



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

**Luxembourg, 4 – 5 June 2014**

### **SUMMARY REPORT**

(Approved by the Group of Experts at the meeting 18 – 19 November 2014)

#### **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 welcomed two new members of the group, an expert from Croatia and an expert replacing a recently retired colleague.

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

The agenda was approved without amendments.

#### **2. APPROVAL OF THE SUMMARY REPORT OF THE MEETING HELD IN LUXEMBOURG ON 19 – 20 NOVEMBER 2013**

The Summary Report was approved with minor amendments<sup>1</sup>.

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

##### *3.1. Nuclear Safety*

The Director of the Directorate on Nuclear Safety and the Fuel Cycle emphasised the importance of the Group of Experts established under Article 31 of the Euratom Treaty for the support of legislative initiatives and other activities under Chapter III of the Euratom Treaty. He briefly reported on the strategy on security of energy supply which has been adopted by the Council on 28 May 2014.

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<sup>1</sup> The approved Summary Report of the November 2013 meeting can be found under [http://ec.europa.eu/energy/nuclear/radiation\\_protection/article\\_31\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/energy/nuclear/radiation_protection/article_31_en.htm)

On the same day, the European Council Working Group for Atomic Questions (AQG) concluded its technical discussions of the proposal for a revised Nuclear Safety Directive. The main pillars of the Commission proposal – reinforcement of regulatory control and regulatory independence, transparency, and the establishment of mandatory high-level safety objectives – have been retained. It is expected that the revised Nuclear Safety Directive will soon be formally adopted by the Council.

Further to this the Director reported on the study on emergency preparedness and response which has been performed following the stress test outcome to gain a full overview of the cross-border arrangements in Europe which was recently published at the Europa website. The views expressed in the study are the views of the consultant. The European Commission is planning to prepare a Commission Communication on Emergency Preparedness and Response and on Nuclear Liability.

### *3.2 Radioactive Waste Management and Transport*

A representative of Unit D2 updated the Group of Experts on 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. Furthermore, the expert's attention was drawn to future initiatives related to the reporting requirements in the Directive, e.g. on the national programmes, which will be closely followed up by the Commission.

### *3.3 Status of legislative projects*

The Secretariat reported on progress with the *Proposal for a Council Regulation laying down maximum permitted levels of radioactive contamination of food and feed following a nuclear accident or any other case of 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. The European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) adopted a favourable opinion without comments on 16 October 2013. With this the Commission adopted the final proposal for a Council Regulation on 10 January 2014. The proposal is currently being discussed in the European Council Working Group for Atomic Questions (AQG) under Hellenic Presidency.

In discussion, some experts emphasised the importance to consult the Group of Experts referred to in Article 31 of the Euratom treaty in case the maximum permitted levels of radioactive contamination of food and feed laid down in Annexes I, II, and III of the Council Regulation need to be revised.

### *3.4 Implementation of the HASS Directive*

The study on the implementation of the Directive 2003/122/Euratom (HASS Directive), which had been presented at the Article 31 Group of Expert meeting in November 2013, has been published in the Radiation Protection series as RP 179. Based on the study results, the Commission has prepared a report on the implementation of the Directive and an associated staff working paper containing information on the development of the source legislation (now incorporated in the new BSS) and country-specific information on the implementation of the Directive. Report and associated staff working paper will soon be adopted by the

Commission for submission to the European Council, European Parliament and the European Economic and Social Committee.

#### **4. TRANSPOSITION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF RECENTLY ADOPTED DIRECTIVES**

##### *4.1 Commission strategy for monitoring and supporting the transposition and implementation of the new Basic Safety Standards Directive (Council Directive 2013/59/EURATOM)*

After the publication of the new Basic Safety Standards Directive (BSS) in the Official Journal of the European Union early 2014, Member States of the European Union will have four years to transpose the Directive into national legislation and to implement the requirements therein.

