

# Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents

Transboundary water cooperation and international water law,  
Athens

Nick Bonvoisin / 14-15 June 2016



**UNECE**

# Triggers for negotiating the Industrial Accidents Convention



Seveso, Italy,  
10 July 1976



Schweizerhalle,  
Basel, Switzerland,  
1 November 1986



# Essentials

- Negotiated by UNECE member States in response to several major industrial accidents and their transboundary effects
- Adopted in 1992, entered into force in 2000
- Designed to protect people and the environment against industrial accidents
- Helps its Parties to prevent industrial accidents and to prepare for, and respond to, accidents if they occur



# Membership

41 Parties, including the European Union

## Parties to the Industrial Accidents Convention as of June 2016

Party	As of	Party	As of	Party	As of
Albania	5.1.1994	Greece	24.2.1998	Slovakia	9.9.2003
Armenia	21.2.1997	Hungary	2.6.1994	Slovenia	13.5.2002
Austria	4.8.1999	Italy	2.7.2002	Spain	16.5.1997
Azerbaijan	16.6.2004	Kazakhstan	11.1.2001	Sweden	22.9.1999
Belarus	25.6.2003	Latvia	29.6.2004	Switzerland	21.5.1999
Belgium	6.4.2006	Lithuania	2.11.2000	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	2.3.2010
Bosnia and Herzegovina	20.2.2013	Luxembourg	8.8.1994	United Kingdom of Great Britain & NI	5.5.2002
Bulgaria	12.5.1995	Monaco	28.8.2001		
Croatia	20.1.2000	Montenegro	19.5.2009		
Cyprus	31.8.2005	Netherlands	6.11.2006		
Czech Republic	12.6.2000	Norway	1.4.1993		
Denmark	28.3.2001	Poland	8.9.2003		
Estonia	17.5.2000	Portugal	2.11.2006		
European Union	24.4.1998	Republic of Moldova	4.1.1994		
Finland	13.9.1999	Romania	22.5.2003		
France	03.10.2003	Russian Federation	1.2.1994		
Germany	9.9.1998	Serbia	31.7.2009		

**Total Parties**

**41**



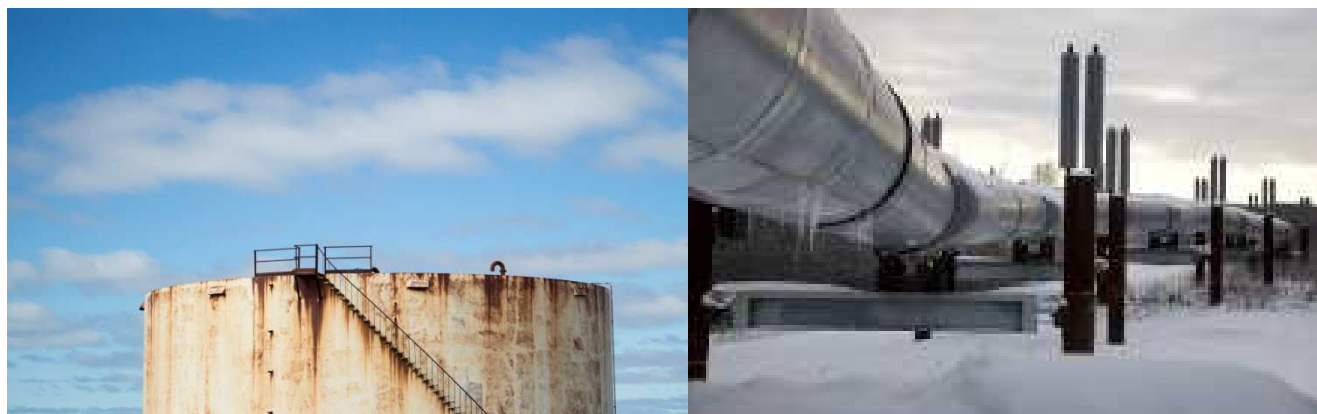
# Goals

- Protection of human health and the environment against industrial accidents
- Prevention of major accidents
- Preparedness for major accidents
- Response to major accidents
- Active international cooperation between contracting Parties, before, during and after an industrial accident



