

# **UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents**

**6th Conference of the Parties  
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**Fifth report on the Convention's implementation**

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**Working Group on Implementation**



# Outline of presentation

- WGI activities
- Reporting form and process of the fifth reporting round
- Quality of reporting
- General assessment of the Convention's implementation
- Brief review of reporting on the strategic working areas
  - Formal implementation level/National policies and administrations
  - Identification/Notification
  - Prevention
  - Emergency Preparedness
  - Scientific and technological cooperation and exchange of information
  - Public participation
  - Siting and land use



## Working Group on Implementation

- Elected members from Armenia, Belarus, Croatia, Czech Republic, Italy, Norway, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Slovakia and United Kingdom
- 4 meetings (3 as Joint meetings with Bureau)
- Chairman of WG also attended the Bureau meetings
- A special Task Force of members of the WGI assisted by Secretariat elaborated a new reporting form, as requested by 5th CoP
- The task force also elaborated Guidance for reporting
- The new format was approved by the Bureau for use in fifth reporting round





## 5th reporting round on implementation - general

- Initiated by Secretariat with letters of 09.10.09 and 12.10.09 to Parties and other UNECE member countries with deadline for reporting 31 January 2010
- 39 UNECE Member Countries and the EU have ratified the Convention
- WGI's report is based on the reporting made by 37 Parties and one committed country.
- The Russian Federation (Party), Georgia and Tajikistan (Committed) did not submit their national reports in time to be discussed by the WGI in details and included in the Fifth report
- Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kyrgyzstan, Montenegro and Uzbekistan did not report (committed)
- Some countries did only provide very limited information, not adequate for a qualified assessment



## Quality of reporting

- General observation: Quality of reporting has improved, - new format contributed
- Consider if Guidelines to reporting format should make reference to indicators and criteria for self-assessment of implementation progress (if adopted by the CoP)
- At a few points the Guidance to the reporting format should clarify in a more comprehensive way what information is sought by the questions
- In light of the missing reports from some countries and the very limited information provided by others, the WGI
  - Invites the CoP to stress the issue of timely reporting and discourage the practice of some countries to provide only limited information
  - Invites the CoP to remind committed countries of their obligation to report, regardless of possible changes in national public administrations



## Formal implementation level

- Level of formal implementation through policies and legislation is satisfactory
- Difference between Eastern and Western countries not longer so visible
- The awareness and overall understanding of the Convention's requirements within countries of South-Eastern and Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia has improved – the Assistance Programme as well as ongoing alignment with EU legislation has contributed







## National policies and administrations

- Good descriptions of policies and descriptions of administrative set-ups.
- But reports from a number of countries in transition lack descriptions on the interrelation between legislation and control mechanisms
- These countries have also pointed out that enforcement is a difficult challenge and that improvement potential exists
- Also advanced countries point out problem areas
- Lack of relevant indicators is pointed out as a limitation for the measurement of effectiveness of applied policies, but no accidents is a good indicator, nevertheless!



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## Recommendations on national policies and enforcement

- The WGI suggests:
  - As many countries still face problems in the enforcement of legislation and policies, this should be a focus area in coming years, and the mechanisms of the Assistance Programme should be applied by countries in this respect
  - Advanced countries should work to sustain and further develop their safety level and engage in different activities to share experience



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## Identification

- Most countries report on having identification mechanisms, and show a general satisfaction with the effectiveness of these mechanisms
- The Assistance programme has rendered a better understanding of the identification criteria
- Many countries report having no installations capable of causing transboundary damage
- The WGI suggests that:
  - The establishment of a "living" mechanism for identification and review is vital within all countries in order to keep an up-to-date overview of the presence of hazardous installations
  - future reporting should contain more detailed explanations as to the determination of some countries that no hazardous installations exist



## Notification

- One third of countries that have identified hazardous installations report that they have notified neighbouring countries.
- Another third report of not having notified
- The remaining countries have only partly fulfilled their notification obligation
- The WGI finds the level of notification unsatisfactory, and suggests that efforts be made to improve the situation through among others exchange of good practice or in projects under the Assistance programme



## Prevention

- A number of countries still in their early stages of establishing an effective major hazards prevention system stress a continued need for assistance
- The WGI encourages advanced countries to give clear descriptions and evaluation of preventive measures applied in order to communicate best practices to countries in need of assistance
- Countries with less advanced systems should be active in strengthening prevention and to engage in preparing relevant capacity building activities and advisory sessions, particularly within the Assistance Programme





## Emergency Preparedness

- Most countries report of having on- and off-site emergency plans which are coordinated between operators and authorities
- The WGI finds emergency preparedness to be at an adequate level especially in a national context.
- However, more than half of the countries state that they do not test, review and update such plans in cooperation and coordination with neighbouring countries
- Further work should therefore be pursued to improve cross-border emergency preparedness, and the WGI calls on Parties to continue performing tests and exercises in a cross border context



## Scientific and technological cooperation

- All reporting countries state having bi- or multi-lateral agreements and arrangements in the field of information exchange, mutual assistance, emergency preparedness, exercises and inspections
- The WGI reiterates its satisfaction with the continued and increasing cooperation between countries bilaterally or multilaterally, and encourages countries to continue such activities





## Public participation

- Most countries have implemented the provision relating to public participation in decision making processes
- The majority also report that they grant the same possibilities to the public of neighbouring states
- Reports indicate that despite existing opportunities, the public in general do not make extensive use of their rights
- The WGI therefore encourages Parties to work together on the identification of ways for involving the public to a greater extent, including organizing seminars, workshops or other relevant activities







## Siting and land use

- Most countries report of having such policies and legislation
- The WGI notes that more countries now seem to have in place better legislation, and that the awareness of the issue has improved
- Practical follow is a problematic area for many countries, including those at an advanced level
- Further assistance on this topic and development of mechanisms for further competence building is essential



## Recommendation on subjects for concrete activities

- Ways for further improving the effectiveness of prevention policy
- Good practices for enhancing public participation
- Safety and land use planning
- Improvements in prevention and preparedness in handling accidental water pollution