The Secretariat presented the Commission strategy for monitoring and supporting the transposition and implementation of the Council Directive 2013/59/Euratom. The Commission proposes to evaluate, already in an early phase, Member States' strategies and plans for the transposition and implementation of the Directive. This shall facilitate the detection of issues, an exchange of first experiences and resolutions and the identification of good practices. The evaluation should be accompanied by a series of workshops and complemented by appropriate guidance. The following topical issues will probably merit further consideration:

- Graded approach to regulatory control;
- Medical exposures;
- Emergency preparedness and response;
- Requirements for practices involving naturally occurring radioactive material (NORM);
- Requirements on radon exposure – establishment of national action plans;
- Radiation Protection Expert and Radiation Protection Officer;
- Deliberate exposure of members of the public for non-medical purposes;
- Dosimetry of the lens of the eye;

The Commission is planning to charge an external contractor with the execution of the above mentioned evaluation including the organisation of a general workshop followed by several topical workshops. A call for tender is currently being prepared and shall be launched soon.

Later in the process, when Member States have already drafted legislation, another evaluation should take place to analyse draft legislation with a view to assist the Commission in analysing Article 33 notifications and in assessing compliance of national legislation in Member States with the BSS Directive.

Further to this, the implementation of the new BSS shall be advertised and promoted through presentations and discussions at symposia, conferences, and workshops of professional societies, interest groups and other stakeholders.

An expert reported in this context on a joint initiative of the French ASN and the Norwegian NRPA to organise a *European workshop on the Establishment of National Radon Action Plans* which will be held with interested countries 30 September – 2 October 2014 in Paris.

The Group of Experts thanked the Secretariat for this informative presentation and welcomed the Commission strategy. With regard to the planned project for the evaluation of Member States' strategies and plans, the Group of Experts recommended the creation of a steering committee of external experts, including selected experts from the Article 31 Group of Experts, to provide the contractor with continued guidance and expert advice during the execution of the project.

As a further measure to support the transposition and implementation of the BSS, the Group of Experts proposed to hold a topical session on issues with the BSS at the next Article 31 Group of Experts meeting in November 2014.

Finally, the Group of Experts noted that there are international bodies which may be instrumental to assist with the transposition and implementation of the BSS, in particular the Heads of European Radiation protection Competent Authorities (HERCA), but also IRPA and its European Societies.

#### *4.2 Commission strategy for monitoring and supporting the transposition and implementation of the new Drinking Water Directive (Council Directive 2013/51/EURATOM)*

Member States are required to transpose the Drinking Water Directive – Council Directive 2013/51/Euratom – in their national legislation before 28 November 2015. The Commission is planning to support the Member States during the transposition phase. As a first step, a questionnaire will be sent to each Member State 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 in late 2014. Information about the new Drinking Water Directive shall soon become available on the Europa website under Radiation Protection. It is planned that the requirements in the Drinking Water Directive become a standard agenda item during Article 35 verifications.

On request, the Secretariat clarified that the provisions of Council Directive 2013/51/Euratom supersede those of Directive 98/83/EC as regards the requirements for the protection of the health of the general public with regard to radioactive substances in water intended for human consumption.

## **5. PRESENTATIONS FROM INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS**

### *5.1. International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP)*

The Scientific Secretary of the ICRP presented the ICRP Structure, the composition of the Main Commission, ICRP Membership, ICRP Mission, the ICRP Strategic Plan 2011 – 2017, the ICRP Code of Ethics, a summary of the 2<sup>nd</sup> ICRP International Symposium 2013, the current ICRP programme of work and recent developments. The 3<sup>rd</sup> International Symposium on the System of Radiological Protection – ICRP 2015 will be held 20 – 22 October 2015 in Seoul, South Korea.

### *5.2 International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)*

The representative of the IAEA 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 development of a radon programme, on the development of criteria for the contamination of food and drinking water after a nuclear or radiological emergency, and on the implementation of IAEA assistance to the Fukushima Prefecture. The 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Occupational Radiation Protection organised jointly by the IAEA and the ILO will take place in Vienna, 1-5 December 2014.

