



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

Luxembourg, 20 – 21 June 2006

### SUMMARY REPORT

(Approved by the Group of Experts at the meeting 16 – 18 October 2006)

#### GENERAL

In his introduction the Chairman welcomed the participants.

The GoE observed a minute's silence in memory of Paul Govaerts.

A new member, Mr G. Eggermont, was welcomed, at present with observer status till the official confirmation by the EURATOM STC.

The Chairman mentioned that the working conditions for the GoE are still unsatisfactory because of documents provided late. The Commission apologised and mentioned as a reason the serious staff shortage in the Unit which only recently improved. The Commission promised to provide in future documents much earlier.

#### 1. AGENDA ITEM 1: APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was approved with some reordering of the agenda points in consideration of the availability of a few participants .

#### 2. AGENDA ITEM 2: SUMMARY REPORT OF THE MEETING HELD IN LUXEMBOURG ON 21-22 NOVEMBER 2005

The GoE approved the Summary Report with minor changes.

#### 3. AGENDA ITEM 3: INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS RELATED TO THE REVIEW/REVISION OF THE BSS

##### 3.1. IAEA DS 298 "Fundamental Safety Principles"; *Opinion* of the GoE

The Head of the Commission Radiation Protection Unit (HoU) presented the DS 298 document. After some clarification regarding the different versions of this document the GoE discussed in detail its elements and possible modifications.

In conclusion the GoE considered the present text of the document as a good compromise and underlined that the document does not provide the elements for legislation but deals with principles. Finally, the entire GoE supported the text in its present form and recommended the EC to cosponsor the document.

The HoU presented a Draft Opinion on the DS 298 document and concluded that no corrections should be proposed to the IAEA. He further addressed the complicated procedure for the EC endorsement which hopefully will be completed by the end of this year.

The GoE congratulated the HoU for his excellent draft and discussed it in detail.

*Finally the GoE endorsed a slightly revised version of the Draft Opinion (attached) and supported the co-sponsoring of the IAEA document by the EC. The GoE emphasised that the IAEA document provides an important contribution to safety.*

### 3.2. ICRP "Scope of Regulatory Control"; View of the GoE

The HoU introduced the ICRP document which is offered for consultation on the web and informed that the Article 31 Working Party (WP) on Exemption and Clearance has been dealing with it. He considered the document as rather good even though it may have gone too far as regards numerical criteria for exclusion (e.g. radon levels). He finally introduced a Draft View on it which proposed numerous amendments and deletions.

The GoE thanked the HoU for his presentation and discussed the ICRP document and the Draft View proposed by the EC.

*In conclusion the GoE expressed some concern about the language of the ICRP document that should be simplified. Some members of the GoE were concerned that, because of too detailed guidance, the rights of the MS's authorities would be restricted. It was mentioned further that the new draft of the ICRP Recommendations addresses the Scope rather well. Finally the GoE supported a slightly revised Draft View presented by the HoU who offered to prepare a cover note to address the elements of the present discussion, in particular to improve the language for better clarity. The View (attached) will be sent on behalf of the EC and the GoE to the ICRP.*

### 3.3. ICRP Draft 2006 Recommendations

The Chairman of the ICRP presented the new Draft Recommendations, expressed his hope that the comments given to the previous Recommendations were satisfactorily considered, underlined the need for stability regarding legislation, and concentrated then mainly on the new elements such as natural radiation sources, the protection of the environment, etc.. He finally stated that the objective is very similar to the IAEA Safety Fundamentals document and that the new 2006 Recommendations will not fully replace earlier publications but complement them, in particular, the bands of dose constraints do not invalidate earlier numerical guidance (an overview is being prepared by IRSN). He further presented the timescale reaching up to a final publication in 2007. The official deadline for submission of comments is 15 September but comments would be welcome even after this deadline.

The GoE discussed the 2006 Recommendations extensively. Even though the GoE considered the new Recommendations as considerably improved it expressed concerns on several definitions of issues such as Collective Doses used for assessment of health detriment and misuse of effective dose in medicine, definition of medico-legal exposures, the genetic risk limited to 2 generations, cataract, pregnancy, the representative individual low energy photon radiation weighting factor of 1, etc.. The Medical WP had already prepared detailed comments.

The GoE also discussed the further procedure regarding comments to the ICRP. It was mentioned that a Scientific Seminar will be held in the context of the next meeting of the Article 31 GoE to discuss critical scientific issues of the Recommendations. For that purpose the Seminar and the GoE meeting had been brought forward to an earlier date of 16-18 October in order to meet ICRP deadlines.

