



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

**Luxembourg, 14 – 15 November 2018**

### **Draft SUMMARY REPORT**

(Approved by the Group of Experts at the meeting 12 – 13 June 2019)

#### **INTRODUCTION**

The Head of Unit *Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety* opened the meeting and welcomed the Group of Experts.

The Article 31 Group of Experts welcomed Norway, represented by the Norwegian Radiation Protection Authority, as new observer to the group.

The Secretariat informed the experts on presence and apologies for this meeting.

#### **1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

The draft Agenda was adopted without amendments.

#### **2. APPROVAL OF THE SUMMARY REPORT OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12 – 13 JUNE 2018**

The Summary Report of the meeting held in Luxembourg on 12 – 13 June 2018 has been approved without amendments and is published on the Europa website<sup>1</sup>.

#### **3. INFORMATION BY THE COMMISSION**

The Head of Unit *Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety* updated the group on key priorities for the Commission's work.

A representative of DG SANTE presented the work of the Steering Group on health promotion, disease prevention and management of non-communicable diseases and its subgroup on proton therapy centres.

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<sup>1</sup> The approved Summary Report of the June 2018 meeting can be found under <https://ec.europa.eu/energy/en/group-experts>

The Group of Experts welcomed these presentations and expressed its interest to establish a regular information exchange and close cooperation with the subgroup on proton therapy centres.

#### **4. ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE TRANSPOSITION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF RECENT DIRECTIVES (BASIC SAFETY STANDARDS, NUCLEAR SAFETY, DRINKING WATER)**

The Commission presented a brief overview of the European Commission activities related to the transposition and implementation of recent Directives, notably the Basic Safety Standards Directive, the Nuclear Safety Directive and the Drinking Water Directive.

The Article 31 Group of Experts asked to be regularly informed about further developments.

#### **5. FOOD AND FEED – EXTENSION OF THE POST-CHERNOBYL LEGISLATION**

At the June 2018 meeting, the Commission informed the Article 31 Group of Experts about the expiry date of the Post-Chernobyl legislation (Council Regulation 733/2008 as amended by Council Regulation 1048/2009) in March 2020. The Group advised the Commission to extend the Post-Chernobyl legislation beyond 2020 and created an ad-hoc working party to prepare a draft Opinion of the Group on this issue.

At this meeting, the Secretariat presented the draft opinion for discussion and adoption. Further to this, the Secretariat informed the Group of Experts that the Commission Legal Service is currently exploring possible legislative ways for this extension.

In discussion, several experts reported that in the last few years, the number of cases in which the permitted levels have been exceeded in imported products has been very limited. Therefore, these experts suggested that in case the legislative option chosen includes a review of Commission Regulation (EC) 1635/2006<sup>2</sup>, the Commission could reconsider some of the requirements on intensity and frequency of control measurements. Some other experts expressed a preference for keeping the requirements on intensity and frequency of control measurements as they are.

Finally, the Article 31 Group of Experts adopted an Opinion on the Prolongation of the latest Post-Chernobyl Regulation – Council Regulation 733/2008 amended by Council Regulation 1048/2009. The Opinion is published on the Europa website<sup>3</sup>.

#### **6. PROTECTION OF PERSONS REPORTING ON BREACHES OF UNION LAW**

A representative of DG JUST presented the Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of persons reporting on breaches of Union law (COM(2018) 218 final). As the proposal lists Article 31 of the Euratom Treaty as one of its legal bases, the Commission brought the proposal to the attention of the Article 31 Group of Experts asking the group for an Opinion.

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<sup>2</sup> Commission Regulation (EC) 1635/2006 laying down detailed rules for the application of Council Regulation (EEC) 737/90 (which has been replaced by Council Regulation 733/2008)

<sup>3</sup> The adopted Opinion on the Prolongation of the latest Post-Chernobyl Regulation – Council Regulation 733/2008 amended by Council Regulation 1048/2009 can be found under <https://ec.europa.eu/energy/en/group-experts>

The Article 31 Group of Experts discussed the proposal and the elements to be included in an Opinion. The group agreed to adopt the Opinion on the proposal by written procedure. The Opinion was adopted on 30 November 2018 and is published on the Europa website<sup>4</sup>.

## **7. STRATEGIC AGENDA FOR MEDICAL, INDUSTRIAL AND RESEARCH APPLICATIONS OF NUCLEAR AND RADIATION TECHNOLOGY (SAMIRA)**

The Commission presented the status and latest developments of the Strategic Agenda for Medical, Industrial and Research Applications of nuclear and radiation technology (SAMIRA). The SAMIRA initiative is intended to cover a broad range of safety and sustainability issues in the field of non-power applications with the aim to identify areas where EU action is needed.

The Article 31 Group of Experts took note of the development of this initiative and suggested to be updated on SAMIRA at future meetings.

