danger of water pollution, the WA prescribes the procedure for ensuring the flow of information between the National Protection and Rescue Directorate, State Water Inspectorate and CW. The National Plan of Measures for Sudden and Accidental Water Pollution (OG No. 5/11) determines measures and actions undertaken in cases of sudden and accidental pollution of inland waters and defines persons obliged to carry them out, the content of lower-order plans of measures and the deadline for their development, entities participating in the undertaking of measures, measures and actions in cases of sudden and accidental water pollution, sources of financing and the manner of public information.</p> <p>The Contingency Plan for Accidental Marine Pollution (NN 92/08) establishes the measures for predicting, preventing, restricting and preparedness for as well as response to accidental marine pollution by oil and/or oil mixture, hazardous and noxious substances, as well as unusual natural marine phenomenon for the purpose of protecting the marine environment. Implementation of Contingency plans in cases of accidental marine pollution is under the competence of the ministry responsible for environmental protection. Within the framework of the protection from the adverse impact of water, operative flood risk management and direct implementation of flood protection measures are set by the National Flood Defence Plan (OG No. 84/10), the Master Flood Defence Implementation Plan and Flood Defence Implementation Plans for defended areas. In line with the WA flood defence planning documents have been developed; the Flood Risk Management Plan, which is a constituent part of the River Basin Management Plan for 2016-2021 (OG No. 66/16) and the Multi-annual Programme for Construction of Water Regulation and Protection Facilities and Amelioration Facilities (OG No. 117/15).</p> <p>Cooperation of all competent bodies in the protection and rescue system is necessary for effective flood defence, including local and regional self-government units and the National Protection and Rescue Directorate which is according to the National Flood Defence Plan the holder of core authorities in the field of protection from disasters and major accidents, including those caused by flooding. For organisation of management in cases of disasters all necessary measures are carried out by the competent National Protection and Rescue Directorate in line with the provisions of the Protection and Rescue Act (OG No. 174/04, 79/07, 38/09 and 127/10) and the Protection and Rescue Plan of the Republic of Croatia (OG No. 96/10). The provider of the public service of water supply is responsible for safety of drinking water intended for human consumption, which has to possess an approval for the performance of public water supply activities (Article 203 of the Water Act) and comply with requirements prescribed by the Ordinance on Special Requirements for Performing Public Water Supply Activities (OG No. 28/11 and 16/14).</p>
Cyprus	<p>In the event of an imminent threat on human health or the environment as a result of human activities or natural causes, public authorities must without delay disseminate all information which could enable the public likely to be affected to take measures to prevent or mitigate harm arising from the threat.</p> <p>Law 119(I)/2004 provides that in the event of an imminent threat on human health or the environment as a result of human activities or natural causes, public authorities must without delay disseminate all information that will enable the public likely to be affected to take measures to prevent or mitigate harm arising from the threat (Article 12(6)). Industrial establishments where dangerous substances are present fall under the scope of the Regulations on the control of major-accident hazards involving dangerous substances and, apart from the preparation of emergency plans, operators are obliged to provide all the information necessary for the competent authority to draw up external emergency</p>

Party	<i>Excerpts from 2017 national implementation reports (questions XI and XIII)</i>
	<p>plans. The objectives of the emergency plans are to contain and control accidents, to implement the measures necessary to protect human health and the environment, and to communicate the necessary information to the public and the public authorities concerned. For all establishments where significant quantities of dangerous substances are present, operators must ensure that all relevant information is made available to the public, including information relating to the nature of major-accident hazards, including their potential effects on human health and the environment, control measures to address them and emergency plans, while all persons likely to be affected by a major accident receive regularly and in the most appropriate form clear information on safety measures and requisite behaviour in the event of a major accident. In the event of a major accident, the competent authorities must inform the persons likely to be affected, of the accident which has occurred and, where relevant, of the measures undertaken to mitigate its consequences.</p> <p>In accordance with the Law on the Management of the waste from the extractive industries the competent Authority ensures that the public is informed on all measures taken in case of an accident. The external emergency plans for facilities in Category A extractive industries have special provisions to coordinate emergency information dissemination efforts by the competent authority and the police.</p>
Czechia	<p>Dissemination of environmental information in emergencies is regulated by Act No. 239/2000 Coll., on the Integrated Rescue System and on Amendment of Certain Acts, as amended (information system for preventive and rescue measures in the area of mobile sources of hazard - http://cep.mdcz.cz/dok2/DokPub/dok.asp) and the Crisis Act No. 240/2000 Coll. In order to warn citizens in a timely manner, the public administration uses SMS messages, regional electronic media broadcasting and other means.</p>
Denmark	<p>According to the Emergency Management Act the task of the fire and rescue services is to prevent, limit and redress personal injury and damage to property and the environment arising from accidents, disasters and catastrophes, including acts of terror and war, or imminent danger of such. The individual ministers shall each within their areas plan the maintenance and continuation of societal functions in the event of accidents and catastrophes, and they may direct public authorities as well as public and private enterprises and institutions to provide assistance in the planning or execution of tasks falling under the civil sector's emergency management.</p> <p>A number of particularly risky enterprises must prepare safety documentation in order to prevent serious accidents.</p> <p>The environmental authorities provide advice to enterprises within the scope of the Environmental Protection Act, and they process matters relating to the risk of pollution of the external environment in the event of an accident. The same applies for the Approval of Livestock Holdings Act.</p> <p>The fire authorities advise on their area and process matters regarding fire.</p> <p>The Police prepare emergency preparedness plans for its own effort with regard to certain types of undertakings and coordinate the effort of the various authorities in case of a greater accident. The Police ensure that people, who may be affected by an accident, are notified of the safety measures and the action they should take.</p> <p>The authorities must mutually notify each other of matters of significance for the other authority.</p>

The Environmental Protection Act contains a duty for owners and users of real property to inform the inspection authority immediately if they cause or ascertain pollution of the property's soil or subsurface. The person responsible for plant and equipment that can cause pollution must inform the inspection authorities immediately of breakdowns or accidents that may lead to significant pollution or danger hereof. The same applies for the Approval of Livestock Holdings Act.

The Environmental Damage Act also contains provisions granting the authorities power to order the responsible party to submit information, undertake investigations and take preventive and remedying measures etc. and a duty for the responsible party, in certain cases, to notify the authorities.

According to the Statutory Order on Reporting pursuant to the Protection of the Marine Environment Act, the master of a ship or the head of a marine installation must notify the relevant authorities immediately in the event of discharges or risk of discharges from the ship to the sea.