*On proposal of the HoU the GoE concluded that*

*-the GoE members may send individual comments to the ICRP with copy to the EC, editorial and constructive comments are preferred to question marks.*

*-the WP BSS will collect comments, put these together and send consolidated comments to the ICRP, also with the support from other WPs, pending more fundamental comments which may arise during the Scientific Seminar in October 2006, the program of which was still under discussion (see Agenda Item 6.2.)*

### *3.4. IAEA Progress Report on the Review and Revision of the International BSS*

The IAEA representative presented the related IAEA activities and stated that there is actually no hurry regarding the revision of the BSS carried out together with other international bodies. He expressed his appreciation with respect to the cooperation with the EC and underlined the importance of creating the best common basis for the BSS. He informed that the IAEA BSS are presently still under review till the end of 2006; while he emphasised that no major BSS issue requires urgent revision, it will probably be decided to start the revision process.

### *3.5. NEA*

The representative of NEA gave a short overview on NEA activities, in particular on the workshop to be organised in Prague (24-25.10.2006) to provide input to ICRP.

### *3.6. IRPA*

The HoU presented an overview of the IRPA activities and informed on the involvement of IRPA in providing operational experience on the need for harmonisation and in joining efforts to save competencies in the EU (for example related to the Training and Education Platform project launched by the EC). The EC undertakes to meet with European IRPA societies on an annual basis; IRPA is also invited to attend Article 31 meetings.

### *3.7. Coordination at international level (BSS-Secretariat, IACRS)*

The HoU informed on the progress with forming an international BSS-Secretariat with cosponsoring international organisations. He further addressed the ToR and the responsibilities of the Secretariat with respect to the review and revision of the international BSS. These responsibilities do not seem to be fully clear yet and need to be discussed after the next RASSC meeting. He proposed to advance with the revision of the EC BSS with a view of reaching the best harmonisation with the International BSS but questioned whether the EC should take responsibilities in drafting specific parts of the international BSS, the EC having not enough resources. He therefore requested the help of the GoE in this international cooperation. After some discussion, it was agreed that the EC would offer input to the IAEA through documents of the Article 31 Working Parties for the revision of the EURATOM BSS. IAEA will also be invited to attend meetings of the WPs.

The representatives of the IAEA and NEA supported the view presented by the HoU.

*The GoE also supported the view presented and underlined the need for the GoE to be informed on further developments.*

#### **4. AGENDA ITEM 4: REVISION OF THE BSS**

##### *4.1. Reports of the WPs*

###### *a) WP BSS*

The Chairman of the WP BSS presented a short summary of the work of the WP and addressed the conclusions regarding the different titles of the existing BSS Directive. He underlined that the approach is a step-by-step development of the different topics, to avoid dealing with all topics at once. The draft ICRP Recommendations that recently have been made available provide the most important basis for further development of the BSS revision.

###### *b) WP NORM*

The Chairman of the WP NORM presented the work of the WP that has so far resulted in a list of work activities likely to be included in the new BSS, a new Title VII based on a graded approach and a proposal for values defining the scope of regulatory control. Issues such as building materials, radon and aircrew exposures will be looked into in more detail further on.

The Chairman of the WP welcomed written comments from the GoE before mid-September.

*The GoE thanked the WP and looked forward to the new report following the direction already taken and to be presented at the next meeting of the GoE.*

###### *c) WP Exemption and Clearance*

The Chairperson of the WP presented three options for the activity concentrations considered by the WP:

1. Adopting the IAEA RS-G-1.7 values,

2. Adopting the IAEA RS-G-1.7 values for unlimited quantities. For moderate quantities present values for exemption could be used (also for transport regulations)
3. Keep most of the present values but use IAEA RS-G-1.7 values for the radionuclides of highest relevance to decommissioning in nuclear industry and of accelerators.

In a discussion of option 2 the GoE expressed its view that one should not complicate the EC exemption and clearance system just because the levels used in transport regulations were not likely to change. It was concluded that it would be best to come up with one set of values for transport as well as everything else. The IAEA representative informed that this issue is on the IAEA agenda.

It was further discussed whether to take IAEA RS-G-1.7 values or EC RP 122 values. In favour of the IAEA RS-G-1.7 values, the GoE underlined the benefits such as international harmonisation, greater simplicity and better public perception. Some GoE members were however concerned that the IAEA values were not intended for clearance.

*The GoE acknowledged the good progress made by the WP and recommended that the WP should finalise its report using the IAEA RS-G-1.7 values and providing more information on the actual differences between the two sets of values for a few of the most relevant radionuclides.*

#### *d) Views of other WPs*

The Chairman of the WP MED addressed the question of the integration of the MED Directive into a new BSS Directive. The WP MED did not take a final decision but is mainly in favour of integration.