### *5.3 World Health Organisation (WHO)*

No representative of the WHO could attend the meeting.

### *5.4 Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA)*

The representative of the NEA presented the work of the NEA Committee on Radiation Protection and Public Health (CRPPH), its structure, expert groups, workshops and projects. The NEA representative reported on the next science and values workshop to be held in Moscow in 2015, the draft report on Radiation Protection Science, and the proposed CRPPH Joint Undertaking on Individualising Risk. The next CRPPH meeting will be held 15 – 17 April 2015 at the OECD Headquarters, Paris.

### *5.5. International Radiation Protection Association (IRPA)*

The President of IRPA presented IRPA's vision, the strategic priorities of IRPA for the years 2012-2016, the work of ongoing IRPA working groups and the list of upcoming IRPA Regional Congresses, in particular the European Congress to be held in Geneva, Switzerland, 23 – 27 June 2014, and IRPA International Conference IRPA14, which will take place in Cape Town, South Africa, 9 – 13 May 2016.

### *5.6. 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.

More information on HERCA can be found on the HERCA homepage [www.herca.org](http://www.herca.org).

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

### *6.1. Dose Constraints (WP Dose Constraints)*

The Secretariat informed the Group of Experts that due to the enhanced workload of the Secretariat during the adoption process of the Euratom Basic Safety Standards Directive no meeting of the Working Party on Dose Constraints could be held since September 2012.

The Chairperson of the WP Dose Constraints reminded the Group of Experts that the working party has made good progress during its active phase and proposed to compile the information collected with a view to providing the compilation to the incoming new Article 31 Group of Experts as a basis for the finalisation of the working party's 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.

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

### *a. Progress report*

The Chairperson of WP MED reported on the working party's activities corresponding to the last meeting held on 23 – 24 April 2014 in Luxembourg. The meeting was attended by seven (out of ten) regular members; the two corresponding members received information by email. Observers from IAEA and WHO were also present and a representative of the European Society of Radiology (ESR) was invited to present topics of interest and activities on radiation protection in imaging. The main WP MED activities and outcomes are described below.

Three new publications were made available on the Commission's radiation protection webpage in February 2014, (i) RP174: European Guidelines on Medical Physics Expert, (ii) RP175: Guidelines on Radiation Protection Education and Training of Medical Professionals in the EU, and (iii) RP178: Referral Guidelines for Medical Imaging - Availability and Use in the EU and Appendices.

WP MED follows several projects providing guidance and critical review of the produced documents:

a. DDM2 (Population doses from medical exposure, <http://ddmed.eu>). After analysis of the last draft received and considering the reports of the critical reviewers, WPMED decided the document should be submitted to the Article 31 Group of Experts and recommended its publication.

b. ACCIRAD (Risk analysis of accidental and unintended exposures in radiotherapy, <http://www.accirad.eu>). After analysis of the last draft received and considering the reports of the critical reviewers, the WP MED decided the guidance document should be submitted to the Article 31 Group of Experts and recommended its publication. WPMED recommends cancelling the ACCIRAD follow-up project waiting for a further discussion among the national authorities and HERCA.

c. PiDRL (Diagnostic Reference Levels for Paediatric Imaging, <http://www.eurosafeimaging.org/pidrl>). This 27 months project started in December 2013 led by the ESR. The contractor will produce progress reports and periodically report in WPMED meetings.

WP MED discussed suggestions for new projects in 2015 – 2016. Considering the recent publication of the BSS directive 2013/59/Euratom and that the existing “Guidance on diagnostic reference levels (DRLs) for medical exposures” (RP109) was published in 1999, WP MED suggested to the Commission to consider updating of the European Diagnostic Reference Levels for medical imaging.

