EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR ENERGY AND TRANSPORT

DIRECTORATE H - Nuclear Energy
Radiation Protection

Meeting of the Group of Experts (GoE) referred to in Article 31 of the Euratom Treaty

Luxembourg, 13 – 14 November 2007

SUMMARY REPORT

(Approved by the Group of Experts at the meeting 11 – 12 June 2008)

GENERAL

In his introduction the Chairperson welcomed the participants and expressed his satisfaction with the preparation of the meeting.

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was approved with a slight rearrangement of agenda items to adapt to the availability of presenters.

2. APPROVAL OF THE SUMMARY REPORT OF THE MEETING HELD IN LUXEMBOURG ON 12-13 JUNE 2007

The Summary Report was approved with minor amendments[1].

3. PROCEDURAL ASPECTS

3.1. Election of a new Chairperson for the period 2008 - 2010

According to Article 3 of the Rules of Procedure a new Chairperson has to be elected every two and a half years, which was due at this GoE meeting for the period 2008 to 2010. Before the meeting, the Secretariat invited experts to nominate candidates. The Secretariat received several nominations including the nomination of the current Chairperson who was the only candidate ready to accept the nomination.

The GoE elected the current Chairperson unanimously for the remaining period 2008 – 2010. The Chairperson accepted the election and thanked the experts for their confidence.

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[1] The approved Summary Reports of the June 2007 meeting and of previous meetings of the Group of Experts can be found under http://ec.europa.eu/energy/nuclear/radioprotection/article31_en.htm

3.2. Proposal for amendments to the Rules of Procedure

The Chairperson reminded the GoE that, in June 2007, the GoE concluded that the lifetime of Working Parties should be limited until they have completed their tasks and fulfilled their mandate. If deemed necessary, the GoE can re-establish a Working Party with a new/modified mandate and an updated work programme. The Chairperson presented draft Rules of Procedure which accommodate this decision by proposing appropriate amendments to Articles 8 and 9.

In addition, the draft Rules of Procedures include the amendments of Article 8 of Annex II to the Rules of Procedures, which were approved by the GoE at the last meeting, 12 - 13 June 2007.

The GoE approved the Rules of Procedures without amendments and asked the Secretariat to finalise the document and publish it on the EC website[2].

4. DEVELOPMENTS ON THE DRINKING WATER DIRECTIVE 98/83/EC

The Secretariat reported on the latest development on the Drinking Water Directive 98/83/EC. So far the requirements for monitoring Tritium and Total Indicative Dose under this EC Directive have not been implemented, pending the adoption of amendments to Annexes II (on the mode and frequency of monitoring) and III (on the performance characteristics of monitoring). The technical requirements have nevertheless been finalised for more than two years now, after a long process involving the Article 31 Group of Experts, the Committee under the Drinking Water Directive and the Member State representatives under Articles 35-36 of the Euratom Treaty. As a result of this broad consultation many Member States have already transposed these requirements into national legislation.

The Legal Service of the Commission has recently advised to incorporate the requirements for monitoring levels of radioactivity in drinking water in specific legislation under the Euratom Treaty. It remains to be decided which legal instrument will be used for this purpose, and which legal basis. The requirements for monitoring levels of radioactivity in the EC Directive (Annex IC) could be replaced either by way of an amendment of the Directive 96/29/Euratom or by an ad hoc act.

The Secretariat proposes to prepare a Commission Recommendation under the Euratom Treaty, with Article 38 of the Treaty as the main legal basis. It would contain the technical specifications as in the current Annexes II and III of the Drinking Water Directive. The main requirements for monitoring drinking water will be incorporated in the future recast Basic Safety Standards Directive (legal basis Article 30). The provisions of the forthcoming Commission Recommendation (as well as those of Recommendation 2001/928/EURATOM on radon in drinking water) would then be transferred to Annexes of the Directive.

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[2] The Rules of Procedure, version 13 November 2007, can be found under http://ec.europa.eu/energy/nuclear/radioprotection/article31_en.htm

The Secretariat asked the Group of Experts for advice on the proposed course of action, while awaiting further advice of the Legal Service on the preferred option.