*In this general context the GoE favoured also the integration of the HASS and the OSW Directives.*

## *4.2. Discussion of the further work program*

### *a) Priorities*

The HoU presented his view that the WPs NORM and Exemption and Clearance have priority and should complete their work soon. The WP NORM however will have to tackle the important issues of building materials and radon.

Regarding the OSW Directive, the goal is that OSW should have the same protection as for example employees in NPPs. He gave an overview of the outcome of the seminar and report on this subject. The responsibility of the employer should receive more weight in the new BSS. There is a need to improve definitions such as for operators, undertakings, etc.. The priority for this activity is high but not urgent.

*After a discussion regarding the present article 4 in BSS the GoE concluded that the WP BSS should prepare a short paper for discussion at the next meeting of the GoE. The WP BSS agreed. The HoU expressed his view that the new Article 4 should introduce a graded approach to the regulatory control of practices.*

The GoE further discussed the question of dose coefficients raised at the previous meeting.

*It was proposed to examine what the ICRP Recommendations will say about this; it is not useful to set up a special WP at this stage.*

## **5. AGENDA ITEM 5: INFORMATION FROM INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS**

### *5.1. IAEA*

The representative of the IAEA presented the activities of the IAEA (copies of his document were handed out to the GoEs). In particular he addressed the protection of the patients (Steering Panel meeting in Madrid, February 2006) and underlined in this context the efforts to further improve international cooperation.

The GoE acknowledged the work of the IAEA and thanked the IAEA representative for his personal role leading to a new era of IAEA-EC cooperation.

### *5.2. ICRP*

That was already covered under agenda item 3.3.

### *5.3. NEA*

The representative of the NEA informed on the activities of the NEA (copies of his document were handed out to the GoEs). He confirmed that the NEA also supports close international cooperation such as active support to the ICRP and assistance in the revision of the international BSS.

### *5.4. IRPA*

The representative of the IRPA participated for the first time in a meeting of the GoE. He informed on the activities of the IRPA (copies of his document were handed out to the GoEs). He also underlined the importance of close international cooperation. He addressed in particular the efforts to collect opinions from its members regarding the revision of the international BSS, the development of an IRPA credit point system for refresher courses, and stakeholder involvement.

## **6. AGENDA ITEM 6: REVIEW AND FOLLOW-UP OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE WPS**

### *6.1. Medical Exposures (MED)*

The Chairperson reported on the work of the WP and informed in particular on the status of the medical projects for 2006. Whereas the preparation for several medical projects (paediatric, clinical audit, acceptance and referral criteria) is advancing well other projects had to be delayed for reasons either of the need for harmonisation with other existing similar projects (database on incidents/accidents; IAEA) or lack of funding and too tight time constraints (medico-legal). The Chairperson further addressed the Education and Training Platform project that recently started and underlined that this platform should not cover the medical area, and the medical ALARA network project the concept of which is still not convincing.

*The GoE thanked the Chairperson and agreed that the medico-legal project is of particular importance (follow-up of the Dublin Conference) and should be launched in 2007.*

## 6.2. Research Implications (RIHSS)

### *a) Next Scientific Seminar on "New Insights in Radiation Risk and BSS"*

The Chairman of the WP introduced the draft program for the Scientific Seminar. He referred to the Seminar of November 2004 on the draft ICRP Recommendations and underlined the so-called "Challenging Approach" that proved to be successful. He outlined the programme for the next Seminar which also follows that approach, deals mainly with new results related to the ICRP 2006 Recommendations but also addresses other ongoing research not displayed in the new ICRP Recommendations but which may have implications on future BSS.

The GoE extensively discussed the seminar program. A number of Experts expressed strong concern about the balance of the presentations. They underlined the need to have the entire spectrum of opinions regarding a specific issue presented in order to be better able to identify possible implications on the revision of the BSS. They further were concerned about the overloaded program not allowing for enough time to discuss possible implications.

The Chairman of the WP strongly defended the WP's program proposal underlining again the importance of the "Challenging Approach". He further argued that the classical or old research results should be common knowledge among the Experts and therefore do not need to be addressed at the seminar. Also this view was supported by a number of Experts.

Concluding the discussion on the first day the WP agreed to meet in the evening to revise the programme in consideration of the concerns.

On the second day of the meeting the Chairman of the WP presented the new draft program step by step as revised by the WP to consider a better balance of the program while preserving the "Challenging Approach". Considering the time pressure, he offered to reduce the time given for the welcome address and the introduction. He requested constructive comments from the GoE.