WP MED will prepare a list of topics with the main changes in the new BSS directive 2013/59/Euratom relative to 97/43/Euratom that could require some clarifications or guidance in the process of national transposition.

The Group of Experts thanked the WP MED for their valuable work and approved the publication of the DDM2 report and the ACCIRAD guidance allowing for final comments within two weeks.

### *6.3. 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 Chairperson of WP RIHSS presented progress with the preparation of the proceedings of the EU Scientific Seminar 2013 on *Radiation induced long-term health effects after medical exposure*. While WP RIHSS is currently discussing the summary prepared by the rapporteur, three papers are still missing. The proceedings will be finalised as soon as the missing contributions become available. The draft proceedings will then be sent to the Article 31 Group of Experts for written approval.

All presentations given at the EU Scientific Seminar 2013 on *Radiation induced long-term health effects after medical exposure* together with a short introductory text and the programme are available on the Europa Website<sup>2</sup>.

The Group of Experts thanked the chairperson of WP RIHSS for this update and agreed to the proposal to approve the draft proceedings by written procedure.

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

The Chairperson of the WP RIHSS presented the draft programme for the EU Scientific Seminar 2014 on *Fukushima - lessons-learned and issues*.

Experts provided suggestions to further refine the draft programme which will be considered by the WP RIHSS in the preparation of the seminar.

The Group of Experts approved the draft programme for the EU Scientific Seminar 2014 and thanked the WP RIHSS for their valuable work.

## **7. 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 registries 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. The next major milestone will be a workshop to be held 16 – 17 September 2014 in Paris to present the draft platform to representatives from national dose registries and from dosimetry services. The Secretariat asked the Group of Experts to assist in informing the representative of their respective national dose registry about this workshop.

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

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<sup>2</sup> The presentations can be found under [http://ec.europa.eu/energy/nuclear/radiation\\_protection/seminars/scientific\\_seminar\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/energy/nuclear/radiation_protection/seminars/scientific_seminar_en.htm)

## **8. PROJECT TO DEVELOP TECHNICAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MONITORING INDIVIDUALS FOR OCCUPATIONAL INTAKES OF RADIONUCLIDES**

The Secretariat informed the Group of Experts about a DG ENER initiated and financed project to establish European technical recommendations on internal exposure as guidance for the practical implementation of recent developments in internal dosimetry and to achieve harmonisation of the methodology for the assessment of intakes of radionuclides applied by dosimetry services. The target audience of this document shall be internal dosimetry services as well as competent authorities. These technical recommendations for monitoring individuals for occupational intakes of radionuclides shall consider state-of-the-art information in the area of dose assessment due to internal exposure, and shall take account of recent international guidance, such as the upcoming ICRP reports on occupational intakes of radionuclides and ISO standards on internal dosimetry. These technical recommendations shall be an authoritative document on internal dosimetry which shall also be used for training purposes.

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.

## **9. OTHER BUSINESS**

An expert presented the project *Ionising radiation metrology for the metallurgical industry (MetroMetal)*, a Joint Research Project funded by European Metrology Research Programme (EMRP) under EURAMET. The expert presented also the project *Metrology for processing materials with high natural radioactivity (MetroNORM)*, another Joint Research Project funded by European Metrology Research Programme (EMRP) under EURAMET.

An expert presented his impressions from a visit to the Fukushima Prefecture and in particular to the 30 km zone around the Daiichi nuclear power station.

The Group of Experts thanked the experts for their interesting presentations.

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

The next meeting of the Group of Experts will be held on **18 – 19 November 2014**, in meeting room M6, **European Commission – Jean Monnet Building, rue Alcide de Gasperi – L-2920 Luxembourg – Kirchberg.**

The June 2015 meeting of the Group of Experts is scheduled for on **3 – 4 June 2015** in meeting room EUFO 0001, **European Commission – Euroforum Building, 10, rue Robert Stumper – L-2557 Luxembourg – Gasperich.**

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**