EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR ENERGY

DIRECTORATE D - Nuclear Energy
Radiation Protection

Meeting of the Group of Experts established under Article 31 of the Euratom Treaty

Luxembourg, 8 – 9 June 2011

SUMMARY REPORT

(Approved by the Group of Experts at the meeting 22 – 23 November 2011)

INTRODUCTION

The Chairperson welcomed the participants and reminded the Group of Experts that the meeting will focus mainly on the events in Fukushima, Japan. The Chairperson took the opportunity to express the deepest sympathy and solidarity with the Japanese people affected by the recent tragic events.

The Secretariat informed the Group of Experts about apologies of members who could not attend the meeting.

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was approved without amendments.

2. APPROVAL OF THE SUMMARY REPORT OF THE MEETING HELD IN LUXEMBOURG ON 23 – 24 NOVEMBER 2010

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

3. PROCEDURAL ASPECTS

3.1 Election of a new Vice-Chairperson for the period 2011 – 2013

The experts were contacted by the Secretariat before the meeting and asked to nominate candidates for the election of a new Vice-Chairperson for the period June 2011 – November 2013. The Secretariat presented a list of nominees. The Secretariat and the observers left the meeting during the election of the new Chairperson.

The Group of Experts elected a new Vice-Chairperson.

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[1] The approved Summary Report of the November 2010 meeting can be found under http://ec.europa.eu/energy/nuclear/radiation_protection/article_31_en.htm

4. INFORMATION BY THE COMMISSION

4.1. Nuclear Safety

A representative of Unit D1 informed the Group of Experts about recent activities and initiatives related to nuclear safety and international relations of Euratom.

Following the request of the European Council on 25 March 2011 that the safety of all EU nuclear power plants should be reviewed on the basis of a comprehensive risk and safety assessment ("stress tests"), on 24 May 2011, the European Commission and the European Nuclear Safety Regulators Group (ENSREG) reached agreement on the criteria, methodology and timeframe for carrying out these tests in the EU[2].

The agreed comprehensive approach encompasses two convergent tracks.

Track 1 on safety will, in the light of the Fukushima accident, focus on assessing how nuclear power plants can withstand the consequences of various natural disasters, such as earthquakes and floods. However, the effects on the loss of safety functions and accident management will be considered more widely. These effects will also address human and organisational factors, as well as any other initiating events. These consequences of any other initiating events include not only natural impacts, but also man-made and other accidental impacts, such as transport accidents, in so far as these are not covered under the security threats addressed by track 2.

Track 2 on security, which is outside the mandate of ENSREG, will focus on analysing security threats under a separate framework, involving the Member States' relevant authorities. The European Commission will be associated to this process. The national nuclear safety authorities should remain associated in order to facilitate an overall coherent response with respect to prevention, management and mitigation issues.

Progress on these issues should be included in the report to be made by the Commission to the European Council at the end of 2011.

In parallel, in the light of the recent developments, it would be also appropriate to review the relevant Euratom nuclear safety legislation and the international legal framework in place, i.e. the Convention on Nuclear Safety (CNS).

The European Commission is committed to implementing the highest safety standards in the EU and internationally.

Members of the Group of Experts expressed their views on different nuclear safety issues, e.g. a need to introduce probabilistic safety analysis (PSA) level 3, i.e. PSA 3, in the "stress tests", cooperation between ENSREG and Group of Experts, establishment of a strong harmonised support on the EU level to national nuclear safety authorities particularly to nuclear safety authorities of small countries within the EU.

4.2 Radioactive Waste Management and Transport

Representatives of Unit D2 reported on the current status of a proposal for a *Council Directive on the management of spent fuel and radioactive waste* and on a report on the *Situation concerning the uranium mine and mill tailings in the European Union.*

a. Waste Directive

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[2] The EU stress tests methodology is available at http://ec.europa.eu/energy/nuclear/safety/doc/20110525_eu_stress_tests_specifications.pdf

On 3 November 2010 the Commission adopted a proposal for a *Council Directive on the management of spent fuel and radioactive waste*. The proposed Directive is under discussion in the Council (AQG and Coreper II). Its adoption by the Council is expected by the summer 2011. At present the text of the Directive is at the stage of fine-tuning, the main principles of the Commission proposal having been fully retained in the current Council text. The sole outstanding political issue regards Art. 4(3), where the Commission proposed that radioactive waste be not disposed outside the EU (the so called "export ban" of radioactive waste). The text of this article has been subject to several revisions, the Presidency seeking to find a compromise between quite diverging positions of delegations.

