



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

Luxembourg, 31 May – 2 June 2016

SUMMARY REPORT

(Approved by the Group of Experts at the meeting 8 – 9 November 2016)

INTRODUCTION

The Head of Unit Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety 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 without amendments.

2. INFORMATION ON THE SUMMARY REPORT OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18 – 19 NOVEMBER 2015

The Summary Report of the meeting held on 18 – 19 November 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 decided to embark on a revision of the Rules of Procedures and discussed the document article by article. All Members of the Group were invited to send comments to the Secretariat by 30 June 2016. A drafting group was established which will, on the basis of the comments received, prepare a revised draft rules of procedure to be discussed at the November 2016 meeting.

4. REQUEST IN RELATION TO TRANSPARENCY

The Secretariat briefed the Group of Experts on the recent developments with regard to the request from CRIIRAD relating to the transparency of the group. It also informed them that the same organisation had lodged a complaint with the European Ombudsman on the

¹ The approved Summary Report of the November 2015 meeting can be found under <http://ec.europa.eu/energy/node/1183>

matter and that an inspection by the Ombudsman of the Commission's files was imminent. As part of preparations for that inspection, members' personal data would have to be transferred to the Ombudsman's office.

The Secretariat also informed the Group of Experts that a recent ruling from the Court of Justice meant that it would have to reassess its previous position, particularly as regards the transfer of previous members' names and CVs to potential applicants. The rules of procedure of the Scientific and Technical Committee (STC) and the procedure for appointment of the members of the Article 31 Group of Experts would also have to be revisited in the light of the Commission's new horizontal rules on expert groups which, although not applicable to the Article 31 Group, should serve as an inspiration as regards transparency.

5. INFORMATION BY THE COMMISSION

5.1 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 the Recommendation on the application of Article 103 of the Euratom Treaty, adopted on 4 April 2016. Members were briefed on its content and on the reception amongst Member States.

The representative of Unit D1 also presented its initiative for a review of notification requirements under Article 41 of the Euratom Treaty. It also outlined the results of the public consultation on this initiative.

5.2 Nuclear Energy, Nuclear Waste and Decommissioning

A representative of Unit D2 reported on recent activities and initiatives in the domain Nuclear Energy, Nuclear Waste and Decommissioning: The Nuclear Illustrative Programme for the Community, published by the Commission on 4 April 2016 for the opinion of European Economic and Social Committee, provides an overview of investment needs at EU level in the nuclear sector. 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 investment (related to the Euratom Treaty). The Commission Viewpoint is not legally binding, however, only a project with a favourable view is eligible for a Euratom Loan or an EIB loan. With regard to Directive 2011/70/Euratom, national programmes and reports received to date are currently under review. Opinions about the programmes as well as a report to Council and Parliament (including EU inventory) are expected for 2016. The second EC report to Council and Parliament on Directive 2006/117/EURATOM is also expected for 2016. Regarding cooperation with IAEA, work is planned towards a possible harmonization of radioactive waste/spent fuel inventory reporting and a peer-review assistance to MS (ARTEMIS tailored to needs of Directive 2011/70/EURATOM) is in preparation. The Decommissioning Funding Group focuses on funding schemes and costs; the scope of the group shall be enlarged to cover Directive 2011/70/EURATOM. Finally, the Decommissioning Assistance Programme is currently focussing 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.

5.3 Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety

a. Recent initiatives and activities

The Head of Unit D3 made a presentation "D3 mandate and latest developments in Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety". He described the status of the activities of the unit concerning the evaluation of member states strategies and plans for the transposition of the BSS Directive. He also mentioned the work related to the transposition of the Nuclear Safety Directive. He also described the state of play of the Euratom Drinking Water directive and the latest developments regarding the EURDEP and ECURIE systems. The update was given also on Commission opinions adopted under Articles 37 Euratom and verification missions performed under Article 35 of the Euratom treaty. Further to this he informed the Group of Experts that *Council Regulation (Euratom) 2016/52 laying down maximum permitted levels of radioactive contamination of food and feed following a nuclear accident or any other case of radiological emergency, and repealing Regulation (Euratom) No 3954/87 and Commission Regulations (Euratom) No 944/89 and (Euratom) No 770/90*, was adopted in January 2016.

b. Commission Article 35 verification programme

A representative of Unit D3, Sector Article 35 presented the feedback from the Commission Article 35 verifications of 2013, 2014 and 2015. All finalised verification reports (and possible Member States' comments) are made available at the DG ENER Radiation protection website (<https://ec.europa.eu/energy/en/verifications-radiation-monitoring-eu-countries>).