The GoE expressed its satisfaction with the development presented and noted that Member States, although many of them have already transposed the requirements, are still waiting for their publication. It was also noted that there should be an explanation, either in the preamble or in a footnote, on the history of the chosen parameter values for Tritium and Total Indicative Dose.

The GoE asked the Secretariat to prepare a draft proposal on the way forward for publication of the requirements, based on the advice expected from the Legal Service, and to present it at the next Group of Experts meeting in June 2008.

5. INFORMATION BY THE COMMISSION

5.1. Nuclear Safety

The Head of Unit H1 reported on the first meeting of the High Level Group on Nuclear Safety, which took place in Brussels on 12 October 2007. Commissioner Piebalgs opened this meeting, which was attended by representatives from all Member States. The main objective of this group is to achieve a common approach to nuclear safety in Europe. The main issues of this first meeting were to discuss the rules of procedure, which will be for adoption at the next meeting, and to discuss the priorities of the group. The Commission is charged with providing the Secretariat to this High Level Group on Nuclear Safety. The Commission launched a press release about this event.

The Head of Unit H1 informed the meeting about the Council Directive 2006/117/EURATOM of 20 November 2006 on the ***supervision and control of shipments of radioactive waste and spent fuel***, which shall be transposed by Member States before 25 December 2008.

5.2. Radioactive Waste Management and Transport

No representative of Unit H2 could attend the meeting.

6. PRESENTATIONS FROM INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

6.1. ICRP

The representative of the International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP) presented the latest developments within ICRP, in particular on the status of publication of the new ICRP Recommendations on the System of Radiological Protection, which are in a proof reading stage and should be published soon. The ICRP representative reported on current activities of each of the five ICRP Committees. In addition, he informed the meeting about the work of several task groups on legal exposure, on tissue reactions, on cancer risks from alpha emitters, on stem cell radiobiology, and on radiation protection in space.

6.2. IAEA

The representative of the IAEA presented the activities of the IAEA, and reported on the Development and Application of Standards, Assisting Member States in strengthening National Regulatory Infrastructures, the International Action Plan for Occupational Radiation Protection, Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources, Patient Protection with reference to the web page http://rpop.iaea.org, Transport Safety, and Waste Safety. In addition, the IAEA representative informed the GoE on a recent restructuring of the IAEA Directorate on Nuclear Safety and Radioactive Waste. Finally, it was mentioned that a draft roadmap for the structure of Safety Guides is now available.

6.3. Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA)

The representative of the NEA briefly presented current activities of the Committee on Radiation Protection and Public Health (CRPPH) and its Expert groups. He reported on various workshops and seminars and mentioned specifically the Workshop on interaction between science and policy which will be held in January 2008 in Helsinki. Finally, the representative of NEA informed the meeting about the NEA involvement, as current and potential future co-sponsor, in the preparation of the International Basic Safety Standards.

6.4. International Radiation Protection Association (IRPA)

No representative of IRPA could attend the meeting.

7. RADIOTHERAPY INCIDENTS

A member of the GoE from France reported on a series of radiotherapy incidents in France. As a consequence of the analysis of these incidents, the competent authorities in France decided to start a programme with the aim to strengthen the regulatory control of radiation therapy. The competent authority proposes to introduce a reporting system, which includes an incident rating scale for the medical area based on the international clinical classification scheme. This rating scale is somewhat similar to the International Nuclear Event Scale (INES), but does not cover criteria on defence in depth. The reporting system and the incidents rating scale will be introduced in France for a test phase. These activities will be part of a National Action Plan in France.

A member of the GoE from Belgium briefly informed the meeting of another radiotherapy incident at the University Hospital in Ghent.

The GoE thanked the presenters for the information and emphasised the importance of the issue. The Article 31 Working Party on Medical Exposures (WP MED) started already discussions on an information system on lessons learned from incidents in the medical sector, which should be co-ordinated with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), which is interested to establish a similar information system.

