



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR ENERGY

DIRECTORATE D – Nuclear Energy, Safety and ITER
Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety

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

Luxembourg, 8 – 9 November 2016

SUMMARY REPORT

(Approved by the Group of Experts at the meeting 17 – 18 May 2017)

INTRODUCTION

The Director of the Directorate D *Nuclear energy, safety and ITER*, welcomed the participants to this meeting of the Group of Experts. The Secretariat informed the Experts on apologies.

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was approved with the following additions: Under agenda item 5, two additional presentations will be given on "Emergency preparedness and response news from Finland" and on "Caesium -137 contamination at STUK's premises". Under any other business, the Secretariat will present a project (SAMIRA).

2. APPROVAL OF THE SUMMARY REPORT OF THE MEETING HELD ON 31 MAY – 2 JUNE 2016

The Summary Report of the meeting held on 31 May – 2 June 2016 has been approved without amendments and is published on the Europa website¹.

3. RULES OF PROCEDURE

The Group of Experts was invited to critically review the Rules of Procedure (Version 14 November 2007) in the light of modern governance and transparency rules. The Group discussed the document article by article.

The Article 31 Group of Experts agreed unanimously to amend and modernise the Rules of Procedure, in particular with regard to latest rules on transparency and conflict of interest. Members of the Group are invited to send comments to the Secretariat by 30 November 2016. A drafting group will prepare a proposal for revised Rules of Procedure to be discussed at the next meeting of the Article 31 Group of Experts in May 2017.

¹ The approved Summary Report of the May/June 2016 meeting can be found under <http://ec.europa.eu/energy/node/1183>

4. INFORMATION BY THE COMMISSION

4.1 Euratom co-ordination, legal matters and international relations

A representative of Unit D1 reported on recent activities and initiatives in the area of Euratom co-ordination, legal matters and international relations, most notably on the Euratom report under the Convention on Nuclear Safety. The report was adopted in September 2016. The Euratom Community has also finalised questions on other contracting parties' national reports.

The representative of Unit D1 also presented the topical peer review mechanism, with an emphasis on the four technical topics under the heading "ageing management", and the upcoming ENSREG conference.

4.2 Nuclear Energy, Nuclear Waste and Decommissioning

A representative of Unit D2 reported on recent activities and initiatives in the domain of Nuclear Energy, Nuclear Waste and Decommissioning:

The Nuclear Illustrative Programme for the Community provides an overview of investment needs at EU level in the nuclear sector. It was published by the Commission on 4 April 2016 for the opinion of European Economic and Social Committee, whose opinion was adopted in September and will be taken into account in the final PINC.

With regard to investments in the nuclear sector, Article 41 of the Euratom Treaty requires that an investor shall communicate to the Commission investment projects in the nuclear industry (new installations, replacements or conversions...). This notification is followed by discussions held between the Commission and the investor about the aspects of the investment related to the objectives of the Euratom Treaty.

Regarding to Council Directive 2011/70/Euratom on the safe and responsible management of spent fuel and radioactive waste, review of national reports is finalised with the review of national programmes still ongoing due to some late notifications. A report to the European Parliament and the Council (including EU inventory) is under internal review and opinions of the national programmes are expected in 2017.

The second EC report to Council and Parliament on Directive 2006/117/EURATOM, on the supervision and control of shipments of radioactive waste and spent fuel is also expected for 2017, taking into account the opinion of the Advisory Committee meeting in January 2017.

Regarding cooperation with IAEA, work is ongoing in the areas of harmonization of radioactive waste/spent fuel inventory reporting and a peer review assistance to Member States (ARTEMIS tailored to needs of Directive 2011/70/EURATOM). Also support is provided to the IAEA conference on safe radioactive waste management at the end of November 2016.

The Decommissioning Funding Group focuses on funding schemes and costs; the scope of the group shall be enlarged to cover Directive 2011/70/EURATOM. Currently work programme for 2017-2018 is under discussion with the next meeting scheduled for March 2017. Finally, the Decommissioning Assistance Programme is currently focusing on the Implementation of Council Regulations for the financial assistance to three decommissioning programmes (Bohunice V1 – SK, Kozloduy 1-4 – BG, Ignalina – LT); a mid-term evaluation is due end of 2017. Concerning the programme, a special report from an European Court of Auditors was published in September 2016.

In the area of education and training in the nuclear energy sector, a feasibility study in support of the development of a level playing field for nuclear safety assessment by regulators and technical safety organisations in the EU is currently being finalised, with the practical pilot training having taken place and the final report including analysis and conclusions being prepared.

