



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR ENERGY

DIRECTORATE D - Nuclear Safety and Fuel Cycle
Radiation Protection

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

Luxembourg, 22 – 23 November 2011

SUMMARY REPORT

(Approved by the Group of Experts at the meeting 19 – 21 November 2012)

INTRODUCTION

The Chairperson of the Group of Experts welcomed the participants. 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 with the acceptance of the following additional items to be dealt with under agenda item 12 on other businesses:

- Presentation of a French Study on Nuclear Power Plants and Childhood Leukaemia
- Information on radioactive particles detected at a beach in Scotland
- Information on detection of enhanced concentrations of I-131 in air

2. APPROVAL OF THE SUMMARY REPORT OF THE MEETING HELD IN LUXEMBOURG ON 8 – 9 JUNE 2011

The Summary Report was approved with minor amendments¹.

3. INFORMATION BY THE COMMISSION

3.1. 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 focusing on the nuclear safety review of nuclear power plants in Europe which is currently undertaken in the light of the Fukushima accident.

¹ The approved Summary Report of the June 2011 meeting can be found under http://ec.europa.eu/energy/nuclear/radiation_protection/article_31_en.htm

3.2 Radioactive Waste Management and Transport

A representative of Unit D2 reported on the adoption of the *Council Directive establishing a Community Framework for the responsible and safe management of spent fuel and radioactive waste* and the follow-up activities related to this initiative.

In discussion, the Group of Experts emphasised the importance of the independence of radioactive waste management agencies within the EU as well as the emergency preparedness related to waste management.

Another representative of Unit D2 reported on the progress reached on the proposal to set up a *Community system for registration of carriers of radioactive materials*. The Commission had consulted, in line with the positive Group of Experts opinion of November 2009, Member States' experts, carriers and users on the administrative provisions. The draft proposal was adopted in August and is now being discussed by the European Economic and Social Committee.

3.3 Status of legislative projects

a. Revised Euratom Basic Safety Standards Directive (Euratom BSS)

On 29 September 2011, the European Commission adopted the Proposal for a *Council Directive laying down basic safety standards for protection against the dangers arising from exposure to ionising radiation [COM(2011)593]²*. The draft has been presented under Article 31 of the Euratom Treaty for the opinion of the Economic and Social Committee. The proposal is currently already being discussed in the Council's Working Party on Atomic Questions (AQQ). The Secretariat will keep the Group of Experts informed about progress with this matter.

b. Drinking water Directive

On 27 June 2011, the European Commission adopted the Draft proposal for a *Council Directive laying down the requirements for the protection of the health of the general public with regard to radioactive substances in water intended for human consumption*. On 27 October 2011, the draft received a positive opinion of the Economic and Social Committee. The proposal is currently being discussed in the Council's Working Party on Atomic Questions (AQQ). The Secretariat will keep the Group of Experts informed about progress with this matter.

c. Recast of foodstuff legislation

The European Parliament proposed in its opinion on the Proposal for a recast of *Council Regulation laying down maximum permitted levels of radioactive contamination of foodstuffs and feedingstuffs following a nuclear accident or any other case of radiological emergency* to change the legal basis for this initiative. This suggestion has not been taken up by the Commission and the Council. The Secretariat will keep the Group of Experts informed about progress with this matter.

d. Secure supply of radioisotopes for medical use

With regard to the secure supply of radioisotopes for medical use, a step-wise approach was suggested, starting with the establishment of a so-called *Observatory*, a voluntary

² The adopted proposal can be found on the Europa website under: http://ec.europa.eu/energy/nuclear/radiation_protection/radiation_protection_en.htm

agreement of stakeholders in the medical isotope production to coordinate the supply chain within the EU.

4. PRESENTATIONS FROM INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

4.1. International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP)

A representative of the ICRP reported on the first ICRP Symposium on the International System of Radiological Protection which has been held in Bethesda, Maryland, USA, 24 – 26 October 2011 in conjunction with the joint meetings of the ICRP Main Commission and Committees. The ICRP Symposium has been a success with approximately 400 participants from more than 25 countries. Several topical issues such as tissue reactions and radon have been discussed. The next ICRP Symposium is planned for 2013.