Further to this, the representative of Unit D3 presented the Commissions' new criteria for carrying out Article 35 verifications and the rolling plan for verification missions in 2016-18. The plan is updated on six month intervals. There is a new idea of carrying out verifications also in states neighbouring the EU - especially Belarus would be an important verification target. Unit D3 informed that the main reason for this initiative is to verify the sources of the data made available at the EURDEP system. However, these verifications have not been done in practise yet – such a verification mission obviously needs to have the approval of the target country.

The representative of Unit D3, also briefly informed the experts about the initiative to develop a guidance document for monitoring radioactivity in the environment and in radioactive discharges.

6. PRESENTATIONS FROM INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

6.1. International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP)

No representative of the ICRP could attend the meeting. 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)

The representative of the WHO summarised the activities of the WHO in the radiation protection areas, notably in the medical field, in emergency preparedness and response, and in the area of protection from indoor radon. More information on WHO can be found on the WHO homepage <http://www.who.int/en/>.

6.4 Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA)

The representative of the NEA briefly summarised the recent activities of the NEA and in particular of its Committee on Radiation Protection and Public Health (CRPPH). More information on NEA can be found on the NEA homepage <http://www.oecd-nea.org/>.

6.5. International Radiation Protection Association (IRPA)

No representative of IRPA could attend the meeting. 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, occupational radiation protection, 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. EMERGING ISSUES IN MEMBER STATES WITH POTENTIAL IMPLICATIONS ON A EUROPEAN LEVEL – UK PROPOSED APPROACH TO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

At the November 2015 meeting, the Article 31 Group of Experts agreed to encourage members of the group to present emerging issues in their country or work area which may have implications on a European level.

An expert from the United Kingdom followed this invitation and presented the UK proposed approach to Emergency Management Systems. The presentation triggered a lively discussion on the transposition of the requirements on emergency preparedness and response in Council Directive 2013/59/Euratom in general and of the requirements on emergency management systems in particular.

The Group of Experts thanked the colleague from United Kingdom for the interesting presentation.

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.

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

In June 2014, the European Commission launched the project "Evaluation of Member States strategies and plans for the transposition of the BSS Directive". A representative of the contractor was invited to present progress with the project and the results and deliverables so far. The contract foresees the organisation of surveys, a general survey and four topical, as well as the organisation of workshops, again a general workshop and four topical. To date,

the general survey and workshop have been successfully concluded as well as a topical survey and workshop on emergency preparedness and response. The contractor presented a first summary of the results of these surveys and workshops. Further to this, the contractor informed the group about two additional topical surveys which have recently been launched one on "NORM, Radon and Building Materials" and one on "Reference Values and Dose Constraints". The respective workshops will take place back-to-back on 7 – 9 June 2016 in Brussels.

A representative of Unit D3 reported on an additional project in the area of emergency preparedness and response.

The Group of Expert thanked the Secretariat for organising this update on the activities related to the transposition and implementation of the new Basic Safety Standards Directive and expressed its interest in being kept informed about these activities.

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

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

In discussion, the experts noted that while some of the questions could be discussed and answered by Article 31 Working Parties (MED, RIHSS or the to be established WP on Natural Radiation Sources), other questions would be better addressed to other competent bodies such as the International Commission on Radiation Protection (ICRP).

In order to better understand the background of these questions, the Group of Expert suggested inviting the chairperson of the STC Working Party on Radiation Protection to the next meeting of the Article 31 Group of Experts in November 2016. It was further proposed to discuss the establishment of working procedures between the STC and the Article 31 Group of Experts.

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

10.1 Natural Radiation Sources – Setting up of a new Working Party on Natural Radiation Sources

At the November 2015 meeting, a small drafting group has been charged to draft a mandate and a work programme for this proposed new working party on natural radiation sources. The expert chairing the drafting group presented the outcome of the group: key elements for the mandate and the work programme.

In discussion, the Group of Experts offered some input to the draft mandate and work programme.

The Secretariat explained that mandate and work programme of the working party need to be cleared by DG ENER hierarchy before the working party can be created.

In conclusion, the Group of Experts recommended to establish this new working party and offered unanimous support to it. Several experts expressed their interest in an active participation in the working party as soon as it is created. The setting-up of this working

party will be again discussed at the November 2016 meeting of the Article 31 Group of Experts.

10.2. Medical Exposures (WP MED)

a. Mandate of the Working Party on Medical Exposures (WP MED)

The Chair of the WP MED presented the draft mandate of the group which has been prepared during the last WP MED meeting 14-15 April 2016 in Luxembourg.

The Group of Experts approved the mandate without amendments.

b. Work Programme of the Working Party on Medical Exposures (WP MED)

The Chair of WP MED presented the draft work programme 2015-2020 of WP MED

The Group of Experts approved the work programme without amendments.

c. European Guidelines on Diagnostic Reference Levels for Paediatric Imaging

The Chair of WP MED presented the draft European Guidelines on Diagnostic Reference Levels for Paediatric Imaging.