The ITRE Committee (consultation procedure) voted on the CIZELJ report on 26 May. In general it is supportive to the Commission proposal. On the export ban the agreed amendment allows disposal outside the EU (subject to the existence of an agreement with a third country and to the relevant Member State ensuring that waste is disposed of in compliance with the provisions of the Directive) and thus deviates from the initial Commission proposal. The EP vote is scheduled for 23 June 2011

Members of the Group of Experts expressed their views on the different issues related to waste directive, e.g. a need for management NORM waste.

b. Uranium Report

In March 2011 the Commission issued a Commission Staff Working Document *Situation concerning the uranium mine and mill tailings in the European Union*, SEC(2011) 340 final. This document gives an overview of the situation, including the legal context, concerning uranium mine and mill tailings and focuses on current issues. It also draws conclusions with regard to the need for an effective set of measures for coordinated institutional control of uranium mine and mill tailings, referred to as ‘long-term stewardship’. The document addresses issues concerning both managing existing uranium mine and mill legacies and improving sustainability while meeting the increasing demand for uranium. It also clarifies the applicable European legislation to ensure optimal coordination between the relevant texts. A representative of Unit D2 also presented a need for exchanges of good practices regarding uranium mine and mill tailings within countries of the EU.

4.3 Status of legislative projects

a. Drinking water Directive

The Secretariat informed the Group of Experts that the DG ENER proposal for a Euratom Directive on drinking water under the Euratom treaty passed the Inter Service Consultation with only a few minor comments. There were no more objections from DG ENV. Further planning foresees the finalisation of the Commission proposal in June 2011. The Secretariat will keep the Group of Experts informed about progress with this matter.

b. Revised Euratom Basic Safety Standards Directive

The Secretariat informed the Group of Experts about the status of the revised Euratom Basic Safety Standards Directive. After having received a favourable opinion from the Impact Assessment Board in March 2011, the revised Euratom Basic Safety Standards Directive passed the Inter Service Consultation in May 2011 with favourable opinions, some of them subject to more or less detailed comments. The Secretariat expects to finalise the inclusion of the comments still in June 2011. Depending on the time the

translation service will need to translate the document, it is expected to have a Commission proposal ready by September 2011. The Secretariat will keep the Group of Experts informed about progress with this matter.

5. PRESENTATIONS FROM INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

5.1. ICRP

The Scientific Secretary of the International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP) reported on recent ICRP publications, on the ICRP reaction on Fukushima, the ICRP Annual Commission Meeting and Symposium in 2011 and on the ICRP Statement on Tissue Reactions published in April 2011.

ICRP published in 2011:

- Publication 113: Education and Training in Radiological Protection for Diagnostic and Interventional Procedures
- Dose Conversion Coefficients for External Radiation Sources (joint ICRP/ICRU)
- Lung Cancer Risk from Radon and Progeny
- Tissue Reactions and Other Non-cancer Effects of Radiation
- Transfer Factor Values for Estimating Exposures of Reference Animals and Plants in Environmental Modelling Contexts

With regard to the events in Fukushima, Japan, ICRP has been doing what it can to support those in Japan dealing with the Fukushima NPP accident mainly by using the ICRP community as a way to rapidly share information with Japanese colleagues, but also by making available and discussing ICRP recommendations and relevant experience.

The first ICRP Symposium on the International System of Radiological Protection will be held in Bethesda, Maryland, USA, 24 – 26 October 2011 in conjunction with the upcoming joint meetings of the ICRP Main Commission and Committees, which will take place 23 – 30 October 2011. Details are found in the "First Announcement" available at the ICRP website www.icrp.org.

The Scientific Secretary of ICRP spent an important fraction of his presentation to explain in detail the ICRP report on Tissue Reactions and Other Non-cancer Effects of Radiation and the ICRP Statement on Tissue Reactions published in April 2011. The ICRP Statement on Tissue Reactions and its impact on the revision of the Euratom Basic Safety Standards Directive will be further discussed under Agenda item 7.

5.2 IAEA

No representative of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) could attend the meeting.

5.3 WHO

No representative of the World Health Organisation (WHO) could attend the meeting.

5.4 NEA

The representative of the Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA) presented recent developments in the NEA programme in radiological protection, in nuclear emergency matters, occupational exposure, best available techniques, public health perspective in

radiological protection, radiological protection of the environment, stakeholder involvement issues, and qualified human resources in radiological protection, with a focus on the events in Fukushima.