In October 2011, ICRP approved the following reports for publication:

- Radiological protection in Paediatric Diagnostic and Interventional Radiology
- Radiological Protection in Cardiology
- Radiological Protection in Fluoroscopically Guided Procedures Performed Outside Imaging Departments
- Compendium of Pre-ICRP Publication 103 Dose Coefficients for Use in Radiological Protection of Workers and Members of the Public.

The following draft reports have been published for consultation:

- Occupational Intakes of Radionuclides – Part 1
- Radiological Protection against Radon Exposure.

Finally, the interim report on Initial Lessons Learned from the NPP Accident in Japan vis-à-vis the ICRP System of Radiological Protection has been examined.

4.2 International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

The Director of the Division of Radiation, Transport and Waste Safety of the IAEA reported on the current work programme of the agency and the relations with the European Commission.

The IAEA welcomes the recent adoption of the *Council Directive establishing a Community Framework for the responsible and safe management of spent fuel and radioactive waste*, which emphasises the importance of the Joint Convention as well as the role of the IAEA Safety Standards at the European level. The Directive calls for regular peer reviews on national framework, competent regulatory authority and/or national programme with the aim of ensuring high safety standards in the safe management of spent fuel and radioactive waste.

The revised *Guidance on the Import/Export of Radioactive Sources* has been approved by the IAEA Board of Governors and General Conference in September 2011. The revised text allows now for EU regulation 1493/93.

After publication of the International BSS, regional workshops in Europe, Latin America, Asia and Africa will be organised to promote and assist the implementation of the recommendations.

The following safety guides are in preparation or planned:

- DS399: Radiation Safety in Medical Uses of Ionizing Radiation

- DS401: Justification of Practices
- DS419: Radiation Safety of Well Logging
- DS420: Radiation Safety of Nuclear Gauges
- DS421: Protection of the Public Against Indoor Exposure to Natural Sources of Radiation
- DS432: Radiation Protection of the Members of Public and the Environment
- DS453: Occupational Radiation Protection
- DS458: Radiation Safety and Regulatory Control of Consumer Products.

The *International Conference on Radiation Protection in Medicine – Setting the Scene for the Next Decade* which will be organised 3 – 7 December 2012, in Bonn, Germany will cover the protection of patients, workers, carers and comforters and the public.

4.3 World Health Organisation (WHO)

No representative of the WHO could attend the meeting.

4.4 Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA)

The representative of the NEA presented recent developments in the NEA programme in radiological protection, in nuclear emergency matters, occupational exposure, best available techniques, public health perspective in radiation protection, radiation protection of the environment, stakeholder involvement issues, and qualified human resources in radiological protection.

The Committee on Radiation Protection and Public Health (CRPPH) created a new Expert Group on the Radiological Protection Aspects of the Fukushima Accident (EGRPF).

On 27 – 28 October 2011, the Steering Committee for Nuclear Energy approved the NEA co-sponsorship of the new *Radiation Protection and Safety of Radiation Sources: International Basic Safety Standards*, as adopted by the IAEA Board of Governors in September 2011.

On 24 October 2011, the NEA received an official request from the Russian Federation to join the NEA.

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

4.5. International Radiation Protection Association (IRPA)

The representative of IRPA reported on the recently adopted IRPA vision for 2020 and on the role of IRPA. The IRPA representative updated the Group of Experts on the IRPA membership, and the recent composition of its Executive Council.

IRPA is currently mainly engaged in two topical issues:

- Improving Radiation Protection Culture
- Qualification & Certification of Radiation Protection Professionals.

