

Background and objectives

An accident at Sandoz agrochemical storehouse in Schweizerhalle, Basel, Switzerland on 1 November 1986 caused one of the most severe man-made environmental disasters in the history of Europe.

The 25 anniversary of the Sandoz accident is a good opportunity to take stock of the work carried out in this period in the prevention of accidental water pollution and to look for remaining challenges. For this occasion a seminar under the auspices of Industrial Accidents and Water Conventions was decided to be held. The German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety will kindly host the seminar.

The UNECE Water Convention Helsinki, 17 March 1992

The Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) is intended to strengthen national measures for the protection and ecologically sound management of transboundary surface waters and groundwaters.

The Convention obliges Parties to prevent, control and reduce water pollution from point and non-point sources.

It also includes provisions for monitoring, research and development, consultations, warning and alarm systems, mutual assistance, institutional arrangements, and the exchange and protection of information, as well as public access to information.

The UNECE Industrial Accidents Convention Helsinki, 17 March 1992

The 1992 Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents is designed to protect people and the environment against industrial accidents. The Convention aims to prevent accidents from occurring, or reducing their frequency and severity and mitigating their effects if required.

The Convention promotes active international cooperation between countries, before, during and after an industrial accident.

The Convention helps its Parties to prevent industrial accidents that can have transboundary effects and to prepare for, and respond to, accidents if they occur. The Convention also encourages its Parties to help each other in the event of an accident, to cooperate on research and development, and to share information and technology.

SEMINAR ON THE OCCASION OF THE TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SANDOZ ACCIDENT

| Organization of the seminar

- » Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes
- » Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents
- » Federal Environment Agency
- » Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety



| Technical organization of the seminar

- » GFI Umwelt - Gesellschaft für Infrastruktur und Umwelt mbH
Königswinterer Straße 827
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- » Tel. +49-228-90 87 346
- » E-mail: goebel@gfi-umwelt.de



UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

UNECE Convention on the Transboundary
Effects of Industrial Accidents

UNECE Convention on the Protection and
Use of Transboundary Watercourses and
International Lakes

SEMINAR ON THE OCCASION OF THE TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SANDOZ ACCIDENT

8 - 9 November 2011
Bonn, Germany



Workshop in the world wide web

More information concerning the seminar is available at:
<http://live.unece.org/env/water.html>
<http://live.unece.org/env/teia/welcome.html>
For the practical arrangements please refer to the following website:
<http://www.kas-bmu.de/unece>

Practical information

| Registration

The participants are invited to complete the registration form available at:

» <http://www.kas-bmu.de/unece>

| Venue of the meeting

Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety

Room no. 1.130 (1st floor)
Robert-Schuman-Platz 3
53175 Bonn

| How to reach the venue of the meeting

Arrival by plane at Cologne/Bonn Airport

» With the express bus line SB 60 to Bonn central station (Hauptbahnhof) then subway line 66 or 68 (direction: Ramersdorf/Bad Honnef) to the station Robert-Schuman-Platz.

Arrival by train

» From Bonn central station with subway line 66 or 68 (direction: Ramersdorf/Bad Honnef) to Robert-Schuman-Platz.
» From Siegburg/Bonn ICE station with subway line 66 (direction: Bad Honnef) to the station Robert-Schuman-Platz.

Arrival by car

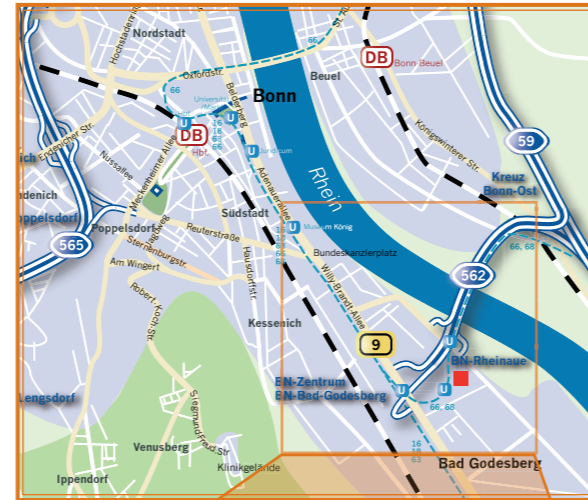
» Via autobahn A 59 to interchange Bonn-Ost and A 562 to exit Bonn-Rheinaue, then direction Bad Godesberg, follow then to the Federal Ministries (» Bundesministerien «). There are signs directing you to the visitors' parking site. Please note that parking places are limited.

| Accommodation

All participants are recommended to stay at one of the hotels located near the meeting venue that the GFI Umwelt pre-booked for your convenience. Please make a hotel reservation through the following website:

<http://www.kas-bmu.de/unece>

| Maps



Agenda

Monday, 7 November 2011

Arrival of participants

Tuesday, 8 November 2011

8.00 - 9.00	Registration of participants
9.00 - 9.30	Welcoming statements
9.30 - 10.00	Setting the scene: Presentation on Sandoz accident
10.00 - 13.00	Session 1 Progress achieved and existing deficits in protecting the international watercourses from pollution by chemical substances. » Rhine River Basin: Activities of the ICPR after the Sandoz accident. Case study of the tanker accident near Loreley Rock in January 2011 » Danube River Basin: Experience in the accident prevention and control with the focus on the lessons learned from the major past accidents in the Danube River Basin. » Chu Talas River Basin
11.15 - 11.45	Coffee break
11.45	» Amur River Basin » Cefic - European Chemical Industry Council » Caucasian Environmental NGO Network (CENN)
13.00 - 14.30	Lunch in the canteen of the Federal Environment Ministry
14.30 - 18.00	Session 2 Possible ways forward for addressing the existing deficiencies/challenges in protecting the international watercourses from pollution by chemical substances
14.30 - 15.00	Overview of the deficiencies/challenges identified in the presentations of the session I, presentation and discussion

Tuesday (continued)

15.00 - 16.00	Panel 1 Challenges in the Western European countries
16.00 - 16.30	Coffee break
16.30 - 17.30	Panel 2 Challenges in the Eastern European countries
17.30 - 18.00	Presentation on the risk management » Anticipating harm: How to cope with risks and uncertainty in a complex world
20.00 - 22.00	Evening Reception, Invitation by the Federal Environment Ministry

Wednesday, 9 November 2011

9.00 - 9.15	Opening of the second day
9.15 - 9.30	Summary and conclusions of the session 2
9.30 - 10.30	Thematic presentations » Threshold: criteria and philosophy for setting the thresholds value for water pollution » Flow time model: presentation on the ALAMO float time model used at the Elbe River » Early warning systems: on-line monitoring and alert systems » Differences in the Eastern and Western approach to the risk management
10.30 - 11.00	Coffee break
11.00 - 11.45	Presentation on the checklist/methodology for contingency planning » Outline of the checklist/methodology and the essential messages / issues identified by the Joint Expert Group for tackling through the checklist/methodology for contingency planning on transboundary rivers
11.45 - 12.30	Wrap-up session
12.30	Closure of the seminar