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Exchange of good practices: Seveso sites and land-use planning

Dear Director General,

I am writing to you in order to organize an exchange of experience in the Seveso field. Our initiative comes as a result of the fact that Estonia is in the process of developing some regulations regarding the use of the territory around the sites subject to the Seveso directive and we would like to get more experience and find out what are the practices and approaches of other countries on Seveso sites and land-use planning.

In this sense, we chose Romania as one of the countries with which we wish to share aspects of good practice, opportunities, difficulties, and challenges in the context of the presentations made by the Romanian representative in the SEG, MJV and TWG2 meetings over the last 2 years.

The Rescue Board is one of the competent authorities on Seveso Directive from Estonia and our main attributions in this field are:

to participate in the operation authorization proceedings, as well as in the approval of the respective mandatory documents, thereby assessing, among other things, the risk of occurrence of a major accident, a description of the severity and extent of the consequences, the measures for mitigation of the consequences, and readiness for an emergency;

to identify establishments or groups of establishments that may cause domino effects;

to draw up external emergency plan and ensure the informing of the public;

take part of process of planning land use and designing construction work;

exercising supervision over the prevention of accidents, mitigating the consequences of possible accidents, and informing the public.

Our main goal for the meeting with your authority is to get to know how you are organizing the work of land use planning process in the context of Seveso directive and the main topics for discussion are:

- 1) Overview of legislative framework – related to land use planning.
- 2) Do you use parameters to calculate threat zones and also acceptable criteria?
- 3) Do you also have established safe distances (specified distances from which the external object must remain)? How are they accounted for in land use planning versus threat zones?
- 4) If threat zones reach to population, what are the main measures what establishment should apply?

- 5) If population grows around the establishment what then establishment should apply? Or if establishment grows what then establishment should apply?
- 6) What are the main safety measures that establishments have had to implement in order to be able to start their operations in desired location?
- 7) Whether and what kind of guidelines you have prepared?
- 8) Whether and what kind of software or databases are used?
- 9) What are the main advances and challenges?

If you agree with our proposal, we thought that the activity could take place in 2-3 days, sometime after the summer vacation, for example in September, and from our side a maximum of 6 people would participate.

Also, I propose that the details regarding the organization and practical aspects of the activity will be agreed between the relevant contact persons. In this sense, our contact person will be Ms. Reelika Kuusik (phone: +372 51939475, e-mail: reelika.kuusik@rescue.ee).

Looking forward to your feedback and offer for the exchange of good practices and I am confident that this is only the beginning of a process of strengthening the institutional relations between Estonian Rescue Board and General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations.

Yours faithfully,

(digitally signed)
Margo Klaos
Director-General

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