The programme of IRPA foresees the *13th International Congress of the International Radiation Protection Association (IRPA)* to be held on 13 – 18 May 2012 in Glasgow, Scotland and a series of regional congresses:

- 9th Latin American IRPA Regional Congress on Radiation Protection and Safety, 15 – 19 April 2013, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- 4th African IRPA Regional Congress, 19 – 24 May 2014, Rabat, Morocco
- 4th European IRPA Regional Congress, 23 – 27 June 2014, Geneva, Switzerland.

4.6 Heads of European Radiological protection Competent Authorities (HERCA)

The Chairperson of HERCA presented functioning, internal and external policies, external relations and communication of HERCA. The topical working programme of HERCA covers the following issues organised in Working Groups:

- Outside workers & the dose passport
- Non-medical sources and practices
- Medical activities
- Emergencies
- Surveillance of collective doses from medical exposures.

More information can be found on the HERCA homepage www.herca.org.

5. SPONSORSHIP OF THE IAEA DRAFT SAFETY REQUIREMENTS: RADIATION PROTECTION AND SAFETY OF RADIATION SOURCES: INTERNATIONAL BASIC SAFETY STANDARDS BY THE EUROPEAN ATOMIC ENERGY COMMUNITY (EURATOM)

The *IAEA Draft Safety Requirements: Radiation Protection and Safety of Radiation Sources: International Basic Safety Standards* (International BSS) have been adopted by the Board of Governors on 12 September 2011. An interim version of the document has recently been published. The Director General of the IAEA, Mr. Yukiya Amano invites in a letter to José Manuel Barroso from 23 September 2011 the European Atomic Energy Community (EAEC) to sponsor the International BSS.

The Secretariat explained that the EAEC is already an official sponsor of the *IAEA Fundamental Safety Principles SF-1, (2006)* and that a similar sponsorship of the International BSS is envisaged. The European Commission has been part of the Joint Secretariat for the revision of the International BSS and followed closely the development of the International BSS. The Joint Secretariat for the International BSS would be interested to receive a decision on the sponsorship in the first half of 2012.

In discussion, the Group of Experts confirmed that the International BSS and the Euratom BSS offer a similar general framework of protection and are by and large consistent. The Group of Experts noted, however, that while the International BSS are setting standards for the whole world, European standards were always aiming at a higher level of ambition in radiation protection. In quite a number of areas the Euratom BSS are more detailed or more demanding than the International BSS, for instance with regard to building materials or the protection of aircrew, or with regard to non-cancer effects of ionizing radiation. Any EAEC sponsorship of the international standards cannot mean their adoption. Member States that will implement the Euratom Basic Safety Standards or transpose these in national laws, as is required for EU Member States, will also be in agreement with the international standards. By endorsing the International BSS, the EAEC is demonstrating its support. For non-EU countries this

should provide encouragement to look into the Euratom BSS as an example for national legislative developments.

In summary, the Group of Experts holds the view that a sponsorship of the International Basic Safety Standards, as defined in section B of the opinion, strongly encourages their implementation by IAEA Member States and their endorsement by other international organisations.

The sponsorship by the European Atomic Energy Community should be without prejudice to the inter-institutional decision making process on Euratom Basic Safety Standards, nor to possible amendments of the proposed Euratom BSS before their adoption by the Council.

The Group of Experts invites the Commission to transmit the opinion to the other sponsoring organisations and, in view of the unique responsibility of the EAEC in establishing binding European standards, to explore the possibility of reflecting this fact in the preamble of the International BSS.

The full text of the Opinion is available on the Europa website³.

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

6.1. Dose Constraints (WP Dose Constraints)

The Chairperson of the Working Party on Dose Constraints presented progress with this new working party.

The WP Dose Constraints held its first meeting on 6 October 2011. At this first meeting, the Working Party discussed the draft outline of the *Report on dose constraints in the EU: Analysis and guidance for Member States* and assigned drafting tasks to the members of the group. It was agreed to add a specific chapter covering the new issue of constraints for organ doses. To gain more insight, it was proposed to organise a one day brainstorming meeting with a limited number of additional experts covering various topical areas. The Working Party discussed also structure and content of the planned questionnaire on current practices and implementation of the concept of dose constraints. The questionnaire shall be sent to the Group of Experts. The results of this survey shall be incorporated in the report. Finally, a literature review has been started on dose constraints and the development of a bibliography on existing publications discussing dose constraints. The literature review will be annexed to the above mentioned report.