## **8. EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE**

The Commission presented a note on recent activities and initiatives in the policy area of emergency preparedness and response.

The Article 31 Group of Experts took note of the paper and provided input for future initiatives in this important area.

## **9. REVIEW AND PRIORITISATION OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE WORKING PARTIES AND RELATED PROJECTS**

### *9.1 Natural Radiation Sources (WP NAT)*

The Chair of the Working Party on exposure to natural sources of ionising radiations (WP NAT) reported on progress made since the last Group of Experts' meeting.

Further to this, the Working Party presented the draft report on ***“Radon in workplaces”***.

The Article 31 Group of Experts discussed the draft report and agreed to provide comments on the report by **2 January 2019**. Following this final round of comments, the report shall be finalised and presented to the Article 31 Group of Experts for approval in June 2019.

### *9.2. Medical Exposures (WP MED)*

The Chair of the Working Party reported on progress made since the last Group of Experts' meeting.

The Article 31 Group of Experts noted the progress made by the Working Party.

### *9.3. Research Implications on Health and Safety Standards (WP RIHSS)*

*a. EU Scientific Seminar November 2017 on Epigenetic effects – potential impact on radiation protection*

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<sup>4</sup> The adopted Opinion on the Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of persons reporting on breaches of Union law (COM(2018) 218 final) can be found under <https://ec.europa.eu/energy/en/group-experts>

The Chair of the Working Party reported on progress with the preparation of the proceedings of the EU Scientific Seminar November 2017 on *Epigenetic effects – potential impact on radiation protection*.

The Article 31 Group of Experts took note of this development.

*b. EU Scientific Seminar 2018 on Management of long-term exposure after a nuclear or radiological accident*

The EU Scientific Seminar 2018 on *Management of long-term exposure after a nuclear or radiological accident* took place in the afternoon of 14 November 2018. Internationally renowned scientists presented:

- (Existing) Regulatory strategies for the management of long-term exposure after a nuclear or radiological accident
- Risk evaluations of long-term exposure after a nuclear or radiological accident (establishment of reference levels)
- Health surveillance strategies for long-term exposure after a nuclear or radiological accident
- Stakeholder involvement and research needs
- Experience with the management of long-term exposure after a nuclear accident

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

The Chair of the Working Party presented the main issues of and preliminary conclusions from the Scientific Seminar.

The Group of Experts congratulated the Working Party for the organisation of this interesting seminar.

*c. Topics for upcoming EU Scientific Seminar*

At the last meeting, the Article 31 Group of Experts asked the Working Party to prepare a list of potential topics for future scientific seminars.

The Working Party presented the following topics:

- Mammography screening;
- Developments in nuclear medicine – new radioisotopes in use;
- Combined effects – ionising radiation and other hazardous agents (chemicals, environmental stressors, endocrine disruptors, ...)
- Protontherapy – Iontherapy;
- Radiosensitivity of children.

The Article 31 Group of Experts discussed the proposed topics and agreed to hold the EU Scientific Seminar 2019 on ***Developments in nuclear medicine – new radioisotopes in use***. For the preparation of the programme of this seminar, the Group asked the WP RIHHS to liaise with the WP MED.

## **10. WORK PROGRAMME OF THE ARTICLE 31 GROUP OF EXPERTS (“ROAD MAP”)**

The Commission presented the latest version of the Article 31 Work programme for the coming years (version 14.09.2018).

The Article 31 Group of Experts suggested to add to the work programme activities with regard to radiotherapy as well as the new ICRU operational quantities. With this, the group adopted the presented work programme for the coming years and agreed to review and update the document on a regular basis.

## **11. EMERGING ISSUES IN MEMBER STATES WITH POTENTIAL IMPLICATIONS ON A EUROPEAN**

Individual members of the Article 31 Group of Experts offered the following presentations:

- An expert from Poland presented “Unwanted patient doses from the scattered radiation in classical and proton therapy - the EURADOS experience”
- An expert from the Czech Republic presented “Proton therapy – national experience and identified problems related to the implementation into clinical practice”

Each of the presentations triggered discussions and stimulated an exchange of experience.

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

## **12. OTHER BUSINESS**

No other business was raised.

## **13. DATES OF THE NEXT MEETINGS**

### **June 2019**

The ***June 2019 meeting*** of the Group of Experts is scheduled for **12 – 13 June 2019**, in meeting room EUFO 0001, **European Commission – Euroforum Building, 10, rue Robert Stumper – L-2557 Luxembourg – Gasperich.**

### **November 2019**

The ***November 2019 meeting*** of the Group of Experts will be held on **13 – 14 November 2019** in Luxembourg, in Room E, **European Convention Center Luxembourg, 1, rue du Fort Thüngen, L-1499 Luxembourg (Kirchberg)**