The Danish Plant Pest Act institutes a general obligation to report to the competent authority any findings of plant pests. Furthermore, the act authorizes the Minister to let this reporting obligation serve the purpose of implementing EU rules on plant protection.

With respect to the "active duty to inform", it is assumed that this is a non-statutory duty for the authorities to notify without delay the relevant members of the public of the dangers in the event of accidents or disasters, so that the public is able to take the necessary action.

This duty also appears in the Statutory Order on Active Reporting of Environmental Information. This states that, except for special obligations otherwise pursuant to legislation, authorities and bodies subject to the Environmental Information Act must immediately and without delay issue all relevant environmental information if there is an imminent threat to human health or the environment.

The same Statutory Order also states that this duty to provide information may also be included in emergency planning within the civil sector.

According to the Danish Emergency Management Act the Danish Emergency Management Agency shall prepare a plan for coordination and cooperation between the authorities responsible for the retention and continuation of functions in society in the event of a nuclear accident. The objective of the nuclear emergency response plan is to establish an overview over all the tasks and responsibilities of the involved sectors, local authorities, other government departments and emergency services in the event of accidents in nuclear facilities, enabling earliest possible warning of the public and if necessary initiating remedial actions as soon as possible. The individual ministers are responsible for maintaining and upholding within their individual sectors the vital functions of society in the event of accidents or disasters, among these nuclear incidents.

According to the Danish Act on Gene Technology (Act no. 9 of 4 January 2017) the person who is responsible for an environmental damage or the threat of imminent danger of an environmental damage, is obliged to inform the public authorities of all relevant aspects concerning the environmental damage or of the potential thereof. Furthermore, the person who has received an approval to deliberate release of GMOs or placing on the market, has an obligation to inform the public authorities of any accidents or incidents

<i>Party</i>	<i>Excerpts from 2017 national implementation reports (questions XI and XIII)</i>
Estonia	<p>that can lead to a release of GMOs into the environment which can cause damage to the environment, nature or human health.</p> <p>Pursuant to section 25 of the General Part of Environment Code Act, upon emergence of an environmental risk as well as upon emergence of sufficient likelihood of occurrence of a significant adverse impact on the environment by natural factors, everyone who might be affected by the significant adverse impact arising from the realisation of the risk must immediately be informed by providing them with information that allows for taking measures that prevent or reduce the impact. The information shall be forwarded via broadcasting, printed media or the Internet or in another appropriate manner that effectively ensures the receipt of the information by the potentially affected persons and will not result in unreasonable costs. When the holder of the information is legally in a position to refuse from issuing environmental information, the person is obliged to consider every time whether the interest served by the refusal will outweigh the potential public interest associated with the disclosure of environmental information. Estonia, together with other countries, signed the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTRs), which should be ratified either in 2005 or 2006. The protocol was accepted by Estonia in August 2007. Information concerning factors that may be hazardous to human health or the environment must be disclosed immediately. Such provisions are included in the Environmental Register Act, the Environmental Monitoring Act, the Ambient Air Protection Act and the Release of Genetically Modified Organisms into the Environment Act.</p>
European Union	<p>In 2013, the European Parliament and of the Council adopted Decision 1082/2013/EU on serious cross-border threats to health.</p> <p>The SEVESO III Directive 2012/18/EU requires that certain information is made available in electronic form. Access to information held by the competent authorities is granted in accordance with the Environmental Information Directive.</p> <p>Article 7 of the IED provides that "[in] the event of any incident or accident significantly affecting the environment, Member States shall take the necessary measures to ensure that the operator informs the competent authority immediately". In addition, Article 8(2)(a) requires Member States to ensure that the operator immediately informs the competent authority of any breach of the permit conditions.</p> <p>Similarly, Article 30 of the Offshore Safety Directive provides that "Member States shall ensure that the operator or, if appropriate, the owner notifies without delay the relevant authorities of a major accident or of a situation where there is an immediate risk of a major accident" and that in the course of the emergency response, the Member State shall collect the information necessary for thorough investigation. Moreover, in accordance with Article 26, a non-confidential version of the findings of that investigation shall be made publicly available.</p>
Finland	<p>The definition of rescue operations in Section 32 of the Rescue Act (379/2011 as amended by 1171/2016, 928, 470, 415 and 281/2015, 532/2014, 1171/2013. In addition, Government's proposal concerning international help HE 107/2016 in the Finnish Parliament.) includes warning the population as one operation. According to Section 27 of the Rescue Act, rescue departments are responsible for the warning of the population in accidents and dangerous situations and the alarm system required for the purpose. The Act on Openness, the Rescue Act and the Act on the Operation of Emergency Response Centers (692/2010 as amended by 1172/2016, 1097, 285, 282, 174/2015, and 1230 and 47/2013) shall apply to issuing information. Provisions for the industrial treatment and</p>

Party	Excerpts from 2017 national implementation reports (questions XI and XIII)
	<p>storing of hazardous substances and chemicals are given in the Act on the Safety of Handling of Dangerous Chemicals and Explosive (390/2005 as amended by 1142/2016, 358/2015, 690/2014 and 400/2013) and in the Decree on the Monitoring of the Handling and Storage of Dangerous Chemicals (855/2012 as amended by 116/2014), which is based on the Act. According to Section 32 of the Act, the operator must inform the public of safety measures concerning the production plant and operating instructions to be followed in the event of a major accident. The notification must include information about the hazardous chemicals that might be released in the event of a major accident. According to Section 22 and Annex VII of the Decree, the safety report and list of chemicals must be made available for public inspection.</p> <p>Under Section 4 of the Decree on External Emergency Plans of Sites that Pose Significant Danger by the Ministry of the Interior (406/2011), the external emergency plan of a production plant shall include information on how the public is warned, how the public is given detailed information on the incident and what instructions are issued to the public.</p> <p>Pursuant to Section 6, Rescue Services shall inform the public institutions that may be affected by a major accident of any external emergency plans.</p>
France	<p>Article L. 125-2 and Articles R. 125-9 <i>et seq.</i> of the Environmental Code provide that citizens have the right to information on major hazards to which they are exposed and on protection measures affecting them.</p> <p>Where floods are concerned, a high-water warning service – the Central Service for Hydrometeorology and Flood Warning Support (SCHAPI) – has a nationwide information, guidance, assistance, advisory and training role for agencies operating in the field of high-water forecasting and water resources, <i>inter alia</i> through a dedicated website (www.vigicrues.gouv.fr).</p> <p>Where air quality is concerned, Article L. 223-1 of the Environmental Code provides for the Prefect [the central government’s representative in a <i>département</i> or region] to warn the public when air quality limit values are exceeded.</p> <p>The sites of the Regional Directorates for the Environment, Planning and Housing (decentralized departments of the Ministry) responsible for issuing flood warnings post daily information updates and bulletins online, at least during critical periods. www.vigicrues.gouv.fr produces a national monitoring map for flood forecasting.</p> <p>The <i>prim.net</i> information site on major hazards receives an average of 150,000 visitors a month (source: 2010 statistics).</p>
Georgia	<p>Information about hazards that can affect human life and health, natural and anthropogenic disasters and other incidents, which have already occurred or can occur in the future and threat civil security should not be considered as confidential (the General Administrative Code of Georgia, article 42; the Law of Georgia on the State Secret, article 7).</p> <p>Dissemination of appropriate information in emergency situations is regulated by the Law of Georgia on Civil Safety (2014) and the National Civil Safety Plan, approved by the Government of Georgia (2015). Inform the public on the civil safety issues (article 32) and make this information public (article 33) is considered in the mentioned law, while the mentioned plan defines emergency assistance functions to ensure the implementation of prevention, preparedness, response and recovery activities of emergency situations. The plan defines also the constant notification measures of</p>