In conclusion, the GoE requested the WP MED to further elaborate the issue and to prepare a proposal for activities which could usefully be undertaken by the GoE and its WP MED.

8. REVISION OF THE EUROPEAN BASIC SAFETY STANDARDS

8.1. Proposed strategy for the revision process

Recast of all Directives related to radiation protection

The Secretariat summarised the proposed strategy for the recast of five Directives[3] related to radiation protection and the revision of the Basic Safety Standards Directive 96/29/Euratom. As already discussed at the last meeting of the GoE, it is planned to perform the recast and the revision process in parallel with the general objective to limit changes to a minimum.

Regarding the foreseen finalisation date of this process, the Secretariat reported that the recast of the five Directives had been included in the Commission's work programme for 2008. However, due to the ongoing revision process of the International Basic Safety Standards at the IAEA and further expected guidance from ICRP, it is not likely that the process could be finalised unless the procedure would be reduced to a pure recast without revision of the BSS. The Secretariat asked the GoE for their view.

The GoE expressed their strong support for undertaking the recast and the revision of the BSS in parallel. The GoE asked the Commission to take care that proposed changes will be justified and limited to a minimum.

General outline of the Euratom BSS

Already at the last meeting of the GoE, the general outline of the Euratom BSS had been presented to, and approved by the Experts. The Secretariat reported on a slightly updated version now taking into account the Medical Directive following discussions at the Working Party on Medical Exposure. The Secretariat emphasised that the general outline as presented is a working document which shall remain flexible and may change at later stages of the recast and revision process.

In discussion, the GoE offered many valuable comments and suggestions on issues, which will have to be resolved. The Secretariat noted the comments and suggestions and proposed to forward these to the new WP RECAST for discussion.

In summary, the GoE welcomed the general outline presented and recognised the workload which is imposed by the recast and revision process. The GoE agreed to forward the comments and suggestions to the new WP RECAST.

Time line of the revision process as envisaged by the Commission

The Secretariat presented a draft time line for the recast and revision process. In 2008, the Working Parties Natural Sources, Exemption and Clearance, Graded Approach, and Medical Exposures are expected to finalise their input to the revision

[3] Basic Safety Standards, Directive 96/29/Euratom, Medical Exposures, Directive 97/43/Euratom, Public Information, Directive 89/618/Euratom, Outside Workers, Directive 90/641/Euratom, Control of high-activity sealed radioactive sources and orphan sources, Directive 2003/122/Euratom

of the BSS. In parallel, the newly created WP RECAST will establish a work programme for the drafting process of the consolidated new Directive. It is planned to present a first consolidated draft Directive to the GoE in June 2009 and the Secretariat will ask for an opinion of the GoE in November 2009, which is also the end of the term of the current GoE.

The Secretariat informed the meeting about the requirement to perform an impact assessment with regard to the recast and revision process. It is, however, not yet clear which form this impact assessment will have to take. In any case, the impact assessment can be performed in parallel to the drafting process.

Although in view of the tremendous work load the time line appears optimistic, the GoE welcomed the proposal and stated that an important step is to start drafting Directive text now. The GoE noted that it would be beneficial to establish an opinion before the end of the term of this Group of Experts in November 2009.

Proposal to transform the Working Party BSS into a drafting Working Party on the Recast (WP Recast)

The Secretariat reported on internal discussions on the way forward with the recast of the European Basic Safety Standards. The Working Party BSS has been very useful in the beginning of the revision process of the Directive 96/29, in particular in preparing and providing comments on the new ICRP Recommendations, and in acting as interface with the revision of the International Basic Safety Standards. The recast and revision process has, however, now come to a point where it is necessary to focus on drafting Directive text. The Secretariat therefore proposes to transform the WP BSS into a Working Party on the Recast (WP RECAST) that will be charged with drafting text for the new Euratom BSS taking advantage of experts' inputs and contributions. During the drafting process, the WP RECAST may identify specific issues, which may necessitate the creation of specialised sub-groups or the consultation of a few specialised experts.

The Secretariat presented a draft mandate for the WP RECAST.

The GoE approved the transformation of the WP BSS into a WP RECAST, adopted the proposed draft mandate, which is annexed to this summary record, received the nomination of many experts willing to participate, and identified a Chairperson for the WP RECAST. As the number of nominated experts exceeds a level which allows a group to draft text, the Chairperson of the GoE proposed to create a core group which will regularly meet and asked all other interested experts to agree to contribute as corresponding members.

8.2. Progress reports from the Working Parties

Working Party on Natural Sources

Protection of the public and workers against indoor exposure to radon

The Chairperson of the Working Party on Natural Sources reported on progress with the development of a report on the *Protection of the public and workers against indoor exposure to radon*, and the respective proposal for a draft Directive outline. The main feature of the proposal is the requirement to establish a national action plan to manage long term risks from radon exposures, both in dwellings and in

workplaces. In addition, Member States shall establish national reference levels for indoor radon concentrations which shall not exceed certain levels provided by the Directive. The Chairperson emphasised that the proposal is consistent with the current draft of the ICRP recommendation on Existing Exposure Situations and with latest developments with regard to the revision of the International Basic Safety Standards.

In discussion, experts showed agreement in general with the WP proposal, and offered comments for improvement. Experts recommended, in particular, that the requirements for the national action plan shall leave enough flexibility for the Member States.

The Chairperson of the WP invited experts to provide additional written comments on the presented documents directly to the Working Party Natural Sources.

In conclusion, the GoE approved the extension of the scope of the Directive to cover also indoor exposure to radon, and welcomed the introduction of a national action plan. The GoE asked the Working Party to check whether the current proposal provides enough flexibility to the Member State when establishing a national action plan.

Control of natural radioactivity in building materials

The Chairperson of the Working Party on Natural Sources reported on progress with work on the *Control of natural radioactivity in building materials.* The WP prepared a background document and a draft Directive outline for discussion. The WP proposes to require, based on an indicative list provided by the Directive, the establishment of a national list of building materials which may be of concern. Manufacturers using materials of concern will have to measure the natural radioactivity content of this material (Gamma radiation). Based on the activity index, which is to be calculated using the guidance provided in RP 112, the material can be categorised. Depending on the category, the placing on the market of the material shall be subject to regulatory control (Category C), shall be subject to a specific dose assessment (Category B), or will be exempted from any control (Category A).

In discussion, the Experts agreed that there is a need to regulate the placing on the market of building materials on a European level, and to limit the scope of the Directive to materials identified in a national list. The manufacturers of building materials contained in this list shall be obliged to perform gamma measurements and determine the activity index. No agreement could be reached on the question of which dose criterion shall be applied (0.3 mSv/a or 1 mSv/a), and on the proposal to categorise the building materials.

In conclusion, the GoE asked the Working Party on Natural Sources to consider the comments made during the meeting and to develop a more simplified proposal for discussion at the next GoE meeting.

Working Party on Graded Approach to Regulatory Control

The Chairperson of the Working Party on Graded Approach to Regulatory Control summarised the status of discussions with regard to the revision of Title III of the Directive 96/29/Euratom on *Reporting and Authorisation of Practices*. The

objective of this revision is to introduce a graded approach to regulatory control of planned exposure situations where the level of control is commensurate to the magnitude and likelihood of exposures.

The WP proposes to promote the idea of a graded regulatory approach and to expand the current two-tier authorisation system of *reporting of practices above exemption levels or other criteria*, and *prior authorisation for broad categories of practices* by introducing an additional specific level for planned exposure situations of low and moderate risks to be called ***Registration***. This three-tier system would be in line with the requirements set in the International Basic Safety Standards.

To date, the WP discussed terminology, draft structure of a new Title on *Justification and Regulatory Control of Planned Exposure situations*, control measures, and examples of planned exposure situations which may be controlled at different levels. In addition, the WP has been informed about progress with other parts of the Directive, particularly on the regulatory control of NORM industries, in order to ensure, to the extent possible, consistency between the different parts.

The WP will be drafting text for the new Directive for discussion at the next WP meeting in January 2008. Further work will concentrate on the revision of Title VIII *Implementation of Radiation Protection for the Population in Normal Circumstances*, which includes requirements for the authorisation of discharges and the estimation of population doses. It is foreseen to present a draft report to the next Article 31 Group of Experts meeting in June 2008.

The GoE welcomed the work performed by the WP Graded Approach and asked the group to present a written proposal at the next GoE meeting.

Working Party on Medical Exposures

The Chairperson of the Working Party on Medical Exposures presented the results of first discussions at the WP MED on the inclusion of the Medical Directive in the recast process. The WP MED prepared a document that discusses all articles of the Medical Directive with a view to potentially desirable changes. This document will serve as an important input to the new WP RECAST.

While the WP MED considers that the major part of the Directive on Medical Exposures should remain unchanged, they also propose a few issues that would merit revising.

The GoE welcomed the work performed by the WP MED and, in particular, the objective of restricting the changes to a minimum. With regards to recent incidents and unintended exposures in radiation therapy, it was proposed to evaluate the need for additional requirements.

The WP MED was asked to deepen the presented review of the Medical Directive and to prepare a proposal for discussion at the next GoE meeting.

9. PROGRESS OF THE REVISION OF THE INTERNATIONAL BASIC SAFETY STANDARDS

9.1. Status of the revision

The IAEA representative informed the meeting about the status of the revision of the International Basic Safety Standards. In July 2007, the IAEA organised a Technical Meeting to receive guidance from Member States and from co-sponsoring organisations on the general direction to be taken with the International BSS. At this Technical Meeting it has been decided to follow to the extent possible the concepts introduced in the new ICRP recommendations. The recommendations from the Technical Meeting together with the discussions at a meeting of the co-sponsoring organisations in September led to draft version 0.5 of the International BSS. This document has recently been discussed by the Radiation Safety Standards Committee (RASSC). On 26 – 30 November 2007, the co-sponsoring organisations will meet to further elaborate the draft. From December 2007 to May 2008, the IAEA Secretariat in close co-operation with the cosponsoring organizations will prepare a first full draft version 1.0. During this drafting period topic-specific meetings may be organised if needed. Draft version 1.0 will be a complete draft including tracking and justification of changes from the current BSS (SS115). This draft will be made available in May/June 2008. This will allow all co-sponsoring organisations to consult their constituency and to provide consolidated comments before the meetings of the IAEA committees in autumn 2008. A full review is foreseen at the RASSC meeting, 10 – 14 November 2008.

9.2. Participation of the EC

The Secretariat reported about the active EC participation as potential co-sponsor in the revision process of the international BSS. The Secretariat informed the meeting about the final decision to co-sponsor the IAEA Safety Fundamentals SF-1.

10. REVIEW AND PRIORITISATION OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE WORKING PARTIES AND RELATED PROJECTS

10.1. Medical Exposures (WP MED)

The Chairperson of the Working Party on Medical Exposures summarised recent activities of the WP MED. The DATAMED project was set up in order to assess population doses due to medical exposures. Two documents are in preparation, one summarising the current situation in Member States, a second giving guidance on the appropriate assessment of population doses. The WP discussed the application of the HASS Directive in hospitals where, due to the use of the high activity sources for the benefit of the patient, these may be easier accessible than in other areas such as in industry. A questionnaire is in preparation which may help to draft guidance. Preparations for a Seminar on Medico-legal exposures have started and it is hoped that the seminar will take place in autumn 2008. Finally, with regards to recent incidents in radiation therapy, which have been reported by experts from France and Belgium (see agenda item 7), the Chairperson of the WP MED reported on discussions, which have been started within the WP MED on an incident reporting system to be developed in co-operation with the IAEA. A small group has been created to further explore this issue.

The WP MED is in contact with the European Federation of Medical Physicists (EFOMP) to discuss requirements for education and training of Medical Physics Experts and minimal requirements for mutual recognition.