Already during the early phase of the events in Fukushima, NEA started to collect and share the governmental decisions and recommendations with regard to the accident (e.g. protection of nationals in Japan; trade and travel recommendations). The list of decisions and recommendations was regularly updated and posted on a secure IAEA website. On 3 – 4 May 2011, the Committee on Radiation Protection and Public Health (CRPPH) Emergency Management Group held a topical session on the Fukushima Nuclear Accident with a view to identify possible new programmes (e.g. International co-ordination of national decisions; Urgent counter-measures). During their annual meeting 17 – 19 May 2011, the CRPPH held a topical session focusing on The Radiological Consequences and Emergency Management Aspects of the Fukushima Nuclear Accident. As a result future initiatives were identified, e.g. accident lessons for and impacts on national recovery planning; Stakeholders and sustainable recovery. On 7 – 8 June 2011, the extended G8, together with the OECD, hosted the NEA Forum for Fukushima which provided input to the IAEA Ministerial Meeting scheduled for 20 – 24 June 2011.

Further information can be found on the NEA homepage www.oecd-nea.org.

5.5. IRPA

No representative of the International Radiation Protection Association (IRPA) could attend the meeting.

5.6 HERCA

The representative of HERCA presented the current status of the work programme of the Heads of European Radiological protection Competent Authorities (HERCA).

Already before the events in Japan, HERCA created a new Working Group on Emergencies. As a consequence of the Fukushima accident, the original draft mandate has been extended to cover now both:

- emergencies taking place in one of HERCA's member countries
- nuclear accidents at remote sites with little or no direct radiological impact in Europe

On the 20 April 2011, HERCA published a Statement on Fukushima. This statement together with further information can be found on the newly created HERCA homepage www.herca.org.

6. EVENTS IN FUKUSHIMA, JAPAN

6.1 Short presentation of the events in Fukushima and the EU response

The Secretariat presented a very brief overview of the accident in Fukushima and the response within the European Union on these events.

6.2 Maximum permitted radioactivity levels in food and feeding stuff

The Secretariat presented a note on the rationale for maximum permitted levels of radioactivity in food and feed, as well as the Commission implementing regulations N° 297/2011, N° 351/2011 and N° 506/2011.

The Group of Experts was invited to look into the measures taken with regard to the import of food from Japan and to express its views on the adequacy of the values laid down in the above mentioned Commission implementation regulations. The Group of Experts gave its Opinion on *Measures with regard to food, feed and cosmetics imported into the EU after the accident in Fukushima,* which is available on the Europa website[3].

6.3 Control of contamination of non-food products

The Secretariat presented a note on the control of contamination of non-food products summarising the actions taken by the Commission after the Fukushima event and the underlying rationale for the decisions taken.

The Group of Experts was invited to give its views on the approach outlined in the above mentioned note, in particular with regard to the control of contamination of goods, containers and conveyances. The Group of Experts gave its Opinion on *Measures with regard to containers and conveyances, and goods (other than food, feed, cosmetics, or medicinal products) imported into the EU after the accident in Fukushima,* which is available on the Europa website[4].

6.4 Other issues arising from Fukushima

The members of the Group of Experts discussed also the informing related to Fukushima accident. They expressed their views on a need for accurate and in time information from the site affected as well as on information exchange within the EU.

7. DOSE LIMITS FOR THE LENS OF THE EYE

On 21 April 2011, ICRP published a Statement on Tissue Reactions, in which it is stated that *"(2) The Commission has now reviewed recent epidemiological evidence suggesting that there are some tissue reaction effects, particularly those with very late manifestation, where threshold doses are or might be lower than previously considered. For the lens of the eye, the threshold is now considered to be 0.5 Gy."* and further *"(3) For occupational exposure in planned exposure situations the Commission now recommends an equivalent dose limit for the lens of the eye of 20 mSv in a single year, averaged over defined periods of 5 years, with no single year exceeding 50 mSv."* The ICRP Statement does not contain any explicit recommendation regarding the organ dose limit for the lens of the eye for public exposure which is interpreted as no change being proposed.