emergency situations formed during war and peace and ensuring communication for protecting society in order to ensure public awareness on emergency situations. Citizens are informed about emergency situations through public and private broadcasting companies as well as by vehicles, equipped with “loud speakers”.

Information on emergency situations that have occurred in Georgia and response measures as well as information on activities implemented for the purpose of ensuring safety is regularly published on the website of the Ministry of Interior of Georgia. Statistical analysis, maps of potential emergency situations and risks and rules of behavior in emergency situations is also provided on the website. Based on the data obtained, electronic maps are designed where locations of potentially dangerous objects are marked and placed on the electronic portal of the Agency. The Ministry of Interior of Georgia in cooperation with different governmental and non-governmental organizations periodically prepares and publishes popular materials about rules of behavior in emergency situations.

In relation to the same issue, the following principles of the Law of Georgia on Public Health (2007) should be mentioned (article 4, paragraphs “a” and “b”):

- a) Insuring preventive measures to avoid threats to the public health;
- b) Clear definition of competences of state bodies engaged in the public health issues and effective informational coordination between them in the process of planning and implementation of public health related activities.

Chapter II of the above-mentioned law defines the rights and obligations of the public and legal entities concerning the public health issues. According to the Article 5, paragraph “e” of the provided law, every person residing on the territory of Georgia is obligated to notify the Public Health Service on any emergency situation, caused by violation of sanitary norms in production and technological processes. According to the article 35, paragraph 6 of the same law, the Ministry of Defense, the Ministry of Penitentiary, Probation and Legal Aid and the Ministry of Internal Affairs are obligated to immediately inform the Public Health Service about any circumstances that may pose risk to the health and safety of the population.

According to paragraph “b” of the article 24 of the Law of Georgia on Nuclear and Radiation Safety (2012) in the event of radiation emergency and/or incident, a license holder should immediately notify population regarding expected danger. It should also be mentioned that the article 233 of the Criminal Code of Georgia (1999) stipulates criminal liability in the event of concealing or distorting of information on emergencies or accidents at nuclear or radioactive installations, if it could cause human life loss or other grave consequences. Also, according to the article 247 of the same Code, criminal sanction is applicable in the event of concealing or fabricating of information regarding circumstances, posing risk to human health and life.

Information related to geological and geo-ecological risks disseminated in two ways:

- 1) In the event of regional geological monitoring processed information on conditions of geological hazard and possible risks for the next year along with appropriate measures is disseminated in the beginning of each year. At the same time information bulletin is published on the website, accessible to all stakeholders and users and sent to the state institutions, heads of municipalities and all the interested institutions.
- 2) In each specific case of extreme activation of a natural disaster, results of surveys, conducted in force majeure situation with indication of relevant

Party	Excerpts from 2017 national implementation reports (questions XI and XIII)
	<p>measures are disseminated and such information is provided to the heads of municipalities promptly.</p> <p>Standard information on hydro meteorological, geological, environmental pollution and coastal zone protection preventive measures is disseminated to every consumer free of charge. But for specific and detailed information, prepared upon specific request of consumer on hydrometeorological, geodynamical conditions, feasibility for implementation of coastal zones construction activities a certain payment is required, the amount of which depends on the type of provided service. Any information about environmental pollution is provided free of charge.</p>
Germany	<p>Pursuant to Section 10 (5) UIG,⁴ in the event of any imminent threat to human health or the environment, all information which could enable the public to take measures to prevent or mitigate harm that may arise from the threat and is held by public authorities obliged to furnish information must be disseminated immediately and without delay.</p>
Greece	<p>In case of an air pollution incident, information will be disseminated on an hourly basis through the Internet, radio, TV messages and Web site of the Ministry, and implementation of relevant measures (directions to people affected etc). According to an NGO, there is a need for more systematic, real-time air pollution monitoring in all areas of Greece</p> <p>Polluters have an obligation to directly inform the public in emergencies, according to the Presidential Decree 148/2009 “Environmental responsibility to prevent and repair damage to the environment: in compliance with the 2004/35/EC Directive.</p> <p>According to Article 10 of Directive 2007/60 / EC and Article 9 of the 31822/1542/E103 CMD (FEK 1108/B/21-07-2010) which incorporated into national law the EU Directive 2007/60 / EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2007 on the "Assessment and management of Flood Risks", disclosed the details of the Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment for the 14 Water Districts and determined a list of stakeholders at all stages of risk management plans (Prevention, Protection, Preparedness, Recovery and Review).</p> <p>Forecasting and early warning: this issue is handled in Greece by several operational centres. Comprehensive activities and plans that have been undertaken in the field of early warning and forecasting include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Traditional measuring instruments, radar and numerical weather forecasts; b) Identification and mapping of high-risk areas through the National Bank of Hydrological and Meteorological Information, a data bank in which all the hydrological and meteorological data measured during the last 100 years have been collected and elaborated, using the most up-to-date computer science and telecommunications; c) Development of an effective and reliable early-warning and forecasting system, supported by meteorological information, to inform, at the respective level, flood authorities and citizens in threatened areas; d) A national emergency plan for civil protection (XENOKRATIS), covering the emergency management before, during and after the flood events. According to an NGO there is a lack of evaluation reports with post emergency information;

⁴ Applicable *mutatis mutandis* in conjunction with Section 3 (1) LUIG B-W, Section 18a IFG Bln, Section 1 BbgUIG, Section 1 (2) BremUIG, Section 1 (2) HmbUIG, Section 3 LUIG M-V, Section 5 NUIG, the third sentence of Section 2 UIG NRW, Section 1 (3) UIG LSA; also Article 10 (5) BayUIG, Section 10 (5) HUIG, Section 7 (2) LTranspG RPF, Section 10 (5) SUIG, Section 12 (4) SächsUIG, Section 11 (4) IZG SH, Section 10 (5) ThürUIG.

