



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

Luxembourg, 18 – 19 November 2014

SUMMARY REPORT

(Approved by the Group of Experts by written procedure 2 March 2015)

INTRODUCTION

The Chairperson of the Group of Experts welcomed the participants. The Secretariat informed the Group of Experts about recent changes in membership and about apologies of members who could not attend the meeting. The Group of Experts warmly welcomed a representative from the Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH), Switzerland, who joined the group as observer.

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was approved without amendments.

2. APPROVAL OF THE SUMMARY REPORT OF THE MEETING HELD IN LUXEMBOURG ON 4 – 5 JUNE 2014

The Summary Report was approved without amendments¹.

3. PROCEDURAL ASPECTS – END OF THE 2010 – 2015 TERM OF THIS GROUP OF EXPERTS

The Secretariat recalled that the five year term of this Group of Experts will come to an end on 30 April 2015 and that the current meeting will be the last regular meeting of this group. The Secretariat informed the group about the procedure for nominating experts for the term 2015 - 2020.

Some honourable members informed the group that they will not stand for another term.

The GoE thanked these experts for their active participation and dedication to the group.

¹ The approved Summary Report of the June 2014 meeting can be found under <http://ec.europa.eu/energy/node/1183>

4. INFORMATION BY THE COMMISSION

4.1. Nuclear Safety

A representative of Unit D1 reported on recent initiatives in the area of nuclear safety. The main policy initiatives concern

- The implementation of the current Nuclear Safety Directive 2009/71/Euratom and the evaluation of the implementation reports collected in 2014 from Member States;
- The adoption of the amended Nuclear Safety Directive on 8 July 2014 (OJ L 219, of 25.7.14 p. 42);
- The European Energy Security Strategy [COM(2104) 330 final] and its implications on the nuclear safety policy, in particular with a view to the assessment of investments according to Article 41 of the Euratom Treaty, the assessment of international agreements of Member States with Third countries according to Article 103 of the Euratom Treaty and the launch of a new Nuclear Illustrative Programme (PINC);
- At international level, the preparation for the Diplomatic Conference convened to explore a possible amendment of the Convention on Nuclear Safety (CNS).

4.2 Radioactive Waste Management and Transport

A representative of Unit D2 updated the Group of Experts on activities in relation to Council Directive 2011/70/Euratom, of 19 July 2011, *establishing a Community Framework for the responsible and safe management of spent fuel and radioactive waste* which was to be transposed by the Member States by 23 August 2013. The representative of Unit D2 provided the experts with an overview on initiatives related to facilitating the correct transposition and implementation of the Directive by the Member States. The Commission is currently reviewing the transposition of the Directive and preparing for the analysis of the national programmes.

4.3 Status of legislative projects

Maximum permitted levels of radioactive contamination of food and feed following a nuclear accident or any other case of radiological emergency

The Secretariat reported on progress with the *Revision of Council Regulation 3954/87/Euratom laying down maximum permitted levels of radioactive contamination of foodstuffs and of feedingstuffs following a nuclear accident or any other radiological emergency*.

The draft proposal for a Council Regulation on which the Article 31 Group of Experts gave an opinion on 21 November 2012 has been adopted by the Commission on 8 August 2013 and transmitted to the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC). The latter adopted a favourable opinion without comments on 16 October 2013. The final proposal for a Council Regulation was adopted on 10 January 2014. The Council Working Group for Atomic Questions (AQG) discussed the Commission's proposal during Hellenic Presidency and achieved agreement during the Italian Presidency. The Secretariat updated the Group of Experts on the amendments agreed during these negotiations, also with regard to the consultation of the Article 31 Group of Experts. Discussions in the ENVI Committee of the European Parliament are foreseen for spring 2015.

5. TRANSPOSITION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF RECENTLY ADOPTED DIRECTIVES

5.1 Activities related to the transposition and implementation of the new Basic Safety Standards Directive

Under this agenda item, the Group of Experts discussed various activities related to the transposition and implementation of the recently adopted new Basic Safety Standards Directive (BSS). The Chair of the Group of Experts introduced the topic and presented the Chair's views on the importance of supporting the Member States in the transposition and implementation of the BSS.