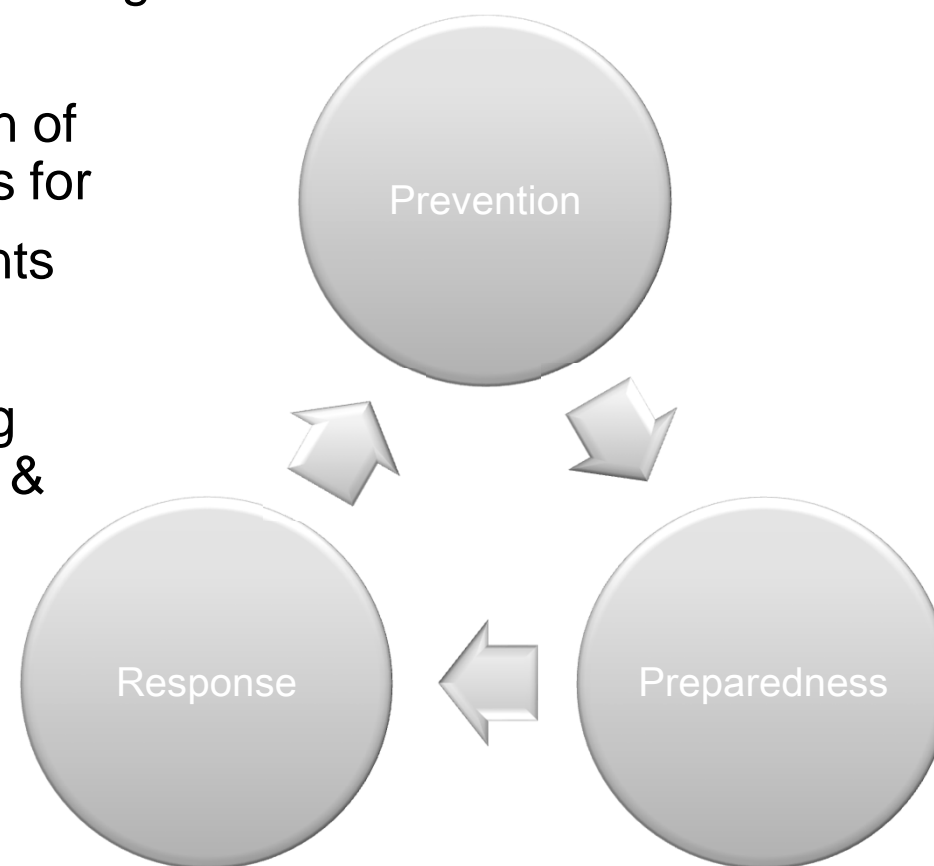
# Scope

- Hazardous activities (e.g., manufacture, use, storage, handling, or disposal of hazardous substances)
  - in which hazardous substances are present in quantities larger than the threshold quantities listed in Annex I of Convention
    - ≈ *EU Seveso III Directive upper-tier establishments*
  - which are capable of causing transboundary effects
- Does not apply to transport activities with exception of
  - Emergency response to such accidents
  - Transport on the site of the hazardous activity



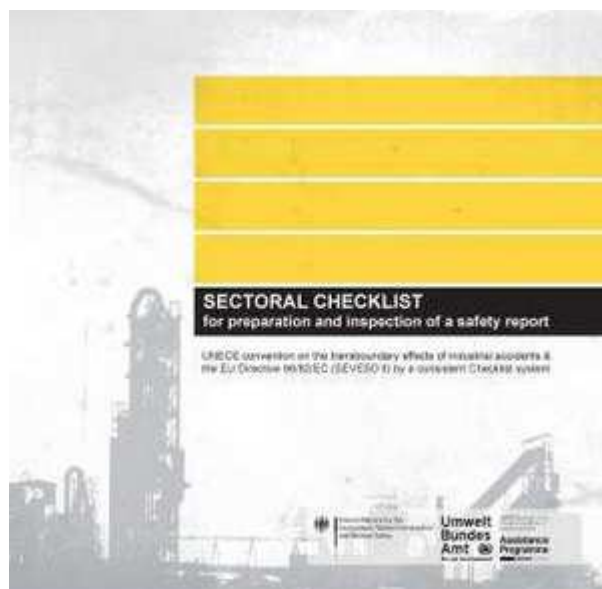
# Key obligations

- Identification and notification of existing or proposed hazardous activities
- Development and implementation of policies, strategies and measures for
  - Prevention of industrial accidents
  - Emergency preparedness
  - Emergency response, including industrial accidents notification & mutual assistance
- Provision of information to and participation of the public