Party	<i>Excerpts from 2017 national implementation reports (questions XI and XIII)</i>
Hungary	<p>e) Measures linked to public information and awareness-raising: information for the general public through the media (TV, leaflets, posters, the Internet, etc.) on possible flooding events because of forecasted heavy rains and thunderstorms and on self-protection instructions;</p> <p>f) In cases endangering the health of the general public relating to fishery products for which the Competent Authority is aware, then subsequently informed in writing all competent Prefecture Fisheries Services, Veterinary Medicine and Public Health Services as well as the fishing operators in the region.</p> <p>Monitoring and protection of bathing waters and the marine environment.</p> <p>A specific area of data provision under the Convention (Article 5, item (c) of paragraph (1)) is the dissemination of environmental emergency information.</p> <p>Government Decree 311/2005. (XII. 25.) on the public access to environmental information provides that in case of an imminent threat to the environment or to public health, the authority holding the relevant information must immediately inform the public concerned.</p> <p>Detailed rules of the Hungarian environmental emergency information system are laid down by Act LXXXIV. of 1999. on the Control and Administration of Disaster Management and the Protection against Major Accident Hazards Involving Dangerous Substances and by its implementing decree (Government Decree 2/2001. (I. 17)). This legislation determines inter alia the responsibilities for the provision of access to documentation (e.g. in the licensing of dangerous installations) and informing the public (e.g. publication of the safety report and the external emergency plans). Since 1 January 2012 the new Act CXXVIII. of 2011 on the modification of disaster protection and attached other laws and Government Decree 219/2011. (X. 20.) on the protection against accidents involving dangerous substances determine in detail inter alia the responsibilities on the securing of publicity (e.g. at the authorization process of plants using hazardous materials) and on informing the public (e.g. publishing the security report and the defence plan based on it).</p> <p>Under the Act, it is the duty of the management of the relevant industrial activity establishments to assess the environmental risks associated with the dangerous substances present in their establishment, to evaluate the likely significant effects of a major accident, and to determine and to implement all necessary environmental and public health preventive measures and steps taken to eliminate the liability. This information must be included in the safety report or analysis of the hazardous material establishment concerned. Safety reports and analyses are public documents and can be consulted at the premises of the municipality.</p> <p>To manage an unexpected major hazardous material accident, the assistance of the mayor of the relevant municipality is required to draw up, in cooperation with the competent local disaster management unit, an external emergency plan that lays down the relevant responsibilities, means and equipment.</p> <p>With a view to ensuring that the public affected is familiar with the potential industrial hazards in the environment, the above Government Decree requires that with the assistance of the mayors of municipalities in the vicinity of major dangerous hazardous material installations are prescribed to prepare an information booklet for the public that has to be reviewed every three years and re-published every five years. The booklet is aimed at informing the local population and public institutions (e.g. schools, hospitals) about the location, including the nature of the establishments dealing with hazardous</p>

materials and the associated hazards, as well as prevention and protection measures. Publication of the booklet is handled by the mayor.

In light of the Governmental Decree 219/2011. (X.20.) on the protection against severe incidents, the operator of the hazardous material installation is obliged to report any breakdown or severe incidents caused by hazardous materials immediately via telephone and in written form within 24 hours to the local disaster management authority.

In addition, pursuant to the provisions of Section 6 Government Decree 311/2005 (XII. 25.) on the public access to environmental information, in the event of a direct threat to human health or the environment, irrespective of whether caused by human activity or natural causes, the body in possession of the relevant environmental information, makes accessible immediately and without delay environmental information in its possession or stored on its behalf to the population likely to be affected by such threat, enabling the execution of measures serving the prevention or mitigation of damage resulting from the threat.

Problems reported by environmental- and nature protection civil organizations:

The above-mentioned measures do not work properly in practice.

Smog alarms are also subject to emergency information obligations. The smog alarm plans of municipalities set out the measures to be taken in emergency situations and the rules of providing information. In addition to cities with a population of over 200 thousand, other municipalities are also required to draw up smog alarm plans where extraordinary air pollution may occur on the basis of historical data. The municipalities are responsible for defining the measures contained in the smog alarm plans; the plans are jointly executed by the municipalities, the environmental, transportation and public health authorities and traffic authorities. Municipalities only have an information provision obligation in the event of moderate pollution; they are required to take various pollution reducing measures in the event of higher levels of pollution. In 2008, information and alarm limits were introduced also in relation to flying dust (PM10). On the basis of these, in recent years the information or alarm levels of smog alarms were applied in several cities (e.g. Budapest, Miskolc). The aim of the review which has been imposed in 2012 is to establish a more modern, more effective and legally ordered smog alarm regulations.

Data accessible on the website (www.met.hu) of the Hungarian Meteorological Service (OMSZ)

- Measurement results relating to current air pollution levels in Budapest and evaluation of these in comparison to smog alarm limits;
- Information relating to expected air quality. The system developed by the OMSZ, with funding provided by the Environmental Fund of the Municipality of Budapest, functioning on an operational basis, is unique in Europe, as it forecasts in an hourly breakdown the future level of main pollutant concentrations two days in advance, for the whole area of Budapest;
- Wide range of environmental information. In the Air Environment material, the OMSZ publishes data relating to the components of rain water and the pollutant content of air measured at its background pollution measuring stations. The page also contains detailed historical climate information;
- UV-B forecasting and alarm for the public – The OMSZ has been informing the public since 2008 on the expected UV-B radiation values, drawing attention to the dangers related to sunbathing and the possible methods of protection. Each year the season begins with the organisation of a forum where experts report on

<i>Party</i>	<i>Excerpts from 2017 national implementation reports (questions XI and XIII)</i>
--------------	---

new domestic and foreign scientific results, underlining the dangers of UV radiation;

- Temperature extreme values in Hungary, Budapest;
- Weather records;
- Agro-meteorological maps;
- Climate retrospections (monthly, seasonal, yearly, decade and century);
- Future climate change – regional climate models used by the OMSZ for the period between 2021-2050 and 2071-2100 are available;
- Gamma dose-performance data;
- Daily weather report.

