

40 years since the Seveso disaster

A cloud of toxic fumes changed our interaction with industry

The experience in the Region of Carinthia

Rolf Holub, Minister for the Environment, Energy, Sustainability and Public Transport

The disaster on 10th July 1976 was characterised by the following factors:

- Covered up and down-played by the polluter
- Underestimation of the risk potential
- Slow response by the authorities
- Inadequate coordination of measures due to lack of disaster and emergency planning.

The Seveso III Directive in the legislation:

Austria:

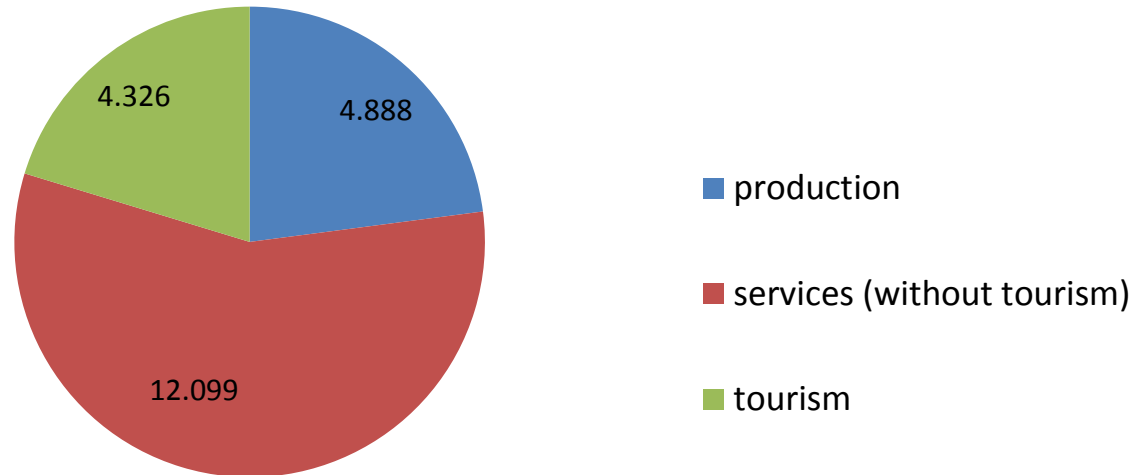
- Industrial Code, Section 8a
- Industrial Accident Act
- Industrial Accident Act: Waste (*in preparation*)
- Waste Management Act

Carinthia:

- Seveso Industrial Plants Act
- Disaster Control Act
- Regional Planning Act

Economic Sectors in Carinthia

- about 21.000 enterprises; not very industrialized



Seveso plants in Carinthia (upper-tier):

- Chemson Polymer Additive AG (Basic Organic Chemicals)
- Donau Chemie AG (Chemical Installations)
- Evonik-Degussa Peroxid GmbH (Chemical Installations)
- Infineon (Electronics & Electrical engineering)
- Liebenwein Weco Pyrotechnik (Production and storage of fireworks)
- Propangas AG (Production, bottling and bulk distribution)
- Zerza (Liquid Gas storage)

Seveso plants in Carinthia (lower-tier):

- ENI (Fuel Storage)
- Impress Decor Austria (Wood treatment and furniture)
- Liebenwein Pyrotechnik GmbH (Production and storage of fireworks)
- Traussnig (Wholesale & retail storage & distribution)
- Treibacher Industrie (General Chemicals Manufacture)

Seveso plants in Carinthia which are also IPPC plants:

Chemson, Donau Chemie, Evonik-Degussa, Treibacher Industrie

Small Carinthia is heavily industrialised

Well-known companies:

- Industriepark Arnoldstein (mixed industry and environmental technology)
- Mondi (Paper industry)
- Radex (Fireproof manufacturer)
- ABRG (Hazardous waste recovery)
- Fundermax (Wood fibre products)
- Wietersdorfer & Peggauer W&P (Cement industry)
- Imerys (Raw materials refinery)

Inspections of the 12 Seveso plants in Carinthia:

- 7 industrial plants of the upper-tier at least once a year
- 5 industrial plants of the lower-tier at least every 3 years
- More thorough inspection in accordance with Trade, Commerce and Industry Regulation Act Section 8a, in conjunction with the Industrial Accident Act
- Rigorous inspection of emergency planning, quality and safety management incl. independent external audits

Absolute safety can never and will never exist

Accidents can occur due to:

- Negligence
- Human error
- Terror attacks
- Natural disasters

40 years since Seveso – has anything changed?

Our Planet Earth is being exploited and contaminated.

Key words:

New atomic power stations, air pollution, greenhouse gases, ocean pollution (oil, plastic), cutting down the rainforests, genetic engineering and factory farming in agriculture, etc.

40 years since Seveso – something has changed

- Research and development are scrutinized more critically today
- Strict environmental laws at the European and national level
- The Paris Climate Conference has created new impetus
- Industrial and newly-industrialised countries have finally recognised the seriousness of the situation

Carinthia: The small region that's making a big difference

- Peak values in environmental protection and sustainability
- 52.6 per cent of total power demand comes from renewable energy
- Master energy plan
- Mobility master plan and e-mobility
- Close cooperation on environmental protection with neighbouring regions
- Aim: The model region of the Alpine regions

Thank you for your attention!