

Opinion of the Group of Experts established under Article 31 Euratom Treaty
20-21 June 2006

International Atomic Energy Agency
SAFETY STANDARDS
for protecting people and the environment
Fundamental Safety Principles

The Group of Experts welcomes the new Safety Fundamentals proposed by IAEA for adoption by the current co-sponsoring agencies and the European Community, which supersede and replace the previous three "Safety Fundamentals" documents. These Fundamentals now present a common, coherent safety philosophy across all the related areas: radiation protection, safety of radiation sources and of nuclear installations, safety of radioactive waste management. The Fundamentals are thus an important building stone for the implementation of the Nuclear Safety Convention, the Joint Convention on Spent Fuel and Radioactive Waste, and the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radiation Sources.

The ten fundamental principles provide a coherent and comprehensive statement of the essential principles to be applied through IAEA's requirements level safety standard documents. The document highlights the integration of safety principles covering nuclear safety, radiation protection, radioactive waste management, and transport of radioactive substances. This should lead to improved harmonisation of international standards.

The European Atomic Energy Community should respond positively to the invitation to co-sponsor the Fundamental Safety Principles document, and seek harmonisation to the extent possible between European Legislation and IAEA safety requirements, notably those that will be covered by the Basic Safety Standards which are now under review.

IAEA's Commission on Safety Standards has endorsed the latest draft of the Safety Fundamentals for adoption by the Board of Governors. While arguments could be made for some improvements in the wording of the document, the Group of Experts estimates that it is fit for purpose as it is.

The Group of Experts is of the Opinion that the European Atomic Energy Community should support the adoption of these Fundamentals by the Board of Governors, encourage the EU Member States to intervene accordingly, and take into account the fundamental safety principles throughout further developments of Community legislation.

The Group of Experts would welcome transmission of this Opinion to the IAEA.

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