Data on air quality and environmental-health ratings of Budapest and 29 municipalities with automated measurement-stations is being published on the website of the Hungarian Environmental Health Institute - OKI (<http://oki.antsz.hu/>), furthermore the Institute raises the attention of the community towards dangers and their evasion.

The OKI provides information on its website on the enacted heat-alarms during summer heat waves and the methods of protection.

The procedure related to protection against forest fires is regulated under Section 67 (1)-(2) of the Forestry Act of 2009:

- In the event of a higher risk of forest fires, the minister responsible for forestry – in consultation with the minister responsible for protection against disasters – may temporarily order by decision a general fire lighting prohibition for the entire territory of the country, or forests located in a specific area, and areas located within two hundred meters from the forest border. The decision on the fire lighting prohibition and its lifting must be published on the website of the forestry authority and the ministry headed by the minister, two national dailies and in public television and radio.
- In the event of a higher risk of forest fire extending to the area of counties, or municipalities, in justified cases, the forestry authority – in agreement with or upon the proposal of the county disaster management directorate or the Disaster Management Directorate of Budapest in the area of the capital – may also order a fire lighting prohibition. The decision on the fire lighting prohibition and its lifting must be published on the website of the forestry authority and the ministry headed by the minister responsible for forestry, two national dailies and in public television and radio.

Data relating to biotic forest damage is available. Information relating to the above is provided by the Hungarian Forest Research Institute (ERTI) and the National Food Chain Safety Office (NÉBIH) on the basis of data collected through the operation of the forest protection measurement and monitoring system (EMMRE) regulated under Section 56 (2) of the Forestry Act and Sections 35-37 of Decree 153/2009 (XI. 13.) FVM.

The National Forest Damage Registry System (OENyR) has been launched in 2012 as a sub-system of EMMRE by the forestry authority in cooperation with ERTI- as per the obligations of the Forestry Act. Within the framework of this system every professional entitled to the status of technical-crew must report perceived forest damage to the forestry authority through the *“Forest-protection report sheet (EKÁR sheet)”*.

<i>Party</i>	<i>Excerpts from 2017 national implementation reports (questions XI and XIII)</i>
	<p>Up- to- date information on exceptional floods, water quality calamities, inland water is available on the www.vizugy.hu website. The water management sector pursues active informational activity in regional and national radios, televisions and electronic media as well if it is necessary. During the Danube flood special bulletins were issued every day in 2013.</p> <p>Under the regulation of Government Decree 201/2001 on the “water quality and the methods of supervision” data regarding the quality of drinking water, incidental health risks and steps made to avert these risks by both the drinking water provider and the competent public health authority must be made public on their respective websites.</p> <p>(...)</p> <p>On country level, information on the water quality, including all risk factors under the so-called bathing water profile, of all-natural bathing areas must be published by The National Public Health Office.</p>
Iceland	<p>According to Act No. 23/2006 on Access to Information on Environmental Matters public authorities are always obliged, by their own initiative, to provide information if there is a reason to believe that emissions of polluting substances into the environment may lead to dangerous effects on the health of people or animals.</p>
Ireland	<p>In the event of an imminent threat to human health or the environment, public authorities are required, in line with Article 5(3) of the AIE Regulations, to ensure that all appropriate information is disseminated immediately and without delay to enable the public likely to be affected to take measures to prevent or mitigate harm.</p>
Italy	<p>Concerning emergencies, the National Service for Civil Protection, as re-organised by Law 225/1992, is in charge of protecting the citizens and the environment in case of natural and manmade disasters. All possible preventive and repairing measures shall be adopted, mainly in the framework of local emergencies plans, including public dissemination of any useful information made by all Public Authorities (Legislative Decree 195/2005).</p> <p>Moreover, the MoE and ISPRA websites work as tools to spread official information to the scientific community, the media and the public. The regional centres cover an important role in alerting and raising awareness of the local population, giving priority to addressing contingent situations of risk (for example the Liguria Region Center’s activities are focused on flood prevention and management).</p>
Kazakhstan	<p>The structure of the State Fund for Environmental directory information includes: inventory of natural resources, registers of pollutant's release and transfers, and other registers of environmental information, a list of environmentally hazardous industries, environmental monitoring data, materials of EIA and state environmental expertise with the consent of the proposed activity, regulations and regulatory technical documents in the field of environmental protection and use of natural resources, and others.</p>
Kyrgyzstan	<p>The Ministry of Emergency Situations operates an emergency warning system. The Ministry’s Meteorological Agency carries out environmental monitoring, and its official website gives information about the weather, atmospheric air and surface water quality and radiation levels. It also posts warnings about severe weather and sudden weather changes.</p>

In 2012, the Electronic and Postal Communications Act was amended, making additional provisions for public safety announcements to be broadcast free of charge by the media (i.e. television and radio) and by mobile network operators.

Latvia

Provision and distribution of environmental information in emergencies is done in accordance with the Civil Defense and Catastrophe Management Law (entered into force on 1 October 2016), the State Civil Defense Plan, civil defense plans of local governments and CM Regulation No. 530 “Procedure for Creation, Use and Financing of Civil Alarm and Notification System”, dated 7 August 2007.

The State Civil Defense Plan includes the obligation to provide respective information and also identifies the institution responsible for providing emergency information, which in turn receives the information from the public authorities responsible for particular areas.

If pollution has developed that endangers human life, health or the environment, or there is reasonable threat of above, the operator must notify respective REB, according to paragraph 5 of Article 6 of the Law on Pollution; Articles 27, 28, 29 of the EPL.

According to the Civil Defense and Catastrophe Management Law (Art. 12, para. 2) the public has a right to receive an early warning and advisory opinion in the event of a catastrophe or in a risk of a catastrophe taking place as well as a right to receive a support of the State or local governments in the event of a catastrophe or in a risk of a catastrophe taking place.

The law “On Emergency Situation and State of Exception” lays down the establishment and legal framework for emergency situation. Article 9, paragraph 4 of the law provides that public electronic mass media shall announce the decision on emergency situation free of charge as well as shall provide other information on emergency situation and recommended action for the public, considering conditions by the CM and the responsible authority for the procedure of provision of information and urgency.

In the domain of environment cooperation and exchange of information takes place also in accordance with a respective order of the MEPRD.

