



European Union Network for the
Implementation and Enforcement
of Environmental Law

Lessons Learnt from Industrial Accidents



Introduction

Since its creation in 1999, the seminar on “Lessons Learnt from Industrial Accidents” is organised every 2 years by the French Ministry for an ecological and inclusive transition, focussing on the analysis of technological risks in industry in the post-accident phase.

This event is organized on behalf of and with the support of the IMPEL Network.

The last edition took place on 22 and 23 May 2019 in Rennes. Around 300 participants, inspectors of the environment for the greater part, including 43 European colleagues representing 20 countries, discussed 14 recent accidents concerning various thematics, such as controlling new risks, preventing multiple failures, searching for root causes, safe subcontracting, etc.

The objective of these days is to share and disseminate the lessons learnt from the analysis of significant accidents. This, in order to collectively progress in controlling risks by learning from the diversity of available feedback. The analysis of disruption factors and root causes, known or supposed, is rigorous and distinguishes technical, human and organizational levels. The seminar documents are available [online](#).

TARGET GROUP

- Environmental inspectors
- Inspecting bodies in the Member States

EU LEGISLATION

Connected to the environmental regulations concerning industrial establishments:

- Seveso III Directive.
- Parts of the ADR, RID, IED and CLP Directives.
- TEIA convention.
- National regulations of each member state.

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Content in brief

Data collection and analysis concerning industrial accidents is necessary in order to prevent new accidents. Inspectors need to have illustrations of accidental situations, in order to understand what happened indeed and which measures were finally taken in such situations.

A number of seminars on lessons learnt were held previously in order to ease the dissemination and exchange of information between inspecting bodies of the Member States.

During these meetings, inspectors present selected accidents by giving technical descriptions and the results of the analysis carried out (measures taken, organisational failures, systems or material that failed etc.). They also detail the lessons learnt from the accidents and their own experience during or following the accident. A short review of the applicable regulation, judicial or organizational subjects is possible. Sufficient time is left for discussion between participants.

Outcomes

The aim of these series of seminars is to continue sharing experience on accidents (explosions, fires, pollution, etc) concerning both technical aspects and applicable regulations and reinforcing the exchange of experience between Member State inspection bodies.

The outcome of the 2-days working session is a more effective implementation and enforcement of environmental legislation. The seminar promotes the development of good practices by the exchange of experience and methods of working. It improves cooperation in national IMPEL networks and with other networks as well.

LINKS

- [Lessons Learnt from Industrial Accidents 13th seminar 22 – 23 May 2019 Rennes](#)
- [Other Lessons Learnt from Industrial Accidents seminars](#)

KEY WORDS

- Lessons Learnt
- Industrial Accidents
- Environmental inspection
- Series of seminars