



**UN ECE**  
**Joint Ad Hoc Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents**  
**Péter Kovács**  
**Ministry of Environment and Water**  
**Hungary**

*5th Meeting of the Parties to the UN ECE Convention in the Protection and Use of  
Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes*

*10-12. November 2009, Geneva*





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## Lessons learnt

**Even small amounts of dangerous substances released into waters, can cause huge environmental damages, as the impact is**



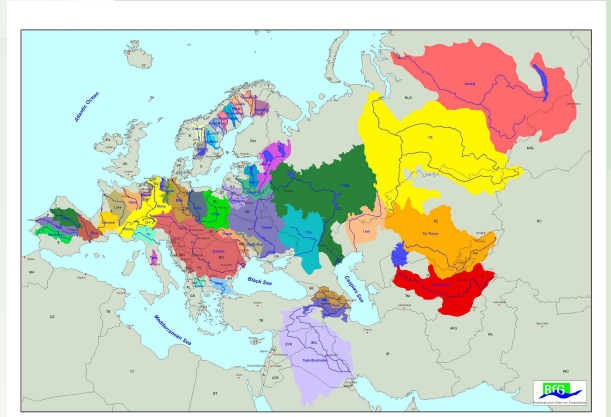
- » **far-reaching and often**
- » **transboundary**

**→ harmonised Risk-Management  
for water endangering Activities**

## The Joint Expert Group (JEG)

JEG is established:

under the “Water”- and the “Industrial Accidents”-  
Convention to work on issues related to the  
prevention of accidental water pollution which is  
of interest to both Conventions in 2000.



### Chairmen:

“Water”- Convention:

P. Kovacs (Hungary)

„Industrial Accident“-Convention:

G. Winkelmann-Oei (Germany)



## JEG Activities 2006 - 2009

**Two Meetings (15 November 2007, Yerevan; 9-10 July 2008, Geneva)  
Progress Report (22-24 October, Rome)**

- 1. Provision of guidance and assistance to EECCA- and SEE-countries in the implementation of the conclusions and recommendations of the **Hamburg seminar****
- 2. Drawing up guidelines and good practices for Tailing Management Facilities (TMFs)**
- 3. Other activities**



## 1. Provision of guidance and assistance to EECCA- and SEE-countries in the implementation of the conclusions and recommendations of the Hamburg seminar

### Safety Recommendations to:

- **WASTEWATERS**
  - **FIRE PROTECTION**
  - **FLOOD AREAS**
  - **TRANS-SHIPMENT**
- Questionnaire on Compliance



# Training Programme for Inspectors

Odessa, 28 – 30 May 2008

## Objective:

- Applying the Recommendations at a complex industrial plant
- Deficit-Analysis of the Recommendations
- Evaluation in regard to the UNECE „Hamburg“-Recommendations



Recommendation:

## Evaluation by EECCA-Countries

The evaluation by training participants from EECCA-Countries were presented to the ninth meeting of the JEG:

- Trainings for Inspectors was judged to be helpful to identify standards and or legislation to be developed and
- the use of checklists is useful to improve the coordination between different inspection authorities and should lead to enhancing the effectiveness of inspections.





## 2. Safety Guidelines for Tailing Management Facilities (TMF)

### Steps:

#### 1. International Steering Group of TMF Experts

→ Draft “Safety Guidelines for Tailing Management Facilities”

based on: “Management of tailings and waste rock” (BRef-document EIPPCB, July 2004)

#### 2. UNECE WORKSHOP

“SAFETY OF TAILING MANAGEMENT FACILITIES”

Yerevan, Armenia, 12–13 November 2007

#### 3. Site-Visit to TMF

Ararat (Armenia), 14 November 2007

#### 4. Comments from UNECE-Countries

→ Final Draft endorsed at the 5th CoP





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### 3. Other Activities

## „Transboundary Risk Management at the Dniester River Basin“

German Assistance Project

Duration: 06/2006 – 03/2009

Countries:

- Ukraine
- Moldova
- Germany



### 3. Other Activities

#### **„Provision of guidance for establishing cross-border contingency plans“**

1. First preliminary Draft elaborated
2. JEG explored cooperation with other projects:
  - Strategies for implementation of the requirements of the Water Framework Directive under article 11 (3) (L) for the prevention and reduction of the effects of unforeseeable water pollution of industrial plants;
  - Work on mutual assistance in case of accidental pollution incidents, carried out by the International Commission on the Protection of the Danube River