In accordance with the State Civil Defense Plan and Interdepartmental Agreement LEGMC provides to the State Fire and Rescue Service daily weather forecast for Latvia and Riga, forecasting meteorological or hydrological conditions which may cause destruction and emergencies by causing damage to the public, property and the environment. In addition, this information is published on the LEGMC website as well as forwarded to mass media. The relevant information is forwarded also to the EUMETNET (Network of European National Meteorological Services) EMMA (European Multi-services Meteorological Awareness) programme website www.meteoalarm.lv.

Lithuania

Emergency management in Lithuania is regulated by the State Emergency Management Plan approved by RoL Government Resolution No 1503 of 10 October 2010. The plan lists the competent authorities, defines the functions and limits of responsibility of the authorities, including the MoE, provides for an emergency management scheme, designates the responsible and support authorities for each emergency and details the actions of the authorities to be taken.

Party	Excerpts from 2017 national implementation reports (questions XI and XIII)
	<p>The basis for the provision of information to the public in case of emergencies is laid down in the Law on Environmental Protection and the Law on Civil Protection, the Procedure for public information in the event of a radiological or nuclear accident approved by RoL Government Resolution No 559 of 22 April 2002, the Specification of the procedure for informing the public and institutions concerned of levels of ambient air pollution approved by Order No D1-265/V-436 of the Minister of Environment and of the Minister of Health of 26 May 2005, etc. The actions of the MoE structural units and authorities subordinated to the Ministry and assigned to its sphere of regulation in case of emergencies are regulated by Order No 248 of the Minister of Environment of 20 May 2003.</p> <p>NEW! In 2015, several amendments were made to the Law on Civil Protection to improve the alert system of a threat of an emergency or of an existing emergency for economic entities. The list of the alert measures was enlarged, and a provision was included that inhabitants, public authorities and economic entities would receive an immediate warning of a threat of an emergency or of an existing emergency.</p> <p>The main authorities that ensure appropriate and quick information for the public on a threat of an emergency or of an existing emergency are: the FRD, the EPA, the Health Emergency Situations Centre, the Police Information Administration and special services.</p> <p>National legislation lays down the basis for cooperation among the above-mentioned authorities and the procedure for information exchange in the event of emergencies or accidents. For example, information on chemical preparations considered dangerous due to their effect on human health or their physical impact is accessible for 24 hours on working days and weekends for the Poisoning Centre Information Bureau of the Emergency Situation Health Centre and is used to identify cures and take immediate action to protect human health and the environment in emergencies.</p> <p>The public is informed of a threat of an emergency or of an existing emergency or accident with messages on the websites of the competent authorities or via popular media, and, in particularly established cases, with SMS messages. The public is also informed of further actions to be taken in order to ensure the protection of human health and property.</p>
Luxembourg	<p>Within the framework of legislation relating to classified establishments, the regulations relating to establishments covered by the Seveso Directive require the Department of the Interior to join forces with municipalities (<i>communes</i>) in order to reduce environmental impacts in the event of an accident. The procedure to be followed is laid down by the amended Grand-Ducal Regulation of 17 July 2000 on the control of major-accident hazards involving dangerous substances. In other spheres, provision is made for warnings where limit values are exceeded – for example, with regard to ozone.</p> <p>The Grand-Ducal Regulation of 29 April 2011 implementing Directive 2008/50/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 May 2008 on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe provides (<i>inter alia</i>) that information on ambient air quality shall be made available to the public.</p>
Malta	<p>This requirement is catered for in Regulation 10(3) of the Freedom of Access to Information on the Environment Regulations (S.L. 549.39).</p>

Party	Excerpts from 2017 national implementation reports (questions XI and XIII)
	<p>Provision of emergency environmental information to the public is regulated by the Civil Protection Act (Cap. 411). Article 4 thereof lays down that the functions of the Civil Protection Department (CPD) shall be to prepare contingency plans to respond to a disaster as well as to natural, industrial and other emergencies that may occur. These contingency plans include the provision of information to the public. The same Act makes it incumbent on the CPD to promote public awareness of civil protection issues.</p> <p>Installations that store fuel/chemicals that are within the Seveso Regulation range have an obligation to inform the local population and issue information to the public. This is part of the Seveso 3 Directive.</p> <p>The CPD declares that an emergency is over, as part of Cap. 411 obligations. Once an emergency is over, the CPD hands over to the Malta Police Force and any emerging court enquiry may determine the cause and necessary action to be taken but this will not necessarily mean that it will be divulged to the public, as it is the court which decides – though in general all final court judgements are available to be viewed by the public.</p>
Montenegro	<p>In emergencies, appropriate information is disseminated immediately and without delay; Answer: Article 68 paragraph 3 of the Law on Environment stipulates that the Environmental Protection Agency is obliged to inform the public via electronic media or in any other way, without delay, about cases of immediate danger to the health of people and/or the environment, regardless of the fact if the danger was caused by human activities or natural events. Article 4 of this Law stipulates that the Agency and the polluters are obliged to inform the public on the transgressions of proscribed border values of emissions to the environment, as soon as they find out, without delay.</p> <p>The Law on Protection from Ionizing Radiation and Radiation Safety, Article 34, prescribes that anyone who learns about the existence of danger caused by higher exposure to ionizing radiation of population and environment, shall inform thereof, without delay, the Ministry responsible for emergencies and civil security, the Agency and other competent authorities. Article 35 defines that for the purpose of early detection of radiation accident which may lead to an emergency, and endangers or may endanger the life and health of people and the environment, the Ministry responsible for emergencies and civil security shall establish a system of early warning which provides for continuous measurement of the strength of ambient equivalent dose of gamma radiation in the air. Also, please refer to provisions of Articles 10, 21, 22 of the Law on Protection and Rescue.</p>
Netherlands	<p>Chapter 17 of the Environmental Management Act contains specific provisions on measures to be taken in special circumstances. If an incident occurs or has occurred in an establishment causing adverse environmental effects, the operator is obliged to inform the competent authority thereof and provide the relevant information (causes, measures taken and other necessary information to reduce the consequences for the environment). In this respect the Law on Disasters and Serious Incidents (<i>Wet rampen en zware ongevallen</i>) should also be mentioned. It provides a special framework for information provision and public notification.</p> <p>Chapter 19, article 2 of the Environmental Management Act requires authorities to inform involved persons of health and environmental hazards, in as far as this information does not already have to be provided on the basis of the Dutch Safety Regions Act (<i>Wet veiligheidsregio 's</i>) or any other legal provision.</p>