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

6.2. Medical Exposures (WP MED)

Progress report, a proposal for *European Guidelines on Cone Beam Computed Tomography (CBCT) for Dental and Maxillofacial Radiology* and a draft statement of the Group of Experts on the needs of European research in support of practical radiation protection were discussed.

a. Progress report

³ http://ec.europa.eu/energy/nuclear/radiation_protection/doc/art31/2011_11_22_opinion_bss.pdf

The Chairperson of WP MED reported on the recent activities corresponding to the last meeting of the working party, held on 11 – 12 October 2011. The reported status of on-going and new projects to assist Member States in the application and harmonisation of the Medical Exposure Directive (MED) is as follows:

- Follow-up of the projects EMAN (European Medical ALARA Network), MEDRAPET (Radiation Protection Training of Medical Professionals) and DOSE DATAMED II (European Population Doses from Medical Exposures) was made on the base of the presented reports. Workshops have been scheduled in Athens in April 2012 for the DDM II and MEDRAPET projects and in Vienna in June 2012 for EMAN.
- Medical Physics Expert (MPE) project's final draft report was received too late to allow its evaluation. Three members of the Group were nominated as critical reviewers and an initial discussion was made. It is expected the need of significant changes in the received draft report.
- Criteria for Acceptability of Medical Radiological Equipment project's draft final report was not completed and need to implement the feedback from the Dublin workshop held in September 2011. Three members of the WP MED were nominated as critical reviewers and an initial discussion of the received draft was held. It is very complex document with around 220 suspension levels proposed for about 30 equipment types. The compiled technical information is expected to be useful for Member States and the WP MED is trying to help in the refinement of the draft before submission to the plenary of the Group as possible European guidelines.
- CBCT for Dental and Maxillofacial Radiology: Evidence Based Guidelines document produced under the FP7 SEDENTEXCT project (2008-2011) was submitted to the WP MED to be considered as a potential European Guidelines. The document was considered appropriate to be published by the Commission as European Guidelines and it was suggested to the Secretariat to confirm the necessary administrative conditions. Further detail is available under point 6.2.b of the minutes.
- One tender was received in response to the Commission's call for tenders for Guidelines on risk analysis of accidental and unintended exposures in radiotherapy. It is expected to sign the contract by the end of the year.
- One tender was received in response to the Commission's call for tenders for a study on the Implementation of Council Directive 97/43/Euratom requirements concerning referral criteria for medical imaging in the European Union. It is expected to launch the contract by the end of the year.
- The Secretariat informed that the possible call of tenders for the topic on DRLs in paediatrics (suggested by the WP MED) will probably be delayed for 2013.
- It is expected to organize a dedicated session on the work made by the EC/Euratom in the area of radiation protection in medicine, during the International Conference on Protection in Medicine to be held in Bonn, from 3 – 7 December 2012. Potential topics of interest were suggested.

b. European Guidelines on Cone Beam Computed Tomography (CBCT) for Dental and Maxillofacial Radiology

A member of WP MED reported on the CBCT dental guidelines developed as part of the FP 7 SEDENTEXCT project. The WP MED review focused on methodology and not on clinical questions dealt with in the document. The bulk of the document is devoted to

justification and referral guidelines even though other questions, including optimization, dosimetry and QA are also covered. The grading of evidence approach adopted in the document reveals that there is a strong need of further research to support the guidelines and the document will need to be updated rather soon (within five years). Nevertheless, the quality of the document and the benefit it will have for the safe use of this emerging technology is obvious. Therefore the WP MED recommends to the Group of Experts to approve the document for publication in the Commission's Radiation Protection series as European Guidelines.