# Prevention

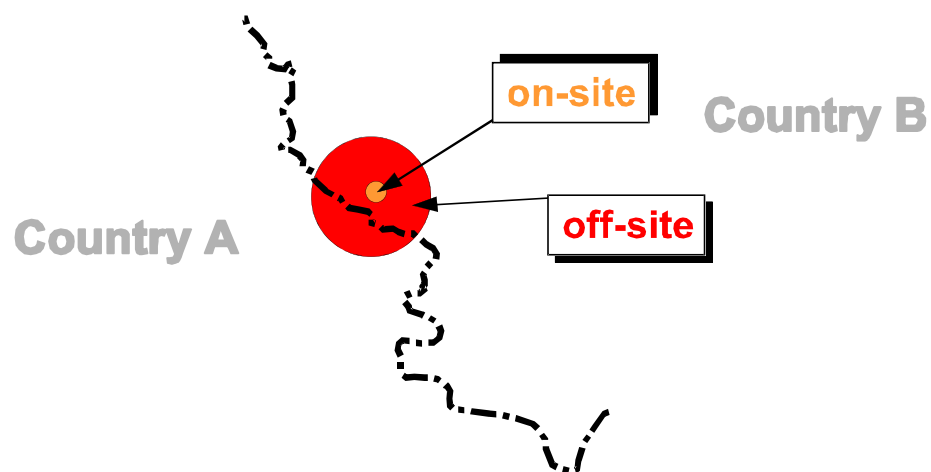
- Inducing actions by operators to reduce accident risk
- Choosing the appropriate location: policies on siting of new hazardous activities and significant modifications to existing ones





# Preparedness

- Availability of industry's on-site contingency plans and community's off-site contingency plans
- Harmonized and joint off-site contingency plans to adopt adequate response measures
- Sharing of information between authorities and operators, and Parties

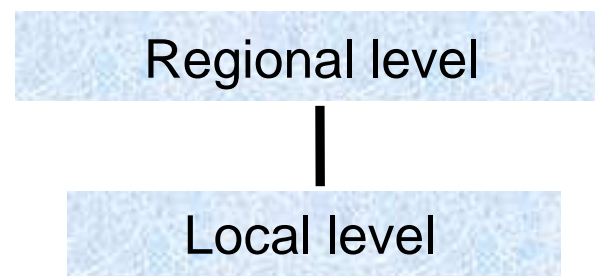
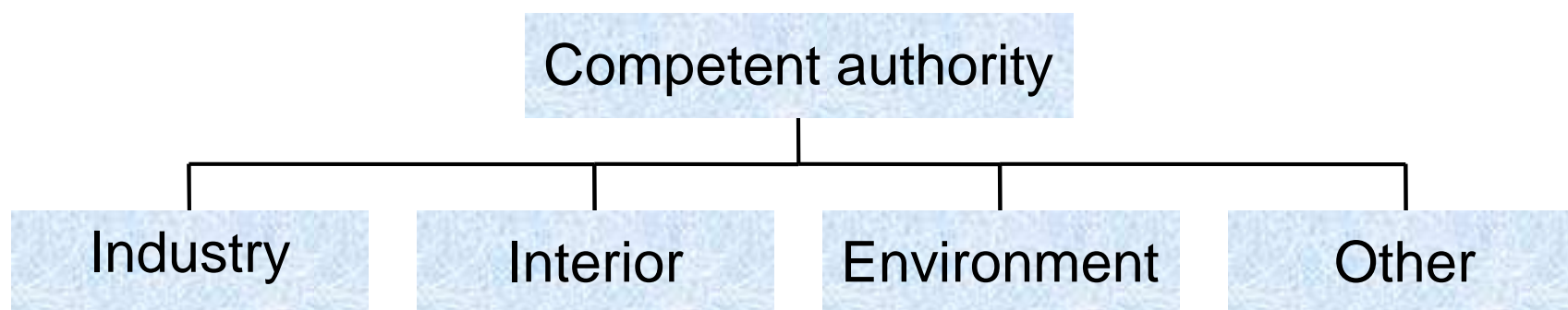