The Secretariat presented the European Commission strategy for monitoring and supporting the transposition and implementation of Directive 2013/59/Euratom. In 2014, a project has been launched for the "Evaluation of Member States' Strategies and Plans for the Transposition of the Basic Safety Standards Directive (Council Directive 2013/59/Euratom)". The objective of this project is to evaluate already in the early phase of the transposition period Member States' strategies and plans for the transposition and implementation of the new BSS. This evaluation shall facilitate the detection of issues, an exchange of first experiences and resolutions, and the identification of good practices. The evaluation shall particularly lead to the identification of topical issues which require further attention, action and activities. The project comprises the organisation of a general workshop discussing the BSS as a whole and a series of topical workshops. The project shall start in the beginning of 2015.

An expert of the group presented HERCA's Action Plan in relation to the transposition and implementation of Directive 2013/59/Euratom (Euratom BSS). HERCA's role is mainly focussing on the practical implementation of the Directive, and can be summarised as acting as a platform to identify and discuss practical and technical regulatory problems, to exchange national approaches and to inform about anticipated studies and their results relating to the implementation of the BSS. Concrete actions are proposed with regard to the thematic areas emergency preparedness and response, medical exposures, non-medical imaging exposures, radon, and RPE/RPO. The action plan can be found on the HERCA webpage (http://www.herca.org/herca_news.asp?newsID=43).

Another expert reported on the *Workshop on the Establishment of National Radon Action Plans* – a joint initiative of the French ASN and the Norwegian NRPA – held in Paris 30 September – 2 October 2014. The main objectives of the workshop were:

- To facilitate the preparation or updating of the national action plans for reducing radon exposure by jointly addressing steps and activities in the implementation of the requirements in the EU BSS
- To provide a forum for European countries to exchange information, experience and challenges related to the existing national strategies for reducing radon exposure.

The workshop was attended by some 90 experts, 33 of them giving presentations, from authorities from twenty European countries, USA, Canada, and Russia, and from EC, HERCA, IAEA, WHO, and the European Radon Association (ERA). More information can be found on the webpage of ASN (<http://www.french-nuclear-safety.fr/ASN/Professional-events/Radon-national-action-plan-workshop>).

The Group of Experts welcomed the presentation of these activities which triggered many questions and comments.

In discussion with the international organisations engaged in supporting the implementation of the international BSS, it was made clear that there is a considerable difference between the legally binding character of the Euratom BSS and the requirements in the international BSS which are more seen as benchmarks.

The Group of Experts finally noted that the different activities of the various actors involved in the support of the transposition and implementation of the BSS need coordination in order to avoid duplication of efforts.

5.2 Activities related to the transposition and implementation of the new Euratom Drinking Water Directive

Member States are required to transpose the Euratom Drinking Water Directive – Council Directive 2013/51/Euratom – in their national legislation before 28 November 2015. Information about the new Euratom Drinking Water Directive is available on the Europa website under Radiation Protection². The Commission is planning to support the Member States during the transposition phase. As a first step, a questionnaire has been sent to Member States in order to nominate a competent authority and to collect information on national transposition plans and possible difficulties encountered. Based on this information the Commission will be organising a workshop on 10 December 2014. It is planned that the requirements in the Drinking Water Directive become a standard agenda item during Article 35 verifications.

6. PRESENTATIONS FROM INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

6.1. International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP)

The representative of the ICRP presented the structure of ICRP and reported on recent and upcoming publications and publications which are in consultation. An overview of the work programme of the five ICRP Committees was given. Finally, the ICRP representative announced that ICRP 2015 – the 3rd *International Symposium on the System of Radiological Protection* – will take place on 20 – 22 October 2015, in Seoul, Korea.

More information on ICRP can be found on the ICRP homepage <http://www.icrp.org/>.