The Group of Experts approved the document for publication in the Radiation Protection Series of the European Commission as RP185.

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

a. Mandate of the Working Party on Research Implications on Health and Safety Standards (WP RIHSS)

The Chair of the WP RIHSS presented the draft mandate of the group which has been prepared during the last WP RIHSS meeting 3 March 2016.

The Group of Experts approved the mandate without amendments.

b. Proceedings of the EU Scientific Seminar 2015 on Risk Communication

The Secretariat presented the draft proceedings of the *EU Scientific Seminar 2015 on Risk Communication*.

The Group of Experts approved the draft proceedings for publication in the Radiation Protection Series of the European Commission as RP 184.

c. Programme for the EU Scientific Seminar 2016 on Emerging Issues with regard to Organ Doses

The Chair of the WP RIHSS presented the draft programme for the *EU Scientific Seminar 2016 on Emerging Issues with regard to Organ Doses* which is scheduled to take place in the afternoon of 8 November 2016. 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
- Evaluation of the risk of organ exposure – risk related approach versus effective dose approach
- New data regarding the lens of the eye
- Issues related to the concept of organ dose

The Group of Experts congratulated the WP RIHSS for setting up this interesting draft programme and gave its approval to continue with the organisation of the EU Scientific Seminar 2016.

d. List of potential research topics which would support the implementation of the new BSS

The Chair of WP RIHSS presented a first draft list of potential research topics which would support the implementation of the new BSS. After some controversial discussions, the Group of Experts was invited to send comments and suggestions to the Chair of WP RIHSS. WP RIHSS was asked to further elaborate the list and present it again to the Article 31 Group of Experts.

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

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*. The draft guidance is one of the deliverables of the DG RTD financed project ENETRAP III. It was proposed 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 by 30 June 2016.

12. TECHNICAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MONITORING INDIVIDUALS FOR OCCUPATIONAL INTAKES OF RADIONUCLIDES

The Contractor of this DG ENER financed project presented the project and in particular the final version of the main deliverable – the draft *Technical Recommendations for Monitoring Individuals for Occupational Intakes of radionuclides*. The project has been launched in May 2014 and ended in May 2016. The current draft *Technical Recommendations for Monitoring Individuals for Occupational Intake of Radionuclides* has undergone two rounds of consultation to a broad range of stakeholders including the Article 31 Group of Experts. The final text is now presented to the Article 31 Group of Experts for approval for publication in the Radiation Protection Series of the European Commission.

The Group of Experts thanked the Contractor for the excellent work performed and for the high quality of the technical recommendations and approved it for publication in the Radiation Protection Series of the European Commission. Members of the Group of Experts were invited to send final comments, if any, by 30 June 2016.

13. EUROPEAN PLATFORM FOR OCCUPATIONAL RADIATION EXPOSURE – ESOREX

An expert presented the European Platform for Occupational Radiation Exposure (ESOREX). The main objectives of the ESOREX platform are to:

- Provide an overview on national arrangements for radiation protection workers monitoring, reporting and recording
- Establish a European database on occupational exposure

- Harmonize data collection through
 - Common data reporting format
 - Categorisation of professional work activities
- Establish relationships with other relevant international organisations.

The ESOREX Platform provides a dedicated website containing two main tools

- A “Collaborative tool” namely a discussion forum where national experts in occupational radiation protection can discuss emerging issues, assess dose trends, and exchange experience and information
- A “Database” dealing with:
 - national arrangements for occupational radiation exposure monitoring
 - national regulation, practices in worker’s monitoring, dosimetry methods used, listing of approved dosimetry services, organization of the national dose register etc.
 - results and trends of occupational exposure by sectors of activity, for relevant occupations

The ESOREX platform is operational and is accessible under <https://esorex-platform.org/>.

With regard to the future, it is hoped to find a suitable solution to ensure a sustainable continuation of the platform, which requires a technical administrator of the platform, appropriate financial resources to operate the platform, and the support of national competent authorities and the involvement of national administrators.

The Group of Experts were invited to promote and support the use of the ESOREX Platform.

14. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business has been raised under this agenda item.

15. DATES OF THE NEXT MEETINGS

The **November 2016** meeting of the Group of Experts will be held **8 – 9 November 2016**, in Luxembourg in Room E, **European Convention Center Luxembourg, 1, rue du Fort Thüngen, L-1499 Luxembourg (Kirchberg)**.

The **June 2017** meeting of the Group of Experts is scheduled for **31 May – 1 June 2017** in Luxembourg, in meeting room EUFO 0001, **European Commission – Euroforum Building, 10, rue Robert Stumper – L-2557 Luxembourg – Gasperich**.