The GoE discussed again very extensively the new program.

*Finally the GoE concluded that the revised Program provides a good improvement considered as the best that could be reached at this late stage. Although the WP RIHSS expressed its dissatisfaction with the further modifications requested resulting in moving away from the "Challenging Approach" it agreed to slightly revise the programme again in order to consider the further wishes, in particular to invite a member of the French Academy and to consider further timing aspects in order to reduce the overload of the program. The WP will provide the revised version as soon as possible after this meeting.*

### *b) Other business*

Everything was addressed under a).

### 6.3. Follow-up of former WPs

#### *a) Collective Dose (project report)*

The HoU made a presentation and informed that the final draft arrived only a few weeks ago (copies of this document were handed out to the GoEs). The comments of the small WP on this topic had all been taken into account. The Commission will now proceed with the publication of the report.

#### *b) Consumer Products (final publication)*

The EC informed on the status of the publication (copies of his document were handed out to the GoEs). The present version of the report still needs some editorial changes for which the EC welcomed comments of the GoE before 15 August. The publication is foreseen in the RP series.

*After a short discussion the GoE decided to postpone the endorsement until the final version of the report is completed.*

#### *c) Education and Training (platform project status)*

A member of the GoE presented the status of this project. The project had started in April 2006; the kick-off and Steering Committee meeting took place in May with the participation of representatives from the EC (DG TREN and RTD and other international organisations such as IAEA, IRPA, EFOMP, IOE/ILO, etc.. He described in detail the approach of the project and the management structure. He stated that the project aims at providing input for the BSS revision. He further informed that the first project workshop is planned for May 2007, probably in Vilnius.

The GoE shortly discussed the project. Some Experts underlined that the medical area should not be covered by the project.

*It was agreed that the medical area would be better addressed later in a separate new project.*

#### *d) Harmonisation of intervention levels (HIL)*

The Chairperson of the WP HIL reported and informed that the report is still not published because its quality was not sufficient.

## **7 AGENDA ITEM 7: INFORMATION ON THE STATUS OF THE REVISION OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS GUIDELINES**

The HoU informed that the guidelines were revised with the new version containing all input provided by the GoE and the EC. At the last meeting at Le Hague the revised guidelines were endorsed. The HoU underlined that this success was the result of the good cooperation of the EC and the GoE and the support by the MSs.

The GoE expressed its particular thanks to the EC and called the guidelines revision a very success story for the EC.



## **8 AGENDA ITEM 8: INFORMATION BY THE COMMISSION ON LEGAL DEVELOPMENTS**

The EC informed on legal developments (copies of the documents were handed out to the GoE) such as the Drinking Water Directive, Orphan Sources, the Article 37 Recommendation, the Article 35 Communication, and other initiatives within the Nuclear Energy Directorate (waste management, Shipments Directive, Nuclear Package, and others).

## **9 AGENDA ITEM 9: ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### *9.1. Article 46 BSS*

The EC informed on the activities regarding inspection, and addressed in particular a questionnaire to be sent to the new MSs and to Bulgaria and Romania. An important issue is the publicity given to such inspections. The EC welcomed comments from the GoE on the document distributed in the meeting.

### *9.2. FP 7*

A representative from the EC DG RTD informed on the progress with the research programme FP 7 running from 2007 through 2011 (copies of his document were handed out to the GoEs) and described in detail the outline of the program (about 80 M€/y; direct actions related to the EC JRC; indirect action related to fusion and fission, the fusion programme becoming increasingly important). He underlined the aspects of continuity (with respect to FP 6) and on important need for simplification. He further addressed the area of education and training and criticized that in FP 6 only 1% of the total budget was allocated; at present it is not clear how much will be allocated in FP 7.

The GoE discussed extensively FP 7 and in a more general way the FP system. Some Experts were concerned about the too bureaucratic realisation of the FP and mentioned that universities should better get 100% financing of their projects. Another concern was the measurement of success; an impact measurement is very difficult to execute even though citation indexes may to some extent help. The EC representative responded that the control of the execution and success of the projects has been improved considerably: a project can even be stopped if the performance is not good.

*The GoE thanked the EC representative for his very informative presentation and underlined the need to further keep in close contact (TREN, RTD, and GoE).*

### *9.3. Next meeting*

The next meeting in 2006 will take place in Luxembourg from 16 October (14:00) to 18 October (17:30) with the Scientific Seminar taking place on 17 October.

The meetings in 2007 are scheduled for 12-13 June and 13-14 November.

The Chairman thanked all participants and interpreters and closed the meeting.