Based on the ICRP Statement, the Secretariat presented a note offering two options for a set of consistent organ dose limits for the lens of the eye for occupational exposure, both for exposed workers and for apprentices and students, and for public exposure which could be introduced into the revised Euratom Basic Safety Standards Directive. The first option for new organ dose limits for the lens of the eye would be 20 mSv/year equivalent dose for occupational exposure, 20 mSv/year for apprentices and students and 15 mSv/year for public exposure. A second option could be 20 mSv/year equivalent dose

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3 http://ec.europa.eu/energy/nuclear/radiation_protection/doc/art31/2011_06_09_opinion_fukushima_food.pdf

4 http://ec.europa.eu/energy/nuclear/radiation_protection/doc/art31/2011_06_09_opinion_fukushima_nonfood.pdf

for occupational exposure, 6 mSv/year for apprentices and students and 1 mSv/year for public exposure. While the first option follows the ICRP argumentation with regard to the dose limit for public exposure and was therefore also introduced in the international Basic Safety Standards, the second option offers the same logic as introduced in the Euratom Basic Safety Standards Directive for whole body effective dose and for the organ dose limits for skin and extremities.

The view of the Article 31 Group of Experts was that the dose limits for occupational and public exposure proposed by ICRP were quite similar and, as such, this was inconsistent with the general approach to radiation protection. The ICRP needs to better explain the rationale for the dose limit for the public and consider having it reduced, taking into account the implications of such a reduction. While welcoming the strong message from the ICRP on worker exposure, the Article 31 Group of Experts was questioning the coherence of the overall approach. In the case of protection of children, there was no evidence that high doses are received except in the case of medical exposures, to which dose limits do not apply.

With regard to the revision of the Euratom Basic Safety Standards, the Group of Experts recommended to:

- Set the occupational dose limit for the lens of the eye to 20 mSv/year.
- Keep provisionally the dose limit of 15 mSv/year for public exposure mainly for reasons of consistency with the international Basic Safety Standards.

It is recognised, however, that additional data on potential scenarios for public exposure of the lens of the eye and on radiation effects for different age groups is needed. In particular, potential situations where planned exposure situations can lead to exposures exceeding 1 mSv/year for the lens of the eye should be explored. In addition, the Group of Experts proposes to ask ICRP for additional guidance on public exposure.

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

8.1. Dose Constraints

At the Article 31 Group of Experts meeting in June 2010, the Group of Experts recommended to the Commission the creation of a Working Party on Dose Constraints. In November 2010, the Secretariat proposed to create a small brainstorming group to prepare a draft mandate, including objectives and deliverables, of such a working group and a draft work programme, which shall be presented to the Group of Experts in June 2011.

Preparatory meeting, 9 March 2011

The Chairperson of the small brainstorming group reported on the outcome of a preparatory meeting held on 9 March 2011. The group proposes a draft mandate which includes objective, topics to be covered by the guidelines, timeframe, and membership, as well as annexes outlining the proposed survey on current practices and implementation of the concept of dose constraints, and the report.

The Group of Experts welcomed this initiative and thanked the brainstorming group for their efficient preparatory work. The Group of Experts adopted the proposed mandate without amendments.

Nominations for the Working Party on Dose Constraints (WP DCONST)

The Group of Experts nominated eight members and six additional corresponding members to participate in this Working Party on Dose Constraints (WP DCONST). IAEA, ICRP and OECD/NEA shall be invited to join the Working Party as observers.

8.2. Medical Exposures (WP MED)

Progress report and *the ASN/Afssaps report comparing the requirements of the Medical Exposure Directive and essential requirements of the Medical Devices Directives regarding medical devices used in external radiotherapy* were discussed.

a. Progress report

The Chairperson of the Working Party on Medical Exposures (WP MED) reported on recent activities of the WP MED, corresponding to the last meeting of the working party, held on 12-13 April 2011:

- In line with the mandate received, the WP MED prepared and discussed an initial draft of the statement for Art.31 Group of Experts on the needs of European research in support of radiation protection in the medical field. The document, to be discussed also at the WP RIHSS, will be ready for the next Art.31 Group of Experts meeting.
- The WP MED discussed the current status and the needs of future work on Non-Medical Imaging Exposure. The WP MED recommended waiting for the adoption of the BSS and for the ongoing international developments (IAEA, ICRP) before undertaking further initiatives in this area. The WP MED will monitor the developments in this area and give input to the Art. 31 Group of Experts.
- A representative of DG SANCO participated in the last meeting of the WP MED and presented the current status and planned revision of the Medical Devices Directive (MDD) and the European databank for medical devices (EUDAMED). Concerning devices emitting ionizing radiation the WP MED considered convenient to clarify the role of both Directives (BSS and MDD) and the competences of the national Authorities and the "notified bodies". The EUDAMED is seen as not suitable to serve the needs of declaring cases of accidental and unintended medical exposure due to its limited scope and access.
- The WP MED discussed the European Coordination Committee of the Radiological, Electromedical and Healthcare IT Industry (COCIR) comments on the draft revised BSS and advised on the appropriate answers.
- Representatives of HERCA presented the recent dialogue between HERCA and the CT manufacturers and the resulting voluntary commitment of the manufacturers to undertake actions to reduce patient CT doses.
- A Member of the WP MED reported on the development of the FP7 project 'Guidelines on Cone Beam CT for Dental and Maxillofacial Radiology' - SEDENTEXCT. A meeting to present the projects results was held in Leeds in March 2011. The WP MED appointed three reviewers to monitor the developments of the project and advise on the possible publication of the Guidelines in the Radiation Protection series.