Party	<i>Excerpts from 2017 national implementation reports (questions XI and XIII)</i>
Norway	<p>In an emergency, it is of key importance to ensure that people are kept informed about what is happening and what they should do. Norway has a Directorate for Civil Protection and Emergency Planning and, in addition, sectoral authorities are responsible for crisis management within their own spheres of responsibility. Private-sector enterprises also have a responsibility to provide information before and during emergencies. It is beyond the scope of this report to give an account of all provisions and arrangements for this area that help to implement article 5, para.1 (c), of the Convention.</p>
Poland	<p>The principles of proceeding in hazardous situations are described in numerous legal acts. They indicate responsibility for cooperation with competent authorities of each level, depending on the type of the natural disaster.</p> <p>Editors-in-chief of journals and broadcasters of radio and television programmes are obliged to, at the request of administration authorities, to immediately and free of charge publish or post messages of these authorities related to activities, which are aimed at preventing the effects of a natural disaster or recovery from it.</p> <p>Environmental Protection Inspection informs the public about the condition of the environment and keeps the register on the prerequisites of serious accidents. Other authorities are obliged to immediately contact the mass media and properly distribute the information, depending on the situation.</p> <p>Voivodship Marshals are obliged to announce smog warnings, featuring an appeal to the residents for appropriate behaviour in order to minimize the reasons and effects of the occurrence of smog.</p>
Portugal	<p><u>Environmental responsibility</u></p> <p>As part of the implementation of Directive 2004/35/EC of the European Parliament and Council of 21 April, amended by Directive 2006/21/EC of the European Parliament and Council, APA has published on its website (...) the 2011 Guide to the Assessment of Imminent Threat and Environmental Damage. (cf. http://www.apambiente.pt/index.php?ref=17&subref=157)</p> <p><u>Prevention of serious accidents</u></p> <p>The National Civil Protection Authority (ANPC) website also makes available to the public, under the Emergency Planning Information System, the external emergency plans of the establishments covered by Decree-Law No. 254/2007 (cf. http://planos.prociv.pt).</p> <p>When risk situations occur that may affect persons, property or the environment, the ANPC issues warnings to the general public and press releases disclosing the possible effects and the respective self-protection measures.</p> <p>Moreover, the most important active occurrences in the area of civil protection and the respective history by district are recorded daily on the ANPC website (cf. http://www.prociv.pt/cnos/HAI/Pages/Junho2016.aspx).</p> <p><u>Radiological Emergency</u></p> <p>In the event of a radiological emergency, information is provided to the public in accordance with the provisions of Decree-Law No. 36/95 of 14 February, and Decree-Law No. 174/2002 of 25 July. This Decree-Law establishes the "prior information" that should ensure the population likely to be affected in the event of a radiological</p>

Party	Excerpts from 2017 national implementation reports (questions XI and XIII)
Republic of Moldova	<p>emergency is informed of the appropriate safety measures to take. The communication mechanisms in the event of accidents can follow various routes, with surveillance personnel 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The response for this subject matter remains the same as that stated in the 2011 Report.</p> <p>Art. 11, par. 9 of the Law on Access to Information obliges the information holder to urgently inform the public on the information discovered in the course of its activity, if such information:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) can prevent or minimize danger to citizen's life and health; b) can prevent or diminish the risk of causing any danger; c) can prevent the publication of untruthful information, or can diminish its negative effect; d) has a special social significance. <p>The Republic of Moldova's Law on Hydrometeorological Activity (art. 11) obliges the State Hydrometeorological Service to develop general purpose forecasts for dissemination through mass media, as well as specialized forecasts (agrometeorological, aviation, climate, regarding the spread and movement of chemical pollutants and radioactive). And art. 13 of the same law states that warnings about dangerous hydrometeorological phenomena and extremely dangerous pollution of the environment shall be immediately transmitted to the population, central public administration bodies and legal entities interested in accordance with plans - schemes confirmed by the authorized bodies, using in this respect all informational means. In cases of considerable increase in the concentrations of harmful substances in the air or the danger of natural disaster (heavy rains, floods, frosts, heat, etc.) the Hydrometeorological Service broadcasts via media alert newsletters that indicate the level of hazard warning (yellow, orange, red code).</p>
Romania	<p>In emergencies, appropriate information is disseminated immediately and without delay; Article 24 of GD No.878/2005 contains provisions on emergencies situations: "In the event of an imminent threat to human health or the environment, whether caused by human activities or due to natural cause, the public authorities shall disseminate the information held by or for them which could enable the public likely to be affected to undertake measures to prevent or mitigate harm arising from the threat, immediately and without delay. "</p>
Serbia	<p>Articles 75-77 of the Law on Emergency Situations stipulate the obligation of providing notifications about accidents. Please refer also to Article 5 of this Law (principle of public notifications about threat).</p> <p>Please refer also to Article 60 Law on Environmental Protection (reporting accidents); Article 58, Article 59, Article 60a 6; Rule Book on the Content of the Policy of Accident Prevention, Content of Safety Report and Plan on Protection against Accident and Methodology of Their Development (Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia No. 41/10); Rule Book on the Content of the Notice about a New Seveso Plant or Complex, the Existing Seveso Complex and Permanent Closure of a Seveso Plant or Complex (Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia No. 41/10); Article 11 of the Law on Fire Safety (the principle of making information accessible to the public); Articles 30 and 31 of the Law on Occupational Safety and Health, etc.</p> <p>Please refer to the following laws: Law on Air Protection: Article 36; Article 66. Paragraph 2; Law on Waters: Article 101, 106; Law on Chemicals: Article 84. Paragraph 4; Law on the Protection against Ionising Radiation and on Nuclear Safety: Article 62.</p>