In discussion, the experts raised additional important issues in the medical area, such as protection of the lens of the eye, communication with patients on the problem of secondary cancers, capacity of medical physicists in hospitals, etc.

The Chairperson of the WP MED confirmed that these issues are on the list of planned work activities.

The GoE thanked the WP MED for their valuable work, and recognised the work load of the group. The WP MED was asked to prepare a priority list of activities which could then be discussed with the GoE to set up a Work Programme.

10.2. Research Implications on Health and Safety Standards (WP RIHSS)

Publication of proceedings of the EU Scientific Seminar 2006 on New Insights in Radiation Risk and Basic Safety Standards in European Commission Radiation Protection Series

The Chairperson of the Working Party on Research Implications on Health and Safety Standards (WP RIHSS) informed the Group of Experts, that the proceedings of the EU Scientific Seminar 2006 on *New Insights in Radiation Risk and Basic Safety Standards* have been published in the European Commission Radiation Protection Series (RP 145). The document is already available on the EC webpage[4]. In addition, printed copies will soon be distributed.

Publication of the conclusions of the 2006 Scientific Seminar in the Journal of Radiological Protection (J. of Rad. Prot.)

The Chairperson of the GoE briefly summarised the history of this issue. At the last GoE meeting, the WP RIHSS has proposed to send the conclusions of the EU Scientific Seminar 2006 to the Journal for Radiological Protection (J. of Rad. Prot.) for publication. As there was no written proposal available at that time, the final decision on a publication had to be postponed.

In July 2007, a draft paper has been sent to the Group of Experts for formal approval by written procedure within two weeks time. In reply, the Chairperson of the Article 31 Group of Experts expressed his wish to give the Article 31 Group of Experts the opportunity to discuss this important publication during a meeting and deferred the decision on a potential publication to the GoE meeting in November 2007.

At this meeting now, the Chairperson of the WP RIHSS presented a draft paper to be published as a Memorandum in the *Journal of Radiological Protection* for discussion by the GoE.

[4] The publication Radiation Protection 145 *EU Scientific Seminar 2006 on New Insights in Radiation Risk and Basic Safety Standards* can be found under http://ec.europa.eu/energy/nuclear/radioprotection/publication/doc/145_en.pdf

A member of the Article 31 Group of Experts informed the meeting that the publication of a ***Memorandum*** in the *Journal of Radiological Protection* is an important formal statement of an institution, authority or body, e.g. the International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP) or the Article 31 Group of Experts. The publication of the 2006 Scientific Seminar as a ***Memorandum*** would therefore require the adoption by the full Article 31 Group of Experts, which would then also appear as author.

Another alternative would be the publication of a ***Meeting Report*** which would be much shorter (about 1000 words) and be published under the name of a single author, i.e. by the Chairperson of the Working Party on Research Implications on Health and Safety Standards.

In discussion, it was mentioned by several experts, that the publication of a formal statement of the Article 31 Group of Experts would need very careful drafting and balanced formulations. As the original intention of the current text was to inform ICRP, many conclusions are presented in a short and informative matter, which, however, cannot fully reflect the discussions at the Article 31 Group of Experts meeting. Many experts expressed their preference for a publication as a Meeting Report.

The Chairperson of the GoE thanked the WP RIHSS for their preparatory work and concluded that the publication of a ***Meeting Report*** in the *Journal of Radiological Protection* would probably be the appropriate way of informing a broad audience about the Scientific Seminar and its conclusions. This meeting report could also make reference to the full proceedings. The WP RIHSS was asked to prepare a draft document and discuss it with the Chairperson of the GoE for final approval.