4.3 Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety

A representative of Unit D3 reported on the Unit's recent activities and initiatives and on the latest developments in the domain of radiation protection and nuclear safety. More specifically, the following topics were covered:

- Euratom Legislation:
 - The recently adopted "Food and Feed Regulation",
 - Transposition of the "Basic Safety Standards (BSS) Directive",
 - Transposition of the "Nuclear Safety Directive (NSD)",
 - State of play of the "Euratom Drinking Water Directive (E-DWD)"
- Article 35 verification missions
- EURDEP
- ECURIE
- Article 37 Commission Opinions

5. EMERGING ISSUES IN MEMBER STATES WITH POTENTIAL IMPLICATIONS ON A EUROPEAN

In this newly created rubric the following presentation were offered:

- Citizens measurement: their role in radiation protection (emergency etc) - the pros and cons
- Hungarian experience gained regarding the implementation of the EU BSS through the changes in the regulatory system, an IAEA IRRS and an IAEA EPREV mission
- Emergency preparedness and response news from Finland
- Caesium -137 contamination at STUK's premises in March 2016

Each of the presentations triggered lively discussions and stimulated an exchange of experience. The Group of Experts thanked the experts for their interesting presentations.

The Group of Experts welcomed this new section on the agenda of the Article 31 Group of Experts and encouraged other members to embark on this initiative.

6. ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE TRANSPOSITION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW BASIC SAFETY STANDARDS DIRECTIVE

A representative of Unit D3 reported on an additional project in the area of emergency preparedness and response. The contractor of this project conducted a survey within 10 MS (5 nuclear and 5 non-nuclear MS) with a view to determine their strategies and plans for the transposition and implementation of the EP&R provisions of the BSS Directive, taking into

account the outcomes of previous studies on the same topic, respectively [ENCO, 2013] and [RISKAUDIT, 2016].

The study was limited to 10 countries rather than all 28 MS to provide useful results despite the limited timescale of the study, and yet provide representative findings.

On basis of criteria such as the geographical representativeness within the EU, the potential for cross-border impact in case of an emergency situation and the advancement in the transposition and the implementation of the BSS Directive, the following 10 MS were selected: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Germany, Denmark, France, Croatia, Ireland and Luxembourg.

Topics for which guidelines or recommendations would be welcomed are listed below according to the importance of the need expressed by the 10 selected MS, starting with guidelines felt most useful:

- Transition from an emergency exposure situation to an existing exposure situation including recovery and remediation
- Generic criteria for particular protective measures, default triggers, operational criteria for particular actions
- Protection strategies for the public and optimisation approaches
- Reference levels for public exposure
- Involvement of stakeholders
- Reference levels for emergency occupational exposure
- Assessment of potential emergency exposure situations and associated public and emergency occupational exposures
- Information to the public (likely to be affected or actually affected in the event of an emergency)
- Prior information and training for emergency workers and all other persons with duties and responsibilities in emergency response
- International cooperation
- Health protection of emergency workers

A two-day workshop has been planned on 15-16 November 2016 in Brussels with the attendance of the relevant organisations from all MS, EU Candidate Countries, and EFTA Countries, having the aim to present and discuss the national transposition and implementation plans and activities, and the present draft guidelines.

7. QUESTIONS AND ISSUES IN RADIATION PROTECTION FROM THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COMMITTEE (STC) FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE ARTICLE 31 GROUP OF EXPERTS

The Chair of the Working Group on Radiation Protection of the Scientific and Technical Committee (STC) presented a document with questions and issues in radiation protection which had been prepared by this STC Working Group and submitted to the Article 31 Group of Experts for consideration.

In discussion, the experts noted that while some of the questions and issues raised could be discussed by Article 31 Working Parties other questions would be better addressed to other competent bodies.

The Article 31 Group of Experts agreed to transfer some of the questions to the Working Parties Medical Exposures, Natural sources of ionising radiation and Research Implications

on Health and Safety Standards. The Chair of the Article 31 Group of Experts will attend the next STC meeting to report on the views of the Article 31 Group of Experts.

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

8.1 Natural Radiation Sources – Setting up of a new Working Party on exposure to natural sources of ionising radiations

The Secretariat presented a slightly modified mandate of the new *Working Party on exposure to natural sources of ionising radiations (WP NAT)*.

The Article 31 Group of Experts approved the amended mandate and created the group. The Group agreed on the membership of the newly created Working Party. The first meeting is planned to be held in early 2017.