Couple of issues were pointed out concerning the draft CBCT guidelines, i.e. that there is a need of an introductory foreword at the beginning of the document and that texts dealing with radiation protection concepts and terminology should be further improved. The WP MED was asked to follow-up on those issues with the Contractor allowing for additional written comments by members of Group of Experts by 10 December 2011. Once the above issues have been resolved the Commission is invited to proceed with the publication, as suggested by WP MED.

c. Draft statement of the Article 31 Group of Experts on the needs of European research in support of practical radiation protection

After the discussion on this topic initiated by the WP MED in their meeting of April 2011, several proposals were received by e-mail and a voting was held on the suggested priorities trying to obtain a consensus summary for two proposals between the WP MED and the WP RIHSS. The agreement of the WP MED was to suggest the following 2 topics to the plenary of the Group of Experts for potential approval and submission to DG Research:

- Epidemiological studies on non cancer effects in diagnostic and interventional imaging, particularly in children.
- Development of user-friendly indicators of dose and risk to support justification and optimization of medical exposures.

Following a suggestion by the representative of DG Research in WP MED, an e-mail was sent on 26 October 2011 to the Secretary of MELODI (European Platform dedicated to low dose radiation risk research) informing them on this proposal. The two proposed topics were also presented by a member of WP MED and WP RIHSS at the MELODI workshop held on 2-4 November 2011 in Rome. The initial feedback was that the suggested topics are already included in the Strategic Research Agenda (SRA) maintained by MELODI; concerns were however expressed that they may be lost among the long list of SRA's topics.

Concerns were raised by Group of Experts members that important topics may be missed out in the short two-headline proposal. Couple of topics explicitly mentioned were the individual radiosensitivity (including the conclusions of the EU Scientific Seminar on *Individual Radiosensitivity* of 22 November 2011) and the radiation protection issues associated with the use of hybrid imaging modalities (e.g. PET-MRI). There was general agreement that the proposal needs to be expanded to provide better explanation of what is included in the two proposed headlines, etc. The Group of Experts were invited to make further proposals by email to the chairmen of WP MED and WP RIHSS.

Further discussion was held on the need of communicating the message of Group of Experts on research needs to other players and in particular to DG Research and Innovation. It was concluded that the current approach of inviting DG Research and Innovation to the meetings of Group of Experts will serve this need well.

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

6.3. 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 Website⁴. Due to an increased workload following the Fukushima event, the preparation of the proceedings of the Scientific Seminar 2010 is still delayed. It is hoped that the draft proceedings shall be available in spring 2012.

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. EU Scientific Seminar 2011 on Individual Radiosensitivity

The EU Scientific Seminar 2011 was held on 22 November 2011 on *Individual Radiosensitivity*. Internationally renowned scientists working in this field presented current knowledge on genetic pathways for the prediction of radiation effects, genetic tools to address individual radiosensitivity, potential of human genome sequencing, ethical aspects, and genetic signatures of radiation induced cancers. The presentations were followed by a round table discussion, in which the speakers and invited additional experts discussed potential policy implications and research needs.

The Chairperson of the WP RIHSS presented first and preliminary conclusions of the EU Scientific Seminar 2011.

All presentations given at the EU Scientific Seminar 2011 on *Individual Radiosensitivity* together with a short introductory text and the programme have been posted on the Europa Website⁵.

The Group of Experts congratulated the WP RIHSS for the organisation of this interesting and though provoking EU Scientific Seminar 2011.

c. Preparations for the EU Scientific Seminar 2012 on Protection of the Environment

Already at an earlier meeting the Group of Experts decided to hold the EU Scientific Seminar 2012 on *Protection of the Environment*. This decision has been confirmed by the Group of Experts at this meeting.

The WP RIHSS will soon start with the preparation of the programme.

d. 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.

