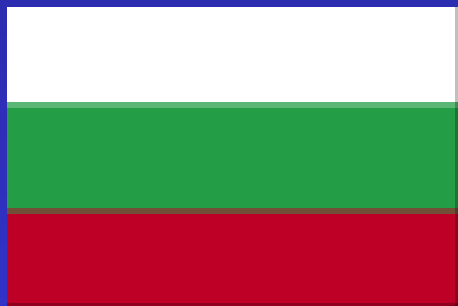


Building an effective partnership among competent authorities

**High-level Commitment Meeting
Under the Convention of the
Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents
(14-15 December 2005, Geneva)**



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Minister of Environment and
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Scope of the presentation

- The role of the Ministry of Environment and Water
- Available legal tools and their implementation and enforcement
- Highlighting the practical aspects of enforcement

Sustainable Development and Environmental Protection

- Pillars of the Sustainable Development
 - Environmental Protection
 - Social Cooperation and Stability
 - Economic Growth
- Better Quality of Life

Ministry of Environment and Water

- Leading state authority for environmental protection
- Main objective – high level of protection for man and environment and sustainable development
- Responsible for the management and control over dangerous substances, incl. major accident risk management
 - Prevention
 - Control and Containment
 - Mitigation
 - Restoration

Accident prevention, preparedness and response

- Priority within the overall policy towards achieving sustainable development
 - Human safety and social stability
 - High level of environmental protection
 - Economic growth through safer and better performance
- Set of preventive, containing and mitigation measures
 - Legal, technical, administrative requirements
- Coordination of the activities of state authorities, industry and public is vital
 - New Ministry for the state policy in disaster prevention and management since August 2005

Accident prevention, preparedness and response

International Legislation

- Convention for the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents
 - signed 18 March 1993, ratified 12 May 1995
- Directive 96/82/EC
 - Fully transposed, incl. Directive 2003/105/EC

Accident prevention, preparedness and response

National Legislation

- Environmental Protection Act
 - Regulation on major accident prevention
 - Set framework requirements for accidents prevention
 - Define competent authorities
 - Define procedures for cooperation and coordination between the authorities, the operators and the public
 - Require drafting of on- and off-site emergency plans
- Crisis Management Act
- Ordinance on accident preparedness and response
 - Define details for accident preparedness and response

Accident prevention, preparedness and response

Competent Authorities

- Ministry of Environment and Water
- Technical and Control Authorities
 - The Ministry of Health
 - The State Agency for Civil Protection/Ministry of State Policy for the state policy in disaster prevention and management
 - The National Fire and Emergency Service
 - The State Agency for Metrology and Technical Surveillance
 - The regional and local authorities

Accident prevention, preparedness and response

Coordination of prevention, preparedness and response procedures

- Coordination of the preventive measures
 - Coordinated by the Ministry of environment and water
 - Common assessment of the documentation of the operator
 - Common criteria and requirements
 - Common training of experts
 - Joint inspections
 - Common reporting techniques

Accident prevention, preparedness and response

Co-ordination of prevention, preparedness and response procedures

- Coordination of emergency preparedness and response
 - Coordinated by the National, regional and local committees for crisis management
 - Chaired by the State Agency for Civil Protection
 - Participation by all competent authorities
 - Off-site emergency plans
 - Jointly drafted and tested
 - On-site emergency plans
 - Common criteria for preparation
 - Joint control and testing

International Cooperation

- Based on bi- and multilateral agreements
 - UNECE
 - Convention for the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents
 - European Union
 - European Commission
 - Major Accident Hazards Bureau within the JRC
 - Bilateral Agreements
 - A number of Countries
 - Framework provisions for accident prevention, preparedness and response
 - On national and regional level

CONCLUSION

- Bulgaria welcomes the internationally supported assistance programme for the EECCA and SEE countries as a tool for better cooperation and coordination in the area of accident prevention, preparedness and response
- Bulgaria expresses willingness to help the countries in their efforts to join and implement the Convention
- Bulgaria strongly supports the draft Declaration