Conclusions of the EU Scientific Seminar 2007 on Emerging issues on tritium and low energy beta emitters

The Chairperson of the WP RIHSS summarised the discussions during the Scientific Seminar on **Emerging issues on tritium and low energy beta emitters** which was held the afternoon of 13 November 2007. Renowned scientists reported on the relevance of dose for low energy beta emitters, on metabolism, radiobiology and epidemiology of tritium, on tritium in the environment: sources, measurements and transfer, and on tritium in fusion facilities. The seminar raised a few issues which merit further attention such as the biological impact of incorporated tritium which may have to be reconsidered with regard to new data on risk from organically bound tritium. The seminar pointed at the need for research, for example in epidemiological studies on the effects of tritium, biotransformation and food accumulation, in particular of organically bound tritium, effects in early pregnancy, and the impact of tritium particulates. The same issues may arise for other radionuclides emitting low energy beta or Auger electrons. Finally, the seminar opened the discussion with the fusion community on tritium issues. It was recommended to further discuss radiation protection issues with the fusion community, and to clarify, in particular, the source term in fusion facilities to be taken into account for emergency planning.

The GoE thanked the WP RIHSS for this very interesting Scientific Seminar, and asked WP RIHSS to prepare draft conclusions for publication in the proceedings of the Scientific Seminar.

Topic of the next EU Scientific Seminar 2008

Finally, the Chairperson of the WP RIHSS presented a proposal for the topic of the next EU Scientific Seminar 2008 which was unanimously chosen by the members of the WP RIHSS. The proposed topic is ***Emerging issues arising from radiation induced circulatory diseases***.

The GoE welcomed this proposal and asked the WP RIHSS to proceed with the preparation of the 2008 Scientific Seminar, and to present a draft programme at the next GoE meeting.

11. ONGOING PROJECTS AND STUDIES

Due to time constraints, this agenda item had to be postponed to the next meeting.

12. OTHER BUSINESS

The Secretariat informed the meeting about the Workshop on NORM issues organised by the EC financed European ALARA Network for NORM industries. The workshop will be held in Dresden, 20 – 22 November 2007, and will present an opportunity to discuss with various stakeholders current plans for the inclusion of requirements for NORM industries in the European BSS.

13. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETINGS

The next meeting of the Group of Experts will be held **11 - 12 June 2008** at the **Euroforum Building, 10, rue Robert Stumper L-2557 Luxembourg- Gasperich**.

The autumn meeting has been scheduled for **25 – 27 November 2008** at the **Jean Monnet Building, rue Alcide de Gasperi – L-2920 Luxembourg-Kirchberg**. It is foreseen to start the meeting on 25 November 2008 around lunchtime with the Scientific Seminar. This leaves two full meeting days 26 – 27 November for the Article 31 Group of Experts meeting.

Annex 1:

Mandate of a Working Party RECAST

Background

The revision of the Euratom BSS and the recast with other radiation protection Directives has been coordinated by the WP BSS, which also looked into the developments in ICRP and IAEA that would have an impact on this process.

Today, the ICRP Recommendations are about to be published, the cooperation with IAEA is progressing well, and we have a complete outline of the recast BSS.

The major building blocks are close to completion:

– WP Exemption and clearance has finished its work, pending receipt of the results of the IAEA-EC comparison

– WP Graded Approach building on WP exemption and clearance has a good overall structure, but with still a lot of work to be done.

– WP Natural Sources has nearly finished the major new features on NORM, radon and building materials.

Scope

For a while it was envisaged to establish further WP's on occupational exposure and on emergency situations. Experience with the similar work in IAEA now brings us to the conclusion that such issues, and quite a few other that are still out-standing, should not be dealt with separately from the overall work on all chapters of the BSS. This is the only way to ensure consistency of concepts and definitions. In our case, this fact is enhanced by the difficulties inherent to the recast (e.g. incorporating the Outside Workers Directive and the Public Information Directive.

It is therefore proposed to start working through the titles foreseen in the outline sequentially, so as to fill in the missing material and properly incorporate the identified articles and paragraphs.

The Commission will do much of this work itself. However, the workload which this implies is huge and the help of Experts will be highly appreciated. Even more important is that the secretariat should not work in isolation and needs the feedback and corrections by the Experts in order to keep on the right track.

It is therefore proposed to establish a new WP, labelled RECAST that would advise the Commission on how to proceed with the drafting, that would undertake parts of the drafting as appropriate, and that would decide when the recast Directive (or important parts thereof) is ripe for submission to the plenary Group of Experts.