



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR ENERGY  
DIRECTORATE D – Nuclear Energy, Safety and ITER  
Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety

## **Meeting of the Group of Experts referred to in Article 31 of the Euratom Treaty**

**Via WebEx**

**1-2 June 2021**

### **SUMMARY REPORT**

**(Approved by the Group of Experts at the meeting 9-10 November 2021)**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

The meeting of the Article 31 Group of Experts (GoE) took place on 1-2 June 2021 via WebEx.

The meeting was attended by 43 out of 47 members of the GoE, representatives from observers (IAEA, WHO, IRPA, HERCA, NEA, Norway and Switzerland), and representatives from DG FISMA, DG JRC, DG SANTE, DG RTD, and DG ENER.

The Chair opened the meeting and asked the participants to observe a minute of silence in memory of Ms Ciara McMahon and Ms Tarja Ikäheimonen.

The Director of Nuclear energy, safety and ITER, welcomed the GoE, and informed them of the key policy developments addressing the renewed attention to nuclear safety, radiation protection for citizens, the Strategic Agenda for Medical Ionising Radiation Applications (SAMIRA) in support of Europe's Beating Cancer Plan, as well as the EU Taxonomy in the European Green Deal - a key topic on the group's agenda.

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

The draft Agenda was adopted with no changes. An item on the *ICRP review and impact on future of BSS* was agreed to be added under agenda item 13 *any other business*.

#### **2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

The Secretariat informed the GoE that it is finalising the publication of the experts' Declaration Of Interest (DOI) forms on the Commission's website. At this first meeting of this calendar year, in line with the rules of procedure, the GoE were invited to declare any conflict of interest or of change in the information provided during the nomination procedure. No conflict of interest was declared. Further to this, no conflict of interest was declared with any of the topics on the agenda of this meeting.

## **2. APPROVAL OF THE SUMMARY REPORT OF THE WEBEX MEETING HELD ON 17-18 NOVEMBER 2020**

The Summary Report of the online meeting held on 17-18 November 2020 was approved without amendment<sup>1</sup>.

## **4. INFORMATION FROM THE COMMISSION**

### *4a. Activities in Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety*

The Head of Unit D3 Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety presented the status of the activities in Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety in DG ENER's Directorate Nuclear Energy, Safety and ITER.

The Article 31 Group of Experts took note.

### *4b. Food and feed*

A representative from DG SANTE updated the Article 31 GoE on the current status of activities as regards radioactivity in food and feed and in particular on the Codex Committee on Contaminants in feed and food (CCCF), the Fukushima Regulation, and on the Post Chernobyl Regulation.

### Codex Committee on Contaminants in feed and food (CCCF): Radioactivity in feed and food (including drinking water) in normal circumstances

At the meetings of November 2019 and June 2020, the Commission had informed the GoE on the Electronic Working Group (e-WG), chaired by the EU (DG SANTE) and co-chaired by Japan, on Radioactivity in Feed and Food of the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Food (CCCF). The e-WG prepared a discussion paper<sup>2</sup> to inform and enable CCCF to decide on possible follow-up actions as regards radioactivity in food and feed in non-emergency situations.

At this meeting, the Commission informed the experts of the outcomes of the CCCF's 14<sup>th</sup> session held in May 2021. The CCCF concluded that no further work was required to be done by CCCF at this time given that naturally occurring radionuclides in food, feed and water did not seem to be an issue for food safety and trade. It also welcomed the offer of IAEA to elaborate, with the collaboration of FAO and WHO, an information document (fact sheet) for the food safety regulators community. The document aims to provide the state of the art of natural radioactivity in food/feed/water, including regional variations. The CCCF requested IAEA to keep the committee informed on any developments in the field of naturally occurring and artificial radionuclides and in particular, on methodologies and criteria for radionuclides assessment in food (work of FAO/IAEA/WHO).

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<sup>1</sup> The approved Summary Report of the November 2020 meeting can be found under <https://ec.europa.eu/energy/en/group-experts>

<sup>2</sup> The discussion paper on the radioactivity in food and feed (including drinking water) in non-emergency situations is available online as [CX/CF 21/14/14](#)

The representative from the IAEA confirmed that they have started preparing the information paper, which is expected to be ready, after discussing with all parties involved, by the next meeting of CCCF in spring 2022.

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 2016/6 imposing special conditions governing the import of feed and food originating in or consigned from Japan following the accident at the Fukushima nuclear power station

The last amendment of the Regulation, (EU) 2019/1787, foresaw a review of the provisions when the results of sampling and analysis on the presence of radioactivity of feed and food of the ninth and tenth growing season after the accident (2019 and 2020) would be available, i.e. by 30 June 2021. The Commission is currently revising the Regulation. Publication of the amended Regulation is expected by August 2021.

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1158 of 5 August 2020 on the conditions governing imports of food and feed originating in third countries following the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power station

The Post –Chernobyl Regulation (EU) 2020/1158<sup>3</sup> replaced Council Regulation 733/2008<sup>4</sup> as amended by Council Regulation 1048/2009<sup>5</sup>, which expired on 31 March 2020. In consultation with the Commission’s Legal Service, the measures were replaced by an implementing regulation under the general food law, Article 53(1) of Regulation (EC) N° 178/2002<sup>6</sup>.

The Post –Chernobyl Regulation (EU) 2020/1158 took consideration of the earlier Opinions of the GoE. At the November 2018 meeting, the Article 31 GoE adopted an Opinion on the Prolongation of the Post-Chernobyl Regulation – Council Regulation 733/2008 amended by Council Regulation 1048/2009-<sup>7</sup> to establish a legally binding instrument extending the latest Post-Chernobyl measures beyond 31 March 2020 for another period of 10 years. In that Opinion, the GoE had confirmed that the maximum permitted levels of radioactivity should be maintained. At the June 2019 meeting, the Article 31 GoE adopted an Opinion on the draft proposal for an implementing regulation imposing conditions governing the import of food, minor food and feed originating in third countries following the accident at the Chernobyl

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<sup>3</sup> Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1158 of 5 August 2020 on the conditions governing imports of food and feed originating in third countries following the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power station (Text with EEA relevance) C/2020/5226 OJ L 257, 6.8.2020, p. 1–13.

<sup>4</sup> Council Regulation (EC) No 733/2008 of 15 July 2008 on the conditions governing imports of agricultural products originating in third countries following the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power station (codified version), Official Journal of the European Union, L 201, 30.07.2008, p. 1 – 7.

<sup>5</sup> Council Regulation (EC) No 1048/2009 of 23 October 2009 amending Regulation (EC) No 733/2008 on the conditions governing imports of agricultural products originating in third countries following the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power station, Official Journal of the European Union, L 290, 6.11.2009, p. 4–4

<sup>6</sup> Regulation (EC) N° 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 January 2002 laying down the general principles and requirements of food law, establishing the European Food Safety Authority and laying down procedures in matters of food safety.

<sup>7</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/energy/sites/ener/files/opinion\\_on\\_prolongation\\_of\\_post-chernobyