

Protocol on emergency situations to the FASRB

Protocol on Emergency Situations to FASRB comprises of/postulates several goals aimed at the identification of hazardous activities, their character and possible consequences, prevention, emergency planning and preparedness, adequate alarm and warning system compatible with already existing systems on the wider basin level, assessment of extraordinary impacts, emergency response and mutual assistance of the Parties. Draft Protocol on Emergency Situations has been adopted by ISRBC and distributed to the Parties for final review. Final harmonization of the Protocol is expected in near future. In the event of an emergency situation or imminent threat, the Party in charge shall ensure that affected Parties and the Sava Commission are without delay notified at appropriate levels through the alarm and warning systems. Such notification shall include the elements which are required by Alarm Emergency Warning System (AEWS).



Accident Emergency Warning System (AEWS)

The [AEWS](#) is an internet-based information system which operates in the whole Danube River Basin including the Sava River basin and has been developed and maintained by the International Commission for Protection of Danube River (ICPDR).

The general objective of the AEWS is to increase public safety and protect the environment in the event of an accidental pollution by providing early information for potentially affected riparian countries.

The specific objectives of the Danube AEWS are:

- A prompt receiving, processing and transmission of information of a pollution caused by dangerous substances which entered surface waters accidentally and which may cause significant adverse transboundary impact;
- A prompt dealing with and communication of information on emergencies that may take place in the rivers of the Danube River Basin.

The system has the capability to warn the national services in charge of handling emergencies promptly so that they can take action to contain the danger, ascertain the cause, find those responsible for an accident, rectify the damage and avoid other consequences.

The AEWS is activated whenever there is a risk of transboundary water pollution, or threshold danger levels of hazardous substances are exceeded. The AEWS sends out international warning messages to countries downstream. This helps the authorities to put environmental protection and public safety measures into action.

All countries having the status of an ICPDR Contracting Party cooperate within the AEWS structure. Principal International Alert Centers (PIACs) in these countries are the central points of the basin-wide cooperation with three main tasks:

- Communication about a reported accident pollution of the Danube River basin waters;
- Expert involvement to assess the effects or impact of the reported accidental pollution;
- Decision making on actions to be taken.