Further to reporting on recent activities, the Chairperson of the WP MED summarised the status of on-going and new projects to assist Member States in the application and harmonisation of the Medical Exposure Directive (MED):

- Guidelines on Medical Physics Expert (MPE) – A coordinator of the project gave a presentation on the current progress with the development of the Guidelines document on the MPE. The MPE workshop was held in Seville on 9-10 May 2011. The final report will be submitted to the Commission in the end of August 2011. Considering the information presented it is expected to still need an extensive discussion at the WP MED.
- European Medical ALARA Network (EMAN) – A Member of the WP MED reported on the progress. The work of the different packages is progressing well i.e. synthesis reports, short progress reports for the main working packages and the project interim report were submitted to the Commission. The place and the venue of the EMAN workshop have been decided to be Vienna, 7-9 June 2012.
- Radiation Criteria for Acceptability of Medical Radiological Equipment (workshop and finalization of the document) – the contract was signed with the North East, Yorkshire and the Humber Quality Assurance Reference Centre (NEYHQARC), part of the UK NHS. The project workshop will take place on 4-6 September in Dublin. The final report will be submitted to the Commission at the end of September 2011.
- Guidelines on Radiation Protection Training of Medical Professionals (MEDRAPET) – The contract was signed with the consortium led by the European Society of Radiology (ESR). The project workshop will take place on 21-23 April 2012 in Athens. The project interim report is due in the end of 2011, and the final report – at the end of 2012.
- Study on European Population Doses from Medical Exposure (DOSE DATAMED 2) – the contract was signed with the Finish Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority, STUK. The project workshop will take place on 24-26 April 2012 in Athens. The project interim report is due in the end of 2011, and the final report – at the end of 2012.
- Implementation of Council Directive 97/43/Euratom Requirements Concerning Referral Criteria for Medical Imaging in the EU – the call for tenders was published in April 2011. The time-limit for receipt of tenders was 06/06/2011.
- Guidelines on a Risk Analysis of Accidental and Unintended Exposures in Radiotherapy – the call for tenders was published in May 2011. The time-limit for receipt of tenders is 07/07/2011.

At the end of the presentation the Chairperson of the WP MED listed the main items of the future work:

- to follow up of the running projects and suggest new ones if appropriate,
- to complete a draft statement on research priorities in the area of radiation protection in medicine (in cooperation with the WP RIHSS),
- to follow the analysis of the European legislation on medical devices and EUDAMED, and their relation to the radiation protection of patients,
- to discuss the topic on controlling the total dose of healthy volunteers participating in more than one (bio)medical research projects involving exposure to ionizing radiation.

The Group of Experts thanked the WP MED for their valuable work.

b. ASN/Afssaps report comparing the requirements of the MED and essential requirements of the MDD regarding medical devices used in external radiotherapy

A member of the Group of Experts presented *the ASN/Afssaps report comparing the requirements of the MED and essential requirements of the MDD regarding medical devices used in external radiotherapy*. In general, the ASN/Afssaps Working Group, which prepared the report, did not detect any shortfall in the existing system concerning CE marking of medical devices (MD). It also believes that the new provisions proposed in the draft Euratom Directive represent a progress compared to those of Directive 97/43/Euratom. Nevertheless, it issued the following recommendations:

1. Concerning requirements and recommendations of the IAEA, the ASN/Afssaps Working Group working group estimate that more precise details are needed on the respective responsibilities of equipment manufacturers and operators, concerning defence in depth, the assessment of safety and feedback from precursor events and incidents.
2. Concerning the requirements for CE marking, the ASN/Afssaps Working Group proposes:
    a. reclassifying the following MD in class III: MD emitting ionising radiation for therapeutic use, treatment planning software, and radiotherapy record and verify systems,
    b. the preparation of an European MEDDEV guide to interpret the MDD devoted to the safety of medical devices used in external radiotherapy,
    c. verification by the European Commission of the thoroughness of the list of existing harmonised standards (EN), which give a presumption of conformity with essential requirements (ER) applicable to medical devices emitting ionising radiation and their completeness with respect to requirements and recommendations of the IAEA.
3. Concerning the new RP requirements' in the draft Euratom Directive, the ASN/Afssaps Working Group:
    a. remarks that, in compliance with the IAEA requirements, the risk analysis in radiotherapy is limited to the RP of patients; It should be extended to risks to the staff and the public; the quality management system should content a internal system of registration and analysis of events including precursor events.
    b. believes that more details should be added to the European guide planned by the Commission in order to clarify the links between defence in depth, risk analysis and feedback, and to highlight the need for an “exchange” between manufacturers and users value on the risk analysis result,
    c. proposes to require in the draft Directive that personnel using equipment or maintaining benefit from a programme of training and qualification.

The Group of Experts welcomed the document and appreciated a high value of it. Members of the Group expressed their views on some important issues related to the subject of medical devices, including: important role of manufactures, links between safety and radiation protection, involvement of MPE in commission of new equipment, validation of final commissioning reports by independent authorities, training of operators supervised by bodies independent from equipment manufactures, possible common approach towards licensing of medical devices. In response to recommendations concerning the new RP requirements in the draft Euratom Directive (point 3.a) the Secretariat did not support the comment that the risk analyses in radiotherapy are limited only to the RP of patients, which can be an impression after reading solely Chapter VIII. Reading whole document shows that risk analyses in radiotherapy address also the medical staff and public. In addition, the Secretariat

informed, that all details proposed to be added in Commission call for tenders on risk analysis in radiotherapy (point 3.b) were included in the final version of the tender technical specification.

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

a. EU Scientific Seminar 2010 on Issues with internal emitters

The Chairperson of the WP RIHSS reported on the follow-up of the EU Scientific Seminar on *Issues with internal emitters*, which was held on 23 November 2010. All presentations given at the EU Scientific Seminar 2010 on *Issues with internal emitters* together with a short introductory text have been posted on the Europa Website[5]. Due to an increased workload following the Fukushima event, the preparation of the proceedings of the Scientific Seminar 2010 is a bit delayed. The draft proceedings shall be available in September 2011.

The Group of Experts agreed on a written procedure to approve the proceedings of the Scientific Seminar 2010 as soon as the draft proceedings are available.

b. Preparations for the EU Scientific Seminar 2011 on Individual radiosensitivity

The Chairperson of the WP RIHSS presented the draft programme for the EU Scientific Seminar 2011 on *Individual radiosensitivity* and informed the Group of Experts on the status of preparation. All speakers agreed to participate, and participation in the round-table discussion is established. The Secretariat is currently preparing the invitations.

The Group of Experts congratulated the WP RIHSS for the efficient organisation of the EU Scientific Seminar 2011 which promises to be very interesting.

c. Review of recent scientific findings and publications on the health effects of the Chernobyl accident

With a view to the 25th anniversary of the Chernobyl accident in 2011, the Group of Experts asked the WP RIHSS in November 2010 to review recent scientific findings and publications on the health effects of Chernobyl and to prepare a summary report to be presented to the Article 31 Group of Experts at their next meeting in June 2011.

The Chairperson of WP RIHSS presented the draft document on *Recent scientific findings and publications on the health effects of Chernobyl: Summary report* to the Article 31 Group of Experts.

The Group of Experts congratulated the WP RIHSS for this excellent report and recommended the report for publication in the Radiation Protection Series of the European Commission. Experts were invited to send final comments to the Chairperson of WP RIHSS by 30 June 2011.

[5] The presentations can be found under http://ec.europa.eu/energy/nuclear/radiation_protection/scientific_seminar_en.htm

9. OTHER BUSINESS

Group of Experts agreed to include in the November 2011 meeting a discussion regarding the lens of the eye and public exposure. The Chair of the WP RIHSS will present recent scientific findings and publications.

10. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETINGS

The next meeting of the Group of Experts will be held on **22 - 23 November 2011** in meeting room **M1**, **European Commission – Jean Monnet Building, rue Alcide de Gasperi – L-2920 Luxembourg – Kirchberg.**

The June 2012 meeting of the Group of Experts is scheduled for **20 – 21 June 2012** in meeting room EUFO 0001**, European Commission – Euroforum Building, 10, rue Robert Stumper – L-2557 Luxembourg – Gasperich.**