6.2 International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

The representative of the IAEA informed the Group of Expert that the final version of the International Basic Safety Standards³ has been published. Further to this the IAEA representative reported on the current work programme of the agency, in particular on the programme on patient protection, on the programme on occupational radiation protection, on the programme to strengthen the capabilities for radiation protection of workers in emergency situation, on the development of a radon programme, and on the harmonisation of reference levels for foodstuffs and drinking water contaminated following a nuclear accident. Finally, the IAEA representative informed about the upcoming *International*

² See <http://ec.europa.eu/energy/en/topics/nuclear-energy/radiation-protection/radioactivity-drinking-water>

³ Radiation protection and safety of radiation sources: International basic safety standards, General Safety Requirements Part 3, No. GSR Part 3, STI/PUB/1578, Vienna – International Atomic Energy Agency, 2014

Conference on Occupational Radiation Protection which will be held in Vienna 1 – 5 December 2014.

More information on IAEA can be found on the IAEA homepage <https://www.iaea.org/front>.

6.3 World Health Organisation (WHO)

The representative of the WHO presented role and structure of WHO and WHO's programmatic areas of work, in particular the radiation related activities. WHO is strongly engaged in radon and environmental health, drinking water quality, preparedness for nuclear and radiological emergencies, and medical applications of ionizing radiation. Further to this, the WHO is involved in activities to support the implementation of the international BSS, in particular in the medical sector.

More information on WHO can be found on the WHO homepage <http://www.who.int/en/>.

6.4 Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA)

No representative of the NEA could attend the meeting.

6.5. International Radiation Protection Association (IRPA)

The President of IRPA presented the status of IRPA, IRPA's vision, selected strategic priorities of IRPA, and IRPA activities in the areas *Radiation Protection in a Changing Society* and *Radiation Protection Culture*. The next IRPA International Conference IRPA14 will take place in Cape Town, South Africa, 9 – 13 May 2016.

More information on IRPA can be found on the IRPA homepage <http://www.irpa.net/>.

6.6. Heads of European Radiation protection Competent Authorities (HERCA)

The representative of HERCA reported on the 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; and surveillance of collective doses from medical exposures. HERCA's action plan in relation to the transposition and implementation of the BSS is mentioned under agenda item 5.1.

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

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

7.1. Dose Constraints (WP Dose Constraints)

The Chairperson of the Working Party summarised the work performed from June 2011 to September 2012 and presented a compilation of information collected during that period. It is proposed to offer this compilation to the incoming new Article 31 Group of Experts as a basis for a reinstatement of the Working Party and a possible finalisation of the work programme.

The Group of Experts emphasised the importance to continue the work performed by the WP Dose Constraints and agreed with the proposal by the Chairperson of the Working Party.

7.2. Medical Exposures (WP MED)

a. Progress report

The Chairman of WP MED reported on the group's activities corresponding to the last meeting held on 8 – 9 October 2014. WP MED followed the work of international organisations (HERCA, IAEA, ICRP and WHO) and provided advice on Commission's activities on radiation protection in medical exposure.

In the specified period WP MED provided critical review and advice on the PiDRL (Diagnostic Reference Levels for Paediatric Imaging) project funded by DG ENER. The website of this project is: <http://www.eurosafeimaging.org/pidrl>. This 27-month project started in December 2013 under the lead of the European Society of Radiology. The project is intended to provide diagnostic reference levels (DRLs) for children and promote their use so as to advance towards optimisation of radiation protection of paediatric patients, with a focus on computed tomography, interventional radiology and digital projection imaging. The specific objectives are to:

- agree on a methodology for establishing and using DRLs for paediatric imaging, and
- update and extend the European DRLs to cover more procedures and a wider patient age/weight range.

WP MED completed the list of topics with the main changes in the new BSS Directive 2013/59/Euratom in relation to 97/43/Euratom. These topics are expected to be discussed as part of the planned Commission work on facilitating the process of transposition to the national regulations, and some of them could require further clarifications or guidance.

Future work of the Working Party shall cover:

- Further review and advice on the PiDRL project. Interim report was received at the beginning of November and the final report will be submitted at the end of 2015.
- A new project to update the European Diagnostic Reference Levels for medical imaging of adults. The project will probably be launched in 2016.
- The list of the main changes in the new BSS Directive 2013/59/Euratom in relation to 97/43/Euratom will be reviewed and, if necessary, revised during the coming meetings.
- WP MED could suggest new projects if appropriate in the future, especially for the transposition and implementation of the new BSS.