⁴ The presentations can be found under http://ec.europa.eu/energy/nuclear/radiation_protection/scientific_seminar_en.htm

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

In November 2011, the report on *Recent scientific findings and publications on the health effects of Chernobyl - Summary report* has been published in the Radiation Protection Series of the European Commission as RP 170⁶.

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

7. PUBLIC EXPOSURE OF THE LENS OF THE EYE

At the June 2011 meeting, the Group of Experts recognised that additional information 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.

An expert presented the findings of a literature review on potential scenarios for public exposure of the lens of the eye and the respective dose estimations based on these scenarios. The results of this study will be published in a report on *Risk of radiation exposure of the lens of the eye for members of the public*.

A further literature review on radiation effects for different age groups is currently being prepared and will be discussed at the next meeting of the WP RIHSS. Later the review will be presented to the Group of Experts.

8. RADON IN DRINKING WATER

The Secretariat presented briefly the results of a survey within the Group of Experts on the issue of radon in drinking water. In order to support discussions on a Commission Proposal for a *Council Directive laying down the requirements for the protection of the health of the general public with regard to radioactive substances in water intended for human consumption* (see agenda item 3.3 b), the Group of Experts was asked to advise on dose coefficients for the ingestion of radon and related uncertainties and on the potential inclusion of this pathway in the calculation of the total indicative dose. The results can be summarised as follows:

Due to the large uncertainties concerning the dose coefficient for radon ingestion, it was recommended to exclude radon from the calculation of the indicative dose, but to introduce a separate indicative parameter for ²²²Rn. Some experts suggested 100 Bq/l as indicative parameter for ²²²Rn, others offered a range from 100 – 1000 Bq/l. The Experts recommended to include the contribution from the radon decay products ²¹⁰Pb and ²¹⁰Po in the calculation of the indicative dose.

9. SECURITY SCANNERS USING X-RAY – RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

A representative of the Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport (DG MOVE) updated the Group of Experts on the recent EU legislative developments in the area of aviation security. Earlier in November 2011 the Commission adopted two legal acts, Regulation (EU) No 1141/2011 and Implementing Regulation (EU) No 1147/2011, allowing airports and Member States to use security scanners for screening of air passengers. The use of security scanners is not mandatory and, at this stage, only security

⁶ The publication can be found under http://ec.europa.eu/energy/nuclear/radiation_protection/doc/publication/170.pdf.

scanners which do not use ionising radiation are added to the list of allowed methods for passenger screening for aviation security purposes.

A representative of the Directorate-General for Health and Consumers (DG SANCO) explained that the security scanners using ionizing radiation have been left out of the recent Commission regulations due to, among others, the lack of independent EU-level risk assessment. Therefore the Commission issued a mandate⁷ to the Scientific Committee on Emerging and Newly Identified Health Risks⁸ (SCENIHR) to assess the possible health effects of security scanners using ionising radiation. The Group of Experts has been invited to participate in the SCENIHR Working Group dealing with this issue and this contribution is much appreciated. The preparation of the SCENIHR opinion is underway, with a deadline for adoption in March 2012.

The Group of Experts representative in the SCENIHR WG on security scanners reported on the work done so far. The Working Group already met twice working on delivering an opinion in response to the given mandate; the Group of Experts representative was asked to draft, and contributed with, a section on the Euratom legislation. The main issue encountered relates to the central request of the mandate, i.e. quantification of the risk and the expected health detriment, where no reliable risk/detriment estimate can be made in a situation of very low individual doses spread over large population; in this case it seems more appropriate to ensure that the radiation protection framework is fully implemented rather than trying to estimate the additional cases of disease. The WG will meet once again by the end of the year, and up to three more meetings may be held by March 2012.

A member of the Group of Experts clarifies that in the Czech Republic a refusal to authorise the use of X-ray for security screening was based not on a risk assessment (for very much the same reasons as stated above) but on the existence of non-ionizing alternative, making the Czech authorities to conclude that the practice would not be justified. Nevertheless, this is obviously seen differently in other countries (UK, USA) where the X-ray screening technology is in use at airports. It should be noted that decisions of overseas authorities apply also to EU citizens, who are subject to the same screening methods at overseas airports.