# Response

- Ensuring capability of providing effective response and mitigation measures
- Notification of accidents or threat thereof to potentially affected Parties
- Mutual assistance
- Coordination of the response measures



# Cooperation – national and international



# Water and industrial accidents

Even small amounts of hazardous substances released into water environment can cause huge environmental damage

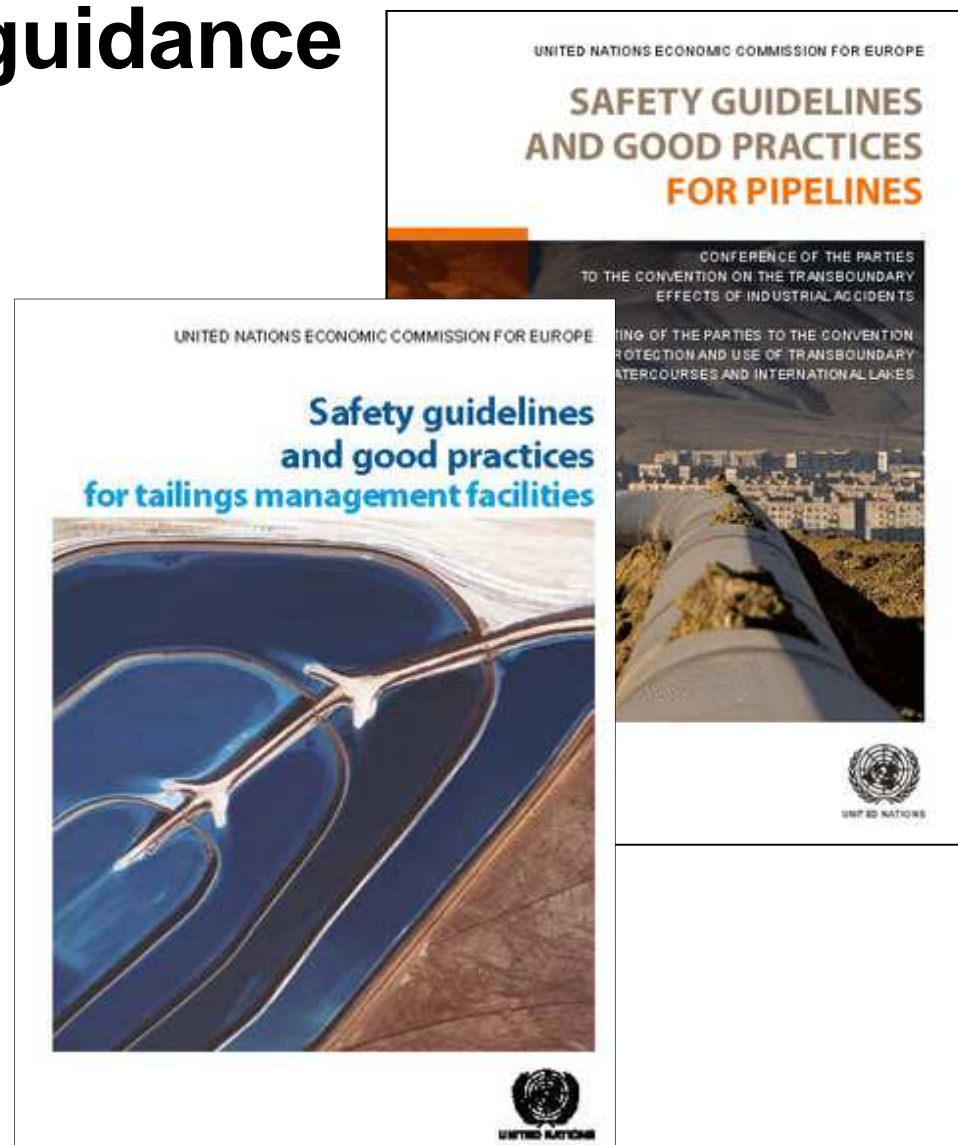
Impact is far-reaching and often transboundary