8.2. Medical Exposures (WP MED)

In the absence of the WP MED chair and vice-chair, the Secretariat reported on the progress of tasks falling within the scope of this group. The WP MED did not hold a meeting in October 2016 due to the delay in launching some of the projects within its remit and the staff situation in the Secretariat. The following main points were reported:

- The publication of "Radiation Protection 185: European Guidelines on Diagnostic Reference Levels for Paediatric Imaging" has been put on hold pending a revision of the relevant Commission procedure.
- No offers were received in response to call for tenders ENER/D3/2016-282 "European Study on Clinical Diagnostic Reference Levels for X-ray Medical Imaging". The Commission took a decision to revise the specifications and republish the call before the end of the year.
- A contract for "Evaluation of national actions regarding the transposition of Council Directive 2013/59/Euratom's requirements in the medical sector" was signed between the Commission and consortium led by the European Federation of Organisations for Medical Physics (EFOMP) on 6 May. A survey of the Member States' relevant activities was completed in late October and a workshop will be held on 24 - 25 January 2017 in Brussels.

The next meeting of the WP MED will be held on the day before the Article 31 GoE next plenary meeting, 16 May 2017. The agenda will cover a number of issues, most importantly the 2013/59/Euratom transposition in the medical area, progress with establishing clinical diagnostic reference levels and, as requested by the plenary, presentations of HERCA work on generic justification of new types of medical practice and of ESR work on computerised decision support systems for medical imaging.

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

a. Programme of the next EU Scientific Seminar on Emerging Issues with regard to Organ Doses

The Chair of the WP RIHSS presented the draft programme for the *EU Scientific Seminar on Emerging Issues with regard to Organ Doses* which had been postponed and is now scheduled to take place in the afternoon of 17 May 2017. The following presentations are currently foreseen:

- Cognitive and Cerebrovascular Effects Induced by Low Dose Ionizing Radiation
- Cardiovascular Risk from Exposure to Low-dose and Low-dose-rate Ionizing Radiation
- Issues related to the concept of organ dose
- New data regarding the lens of the eye
- Evaluation of the risk of organ exposure – risk related approach versus effective dose approach

The Group of Experts approved the draft programme and the new date for the *EU Scientific Seminar on Emerging Issues with regard to Organ Doses*.

b. Topic of the subsequent EU Scientific Seminar

Following a proposal from the WP RIHSS, the Article 31 Group of Experts agreed to hold the subsequent *EU Scientific Seminar on Epigenetic effects – potential impact on radiation protection*. It is currently planned to hold the seminar on 8 November 2017.

9. EUROPEAN GUIDANCE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE EURATOM BSS WITH RESPECT TO THE RADIATION PROTECTION EXPERT AND RADIATION PROTECTION OFFICER

At the May/June 2016 meeting of the Article 31 Group of Experts, a representative of the ENETRAP III project presented the draft *European Guidance on the Implementation of the Requirements of the Euratom BSS with respect to the Radiation Protection Expert and Radiation Protection Officer* with the aim to seek approval to publish the document in the radiation protection series of the European Commission. During discussion, members of the Article 31 Group of Experts raised various questions, in particular with regard to the applicability of the provided guidance to large medical installations. Members of the Group of Experts were invited to send comments on the report and their views on a potential publication of the report in the radiation protection series of the European Commission to the Secretariat.

At this meeting the Secretariat presented a summary of the comments made by Article 31 Experts on the ENETRAP III Report.

The Article 31 Group of Experts agreed to send this summary of comments to the ENETRAP project for their consideration. Depending on the response to the comments, the topic may be discussed again at one of the next meetings.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

Three issues were raised under this agenda item:

- The current chair of the Article 31 Group of Experts informed the Group that his term as chair ends at the end of the May 2017 meeting and that he will not stand for another term due to a new job assignment. A new chair shall be elected at the beginning of the November 2017 meeting.
- An expert informed the group about activities in a project called MetroNorm and proposed to invite a representative to an upcoming meeting of the Article 31 Group of Experts for information and exchange of views.

- The Secretariat reported on a new initiative called "Strategic Agenda for Medical, Industrial and Research Applications of nuclear and radiation technology" (SAMIRA), which will systematically identify issues relating to the use of nuclear and radiation technology outside the nuclear energy sector and propose relevant actions on a European level. The SAMIRA package consisting of: (i) a European study, to be performed in 2016-2017, (ii) an international conference, to be held in the end of 2017, and (iii) a Commission proposal for a strategic agenda, to be adopted in 2018. The call for tenders for the study was launched in October; offers should be submitted by 18 November 2016.

11. DATES OF THE NEXT MEETINGS

May 2017

The next meeting of the Group of Experts will be held **17 – 18 May 2017**, in Room E, European Convention Center Luxembourg, 1, rue du Fort Thüngen, L-1499 Luxembourg (Kirchberg).

November 2017

The ***November 2017 meeting*** of the Group of Experts is scheduled for **8 – 9 November 2017**, in Room E, European Convention Center Luxembourg, 1, rue du Fort Thüngen, L-1499 Luxembourg (Kirchberg).