The Chairperson of the Group of Experts stated that the Group of Experts is very interested in the SCENIHR's work on security scanners and further steps should be taken to improve the communication. The three corresponding members proposed from the Group of Experts have not been contacted by SCENIHR so far. The representative of DG SANCO confirms that this will be corrected promptly and the corresponding members will be updated on past developments and fully involved in future deliberations. The representative also confirms that the SCENIHR opinion (to be adopted by March 2012) will be presented to the Group of Experts at their next meeting in June 2012; a possible Commission decision to proceed with a policy action in this area could then wait for the Group of Experts opinion. The Secretariat will keep the full Group of Experts updated about the progress of the SCENIHR work.

⁷ http://ec.europa.eu/health/scientific_committees/emerging/docs/scenih_r_q_026.pdf

⁸ http://ec.europa.eu/health/scientific_committees/emerging/index_en.htm

10. CURRENT SITUATION WITH REGARD TO IMPORT CONTROLS ON FOOD FROM JAPAN AS WELL AS ON THE SCREENING OF SHIPS AND CONTAINERS

The Secretariat reported on the current situation regarding import controls on food and feedstuff from Japan and screening of ships and containers.

The recommendations on food controls have been further extended to the first quarter of 2012 with the amendment that controls for iodine are no longer required and one prefecture has been taken of the list.

After the Group of Expert has given an opinion in June 2011, the Commission has lifted its recommendations on the control of contamination of containers and conveyances.

11. EDUCATION AND TRAINING – ENETRAP II

The Chairperson of Group of Experts informed the Group of Experts about an invitation of the ENETRAP II project to nominate an Article 31 Group of Experts representative to join the ENETRAP II Advisory Board. The Secretariat received a similar invitation and nominated an expert from the radiation protection unit (DG ENER Unit D4).

The Group of Experts nominated a representative to join the ENETRAP II Advisory Board. The Chairperson of the Group of Experts will inform the ENETRAP II project accordingly.

12. OTHER BUSINESS

a. French Study on Nuclear Power Plants and Childhood Leukaemia

An expert from France presented a French Study on Nuclear Power Plants and Childhood Leukaemia which was recently published by the French Nuclear Safety Authority (ASN)⁹.

b. Recovery of radioactive particles from a beach in Scotland (Dalgety Bay)

An expert from the United Kingdom briefly informed the Group of Experts about the detection of radioactive particles at a public beach in Scotland. A major source of 76 MBq of Radium with a dose rate of 2 mSv/h at 0.3 m distance could be detected and recovered. The radioactive particles stem from military airplanes which were burnt at this beach during and after the Second World War. The beach has been well signed with warnings and access is registered. More information can be found on the webpage of the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA: <http://www.sepa.org.uk/>).

c. Detection of enhanced concentrations of I-131 in air in several European Member States

An expert from Hungary briefly informed the Group of Experts that the enhanced concentrations of I-131 in air detected in 2011 in several European Member States result from gaseous releases from an isotope production facility located in the vicinity of Budapest. The monitored emissions of I-131 stayed within the authorised limits for this installation.

⁹ More information can be found under <http://www.french-nuclear-safety.fr/index.php/English-version/News-releases/2012/Recommendations-about-the-risk-factors-involved-in-childhood-leukaemia>

13. DATES OF THE NEXT MEETINGS

The next meeting of the Group of Experts will be held on **20 – 21 June 2012** in meeting room EUFO 0001, **European Commission – Euroforum Building, 10, rue Robert Stumper – L-2557 Luxembourg – Gasperich.**

The November 2012 meeting of the Group of Experts is scheduled for **20 – 21 November 2012** in meeting room M6, **European Commission – Jean Monnet Building, rue Alcide de Gasperi – L-2920 Luxembourg – Kirchberg.**