Joint Expert Group since 2000



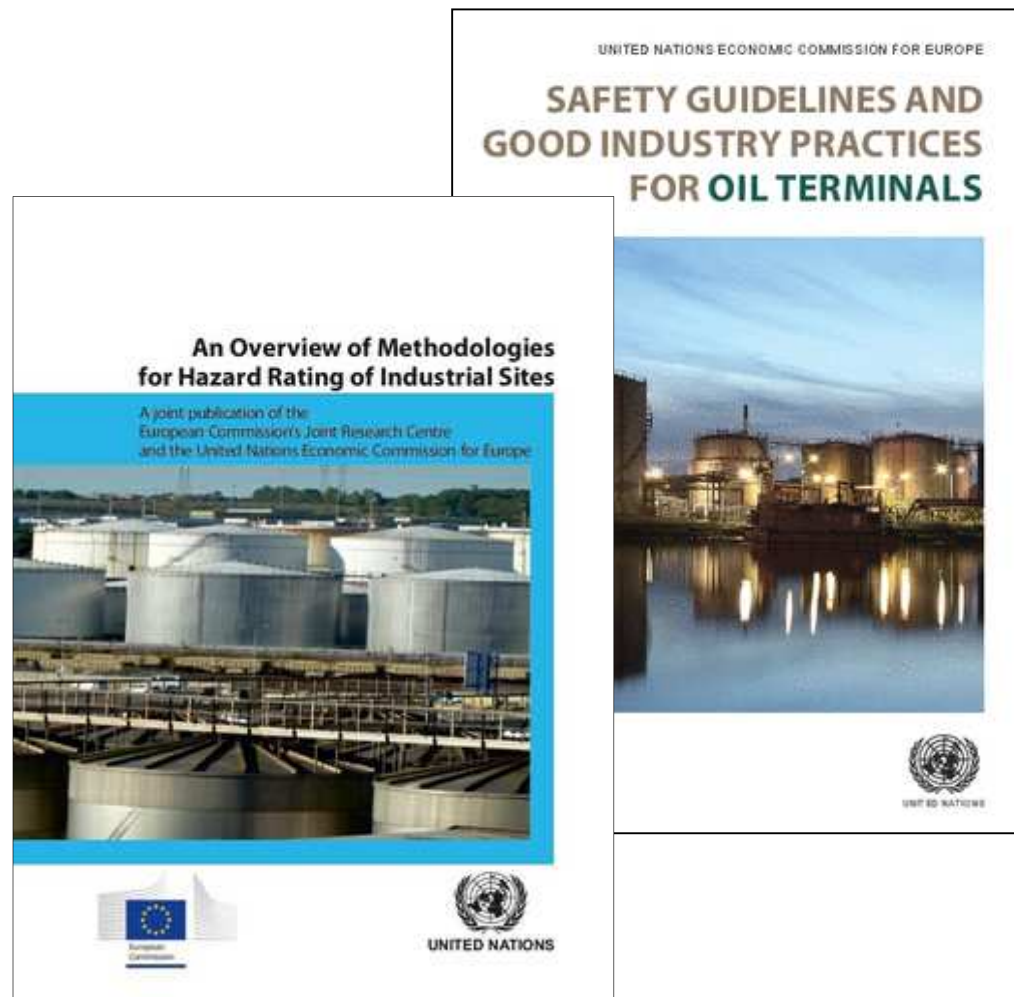
# Joint Expert Group guidance

- Guidelines and good industry practices for Pipelines
- Safety guidelines and good practices for Tailings Management Facilities
- Checklist for contingency planning for transboundary waters



# Other guidance

- Guidelines and good industry practices for Oil Terminals
- An overview of methodologies for hazard rating of industrial sites



# Assistance Programme

- Supporting countries in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia
- Needs-driven approach
- National support for industrial safety governance and policy-making
- Subregional projects and activities addressing transboundary aspects
- Addressing key challenges, such as safety at tailings management facilities in Ukraine, the Caucasus and Central Asia



## UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents

Benchmarks in the implementation of the UNECE Convention  
on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents

Self-assessments and action plans



For more information please visit  
[www.unece.org/env/teia](http://www.unece.org/env/teia)

