



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

Luxembourg, 10 – 11 June 2015

SUMMARY REPORT

(Approved by the Group of Experts at the meeting 18 – 19 November 2015)

INTRODUCTION

The Director of Directorate Nuclear Energy, Safety and ITER welcomed the participants to the first meeting of the Group of Experts in their new composition. The Experts are appointed for a five year term lasting from 1 May 2015 – 30 April 2020. The Article 31 Group of Experts has in its new composition 49 members from 26 Member States (Malta and Latvia preferred not to nominate experts). Permanent observers to the Group of Experts are the international organisations ICRP, IAEA, WHO, NEA, IRPA, and HERCA, as well as Switzerland.

In a "tour de table", the experts briefly introduced themselves.

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was approved without amendments.

2. INFORMATION ON THE SUMMARY REPORT OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18 – 19 NOVEMBER 2014

The Summary Report of the meeting held on 18 – 19 November 2014 has been approved by written procedure and is published on the Europa website¹.

3. PROCEDURAL ASPECTS

3.1 Rules of Procedures

The Secretariat briefly introduced the rules of procedures of the Group of Experts established under Article 31 of the Euratom treaty. The Group of Experts took note.

3.2 Election of a new Chairperson for the period June 2015 – November 2017

According to the Group's Rules of Procedures, the Group of Experts elected a new Chairperson.

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

3.3 Election of a new Vice-Chairperson for the period June 2015 – November 2018

According to the Group's Rules of Procedures, the Group of Experts elected a new Vice-Chairperson.

4. INFORMATION BY THE COMMISSION

4.1. Nuclear Safety

A representative of Unit D1 reported on recent activities and initiatives in nuclear safety.

4.2 Radioactive Waste Management and Transport

A representative of Unit D2 reported on recent activities and initiatives in radioactive waste management.

4.3 Status of legislative projects

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 Commission adopted the draft proposal on 6 August 2013 and the final proposal on 10 January 2014. The Council (Atomic Questions Group, AQG) started to examine the proposal in January 2014 and came to an agreement at technical level on a draft text on 3 December 2014. The European Parliament adopted its Opinion (Consultation Procedure) on 9 July 2015; the latter will be examined in the Council AQG on 4 November 2015. The final text should then be transmitted to the COREPER for adoption by the Council by the end of 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 initiatives and activities related to the transposition and implementation of the recently adopted new Basic Safety Standards Directive (BSS).

The Commission presented its strategy for monitoring and supporting the transposition and implementation of Directive 2013/59/Euratom.

In discussion, many experts emphasised the importance of supporting Member States in the exchange of experience already in the pre-transposition phase and welcomed the organisation of workshops – a general workshop followed by topical workshops. The Group discussed which topics merit more detailed discussion in topical workshops. The Group agreed that major challenges lie in the transposition and implementation of the requirements in the following areas:

- Emergency preparedness and response issues;
- Naturally occurring radioactive material (NORM) and radon, in particular with a view to the licensing procedure for practices involving NORM or radon;
- Medical exposures

- Radiation protection expert and radiation protection officer, in particular with a view to their education and training and their recognition;

5.2 *“Transposition of the Euratom BSS in Switzerland: almost ready for public consultation!”*

The representative from Switzerland, a permanent observer of the group, presented progress with the transposition of the new Euratom BSS in Switzerland.

5.3 *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.

The Commission presented its strategy for monitoring and supporting the transposition and implementation of the Drinking Water Directive, summarised the results from the questionnaire, and reported on the discussions at the transposition workshop held on 10 December 2014.

6. PRESENTATIONS FROM INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

6.1. *International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP)*

No representative of the ICRP could attend the meeting. 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 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. More information on IAEA can be found on the IAEA homepage <https://www.iaea.org/front>.

6.3 *World Health Organisation (WHO)*

No representative of the WHO could attend the meeting. 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. More information on NEA can be found on the NEA homepage <http://www.oecd-nea.org/>.

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. HERCA current activities are in the areas medical applications, emergency preparedness and response, veterinary applications, non-medical sources and practices, European radiation passbook and outside workers, education and training, transposition of the Euratom BSS, and radon. 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. Medical Exposures (WP MED)

The Chairman of WP MED summarised the group's activities for the time period 2010 – 2015.

The Secretariat provided an update of the status of the project to establish *Diagnostic Reference Levels for Paediatric Imaging* (PiDRL – see <http://www.eurosafeimaging.org/pidrl>) a 27-month project which 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 Group of Experts thanked the WP MED for their intensive and valuable work during the last term 2010 – 2015 and disbanded the group.

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

a. Progress report

The Chairman of WP RIHSS summarised the group's activities for the time period 2010 – 2015.

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

The Chairman of WP RIHSS reported on progress with the preparation of the proceedings of the *EU Scientific Seminar 2014 on Fukushima – lessons learned and issues*.

c. Preparation of the EU Scientific Seminar 2015 on Risk Communication

The Chairperson of the WP RIHSS presented a draft programme for the *EU Scientific Seminar 2015 on Risk communication*.

The Group of Experts thanked the WP RIHSS for their intensive and valuable work during the last term 2010 – 2015, approved the draft programme for the *EU Scientific Seminar 2015 on Risk communication* and disbanded the group.

7.3 General Discussion on the future of Working Parties, their mandates, work programmes and membership

Under this agenda item the Group of Experts was invited to discuss the future of working parties, their mandates, work programmes, membership, and chairpersonship.

The Group discussed the (re-)creation of working parties to focus on specific issues in radiation protection. In recent years, there have been two standing working parties:

- *Working Party on Medical Exposure (WPMED)*: This Group initiated and accompanied many studies and projects to create guidance in the medical area.

- *Working Party on Research Implications on Health and Safety Standards (WP RIHSS)*: This group reviews latest scientific progress relevant to Radiation Protection and identifies emerging issues which would merit being subject of an EU Scientific Seminar. WP RIHSS acts as a scientific committee preparing the programme of the seminar, organising the seminar, summarising the discussions, and preparing conclusions and proceedings. Further to this and on request of the Article 31 Group of Experts, the Working Party reviews and summarises the latest scientific literature on a given topic.

The Group confirmed the importance of the work of both working parties and decided to recreate both groups. Further to this, the Group decided on the new membership of both groups.

With regards to research, it was suggested to intensify the relations with DG Research and with the research platforms in the area of radiation protection initiated and financed by DG Research. The Secretariat suggested inviting the leaders of the research platforms CONCERT, OPERRA, and MELODI to the November meeting for a discussion on research priorities in radiation protection. The Group welcomed this proposal.

Finally, the new Chair of the Group suggested creating a short-term *Task Force on the Strategy and Work Programme of the Article 31 Group of Experts* to reflect on the main issues to guide the Article 31 Group in the coming five years. The task force shall meet once and prepare a draft Strategy and Work Programme of the Article 31 Group of Experts to be discussed at the next meeting of the group. The Group decided on the membership of the Task Force.

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. A fully operational ESOREX Platform has been presented at the 2nd ESOREX workshop held in Paris 30 June – 1 July 2015. The Secretariat asked the Group of Experts to further assist the data collection for this project by 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

No other business was raised under this agenda item

11. DATES OF THE NEXT MEETINGS

The November 2015 meeting of the Group of Experts is scheduled for **18 – 19 November 2015**, in Luxembourg (meeting location to be determined).

The **June 2016** meeting of the Group of Experts will be held **1 – 2 June 2016** in meeting room EUFO 0001 **European Commission – Euroforum Building, 10, rue Robert Stumper – L-2557 Luxembourg – Gasperich**.