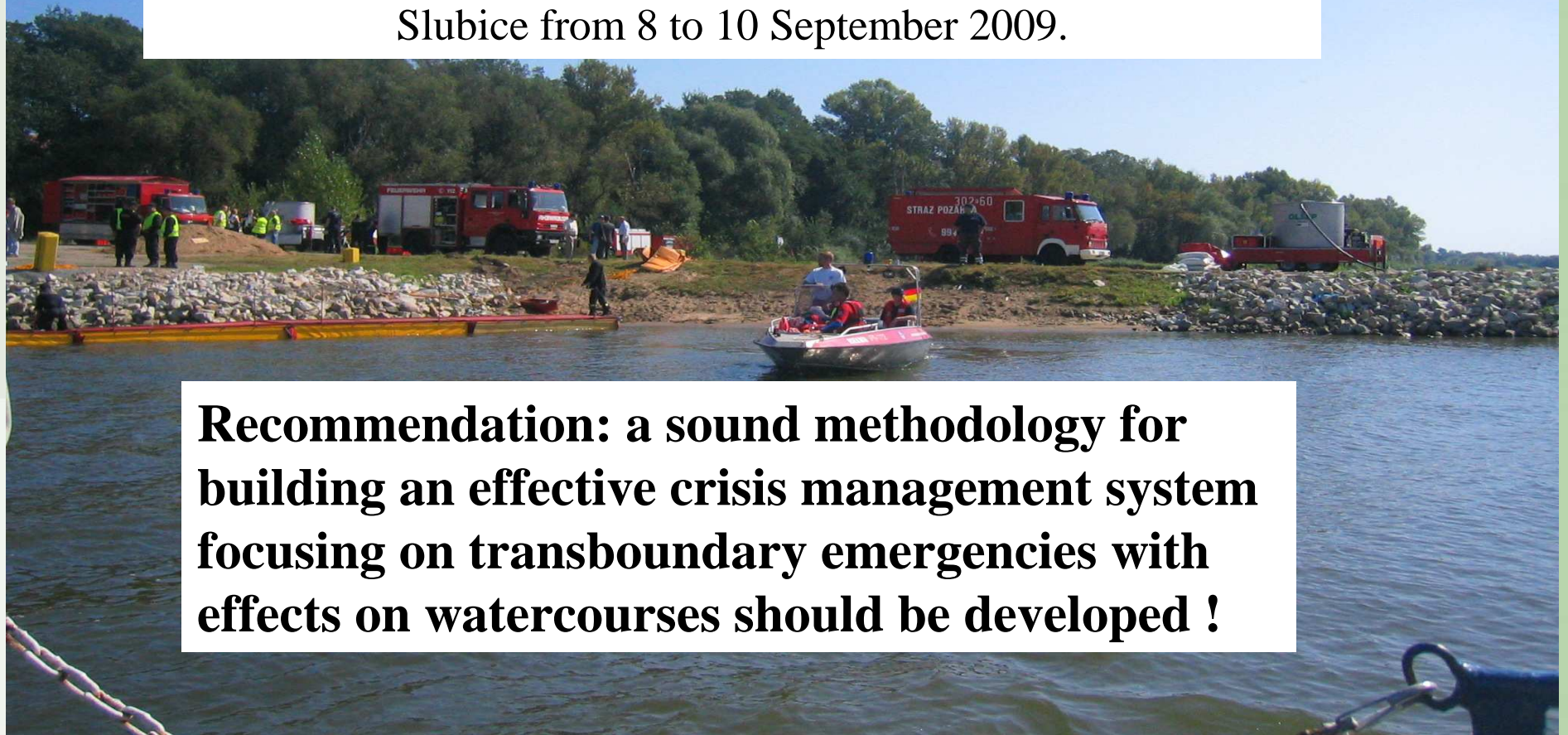




## International response exercise

German-Polish field exercise on the Odra River combined with the technical workshop on joint management of transboundary emergencies involving international water paths, Urad and Slubice from 8 to 10 September 2009.

**Recommendation: a sound methodology for building an effective crisis management system focusing on transboundary emergencies with effects on watercourses should be developed !**



## Obstacles in the work of the JEG

- **The composition of the Joint Expert Group is still unbalanced. We need more input from the Water Convention.**
- **More active participation is required in the implementation of the future work and in the organization of the meetings.**
- **Continuous and active work is expected from participants**
- **There is a need for a sound financial base to support eligible countries.**

- **Future Strategy** for the Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents was prepared by the co-chairmen of the Joint Expert Group in consultation with the Bureaux of the Water Convention and of the Industrial Accidents Convention.

*Discussed by: WG on Integrated Water Resources Management (22-24. October 2008, Rome)*

*Approved by both Bureaux (July 2009, Geneva)*

**Outlines the mission, areas of activity and work arrangements, organisational issues.**

### **Mission of JEG :**

- assistance in organising exercises, workshops, seminars
- drawing up training materials
- drafting specific guidelines on good practices and recommendations



*Step 1.* A questionnaire is prepared for the UNECE countries to express their priority needs and to identify specific activities related to water and industrial accidents in the transboundary context !!!

*Step 2.* Activation of JEG by Bureaux.

Agreement on - kind of product, format, time frame, budget, etc.

*Step 3.* Preparation of detailed proposal, approval by Bureaux, IWRM WG.

*Step 4.* Elaboration of the task – report to both Bureaux, Conventions IWRM WG.



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**Thank you for your attention !**