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

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

a. Proceedings of the EU Scientific Seminars 2013 on Radiation induced long-term health effects after medical exposure

The Group of Experts approved the draft proceedings of the *EU Scientific Seminar 2013 on Radiation induced long-term health effects after medical exposure* for publication, as RP 182, in the Radiation Protection Series of the European Commission.

b. Preparation of the EU Scientific Seminar 2014 on Fukushima – lessons learned and issues

The *EU Scientific Seminar 2014 on Fukushima – lessons learned and issues* took place in the afternoon of 18 November 2014. Internationally renowned scientists presented current knowledge of the accident in Fukushima and presented

- Introduction to the Accident at Fukushima Dai-ichi Nuclear Power Station
- Expected influence of the accident on thyroid cancers
- Exposure and doses – lessons learned
- Risk assessment – lessons learned
- Worker dose assessment – lessons learned
- Emergency preparedness – discussions on a review of the current strategy
- Ethical issues debated after Fukushima

The presentations were followed by a round table discussion, in which the speakers, invited additional experts and the GoE discussed potential policy implications and research needs.

All presentations given at the *EU Scientific Seminar 2014 on Fukushima – lessons learned and issues* together with a short introductory text and the programme are available on the Europa Website⁴. Summaries of the presentations and the round-table discussion will be published together with the conclusions the GoE drew after the seminar as proceedings in the Radiation Protection Series of the European Commission later in 2015.

The Chairperson of the WP RIHSS presented first and preliminary conclusions of the EU Scientific Seminar 2014.

The Group of Experts congratulated the WP RIHSS for the organisation of this interesting EU Scientific Seminar 2014.

c. Topics for the EU Scientific Seminar 2015

The Chairperson of the WP RIHSS proposed topics for the EU Scientific Seminar 2015. After some discussion, the Group of Experts agreed to hold the EU Scientific Seminar 2015 on *Risk communication*.

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

8. EUROPEAN PLATFORM FOR OCCUPATIONAL RADIATION EXPOSURE – ESOREX

The Secretariat updated the Group of Experts on progress with the establishment of a European Platform for Occupational Radiation Exposure (ESOREX). The main objective of this platform is to allow representatives from national dose registers and from dosimetry services to discuss emerging issues, assess dose trends, and exchange experience. The project has started in December 2012 and will be finalised by December 2015. At a workshop held 16 – 17 September 2014 in Paris, the contractor presented the draft platform to representatives from national dose registers and from dosimetry services. The respective competent authorities of EU Member States are now invited to designate national contact points for ESOREX. A fully operational ESOREX Platform shall be presented at the 2nd ESOREX workshop which will take place in Paris June/July 2015. The Secretariat asked the Group of

⁴ The presentations can be found under <http://ec.europa.eu/energy/node/1216>

Experts to assist in informing the representative of their respective national dose registry about this project.

The Group of Experts thanked the Secretariat for this update on progress with the ESOREX Platform.

9. PROJECT TO DEVELOP TECHNICAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MONITORING INDIVIDUALS FOR OCCUPATIONAL INTAKES OF RADIONUCLIDES

The Secretariat updated the Group of Experts on progress with the project to establish European *Technical Recommendations for Monitoring Individuals for Occupational Intake of Radionuclides*. The project has been launched in May 2014 with duration of 24 months. It is planned to present the draft *Technical Recommendations for Monitoring Individuals for Occupational Intake of Radionuclides* to the Article 31 Group of Experts as soon as a draft becomes available. It is also planned to publish the final result in the Radiation Protection Series of the European Commission.

The Group of Experts thanked the Secretariat for this information.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

As this was the final regular meeting during the current mandate of the Group of Experts, the Chairperson took the occasion to summarise work activities and achievements of this Group during the term 2010 – 2015. The Chairperson thanked all experts for their dedication and active involvement during these five years.

11. DATES OF THE NEXT MEETINGS

The next meeting of the Group of Experts will be held on **10 – 11 June 2015**, in meeting room M4, **European Commission – Jean Monnet Building, rue Alcide de Gasperi – L-2920 Luxembourg – Kirchberg**.

The November 2015 meeting of the Group of Experts is scheduled for **18 – 19 November 2015**, in meeting room M6, **European Commission – Jean Monnet Building, rue Alcide de Gasperi – L-2920 Luxembourg – Kirchberg**.