<i>Party</i>	<i>Excerpts from 2017 national implementation reports (questions XI and XIII)</i>
Slovakia	<p>Paragraph 2, Law on Occupational Safety and Health; LMHA: Article 24; Law on Food Safety: Article 9, Articles 38-44, etc.</p> <p>Please refer also to the National Strategy for the protection and rescue in emergency situations (Official Gazette of RS No. 86/11) and the Strategy of fire protection 2012 - 2017. (Official Gazette of RS No. 21/12).</p> <p>Please refer also to the Decree on the composition and mode of the headquarters for emergency situations.</p> <p>In case of a threat to the health of population caused by human activities or natural forces, the Public Health Authority of the Slovak Republic provides proper information and measures necessary for the prevention or mitigation of losses caused by the threat.</p> <p>Information falling under the crisis planning legislation is notified to the public, inter alia, through public-service media. If necessary (e.g. floods, industrial accidents, etc.), the respective crisis staff shall be summoned. Its members include the employees of the central government body responsible for the communication with the public (Article 33a of Act No. 17/1992 Coll. on environment as amended by Act No. 211/2000 Coll. on free access to information).</p> <p>Providing the public with information about severe industrial accidents is regulated by special regulations. For the cases, where an increased ozone concentration could cause a smog situation, an ozone smog warning system is created. The authorised organisation Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute acts as the control centre; it obtains, processes and issues information, forecasts and signals of warning and caution. The authorised organisation provides information about the level of measured concentrations and forecasts of air pollution level on a daily basis at the time of duration of the ozone smog situation through mass information media. The authorised organisation cancels the signals of warning or caution through mass information media.</p> <p>Pursuant to Article 13 (4) of Act No. 137/2010 Coll. on air, if as a result of adverse meteorological conditions, the information threshold for ozone or the warning threshold for ozone is exceeded, the authorised organisation shall declare signals of warning or caution through mass information media.</p> <p>Pursuant to Article 13 (5) of Act No. 137/2010 Coll. on air, if the information threshold for ozone or the warning threshold for ozone is not exceeded for at least 24 hours and if worsened meteorological conditions are not expected, the authorised organisation shall cancel the signals of warning or caution through mass information media.</p>
Slovenia	<p>Article 27 of the ZVO-1 governs measures in the event of an environmental accident – a person who causes an environmental accident must immediately inform the notifying authority provided for in the regulations on the protection against natural and other disasters and take such emergency measures that can mitigate detrimental consequences for the environment. At the same time, the ZVNDN lays down the obligations for the effective provision and forwarding of information on natural and other disasters that are binding on individuals, municipalities, and state authorities, and the requirement to warn and notify the population in the event of a threat, and the provision of instructions for self-protection and mutual assistance. Furthermore, it lays down the obligation to notify other countries and international authorities concerning the risk of disasters or the occurrence of disasters. The manner and forms for this are laid down in greater detail in the Decree on the organization and operation of the system of monitoring, informing and</p>

<i>Party</i>	<i>Excerpts from 2017 national implementation reports (questions XI and XIII)</i>
Spain	<p>alarming (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [Uradni list RS], No 105/07) and the Decree on the contents and drawing up of protection and rescue plans (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [Uradni list RS], Nos 24/12 and 78/16).</p> <p>In situations where there is an imminent threat to human health or the environment, pursuant to article 9 of the Law, the public authorities are required to immediately and without delay disclose all information held by the public authorities or other subjects in its name, to enable the public that may be affected to take the necessary measures to prevent or mitigate the harm arising from such threats.</p> <p>The Directorate-General for Civil Protection and Emergencies, reporting to the Ministry of the Interior, through the National Commission on Civil Protection, coordinates the departments of the State and Autonomous authorities.</p> <p>Both the State and the Autonomous Communities have specific warning legislation in place and protocols of action and conventions to enable disclosure of the appropriate information.</p>
Sweden	<p>Operations that entail a danger that an accident will cause serious damage to people or the environment are covered by special provisions in the Act on Protection against Accidents (2003:778) on the obligation to take measures to prevent or limit damage. The operator is required to analyse the risks of such accidents and to inform the authorities of emissions of poisonous or harmful substances or if there is an imminent risk of such emissions.</p> <p>If an accident that can cause serious harm to people or the environment does occur or if there is imminent risk of such an accident, the operator has to notify the county administrative board, the Swedish Police Authority and the municipality where the plant is located under the provisions of the Ordinance on Protection against Accidents (2003:789). There are also special provisions in the Ordinance requiring the county administrative board to inform the public in the event of an emergency that involves a risk of radiation. The warning and information system called VMA [Important Notice to the Public] is used in the event of accidents and serious incidents and to warn and inform about disturbances to critical functions in society and in connection with extraordinary events. VMA notices are always sent by radio and TV and are sometimes supplemented with sound transmitters outdoors. A special warning system has been developed for use in the event of accidents at nuclear power stations. A particular feature of this system is that an alarm to the general public is already triggered by the operator at a very early stage of an accident, as soon as a number of criteria set up by the authorities have been met. After that the relevant county administrative board takes over the handling of civil protection measures including information to the public.</p> <p>The Swedish Chemicals Agency participates in a network of information officers for crisis communication in the event of accidents involving chemicals and oil spills. The network is run by the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency and is intended to coordinate communication by the authorities affected in a crisis situation. The Swedish Chemicals Agency has also set up a procedure for crisis communication.</p>
Switzerland	<p>In emergencies, when there is an imminent threat to human health or the environment Article 10 EPA and Article 13 of the Ordinance of 27 February 1991 on Protection against Major Accidents (MAO, SR 814.012) ensure that the population affected is immediately alerted by the cantons and, if necessary, advised on how to act. Similar</p>

<i>Party</i>	<i>Excerpts from 2017 national implementation reports (questions XI and XIII)</i>
	<p>provisions can also be found in Ordinance of 18 August 2010 on Issuing Warnings and Raising the Alarm (AlarmO, SR 520.12).</p> <p>In case of a nuclear accident or radiological emergency the public has to be informed according to the Ordinance of 20 October 2010 on Emergency Protection Measures in the Vicinity of Nuclear Installations (EmPO, SR 732.33) and the Ordinance of 20 October 2010 on the Organisation of NBC and Natural Disaster Intervention (NBCN Intervention Ordinance, SR 520.17).</p>
Tajikistan	<p>In Tajikistan, the REACT group of rapid response group on natural disasters and risks assessment operates. The group is a link between the CoES and other stakeholders on disaster risk management in Tajikistan.</p> <p>According to the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan "On Environmental Protection" of the Republic of Tajikistan and regulations of state organizations approved by the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, state institutions shall implement the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) (...) b) notify of emergency situations; c) (...)
Ukraine	<p>According to the Order of the Regional State Administration of 11.01.2005 No. 9-r "On approval of the plan of measures to inform the public about the state of the environment", the Department annually prepares the report, which contains information on the state of protection of the population and territories from emergency situations, measures taken to ensure their safety, predictable and emerging emergency situations, methods and techniques of protection of the population from them, which are carried out in all districts of the region. The report is submitted to the Ministry of Natural Resources of Ukraine and Mykolaiv Regional State Administration.</p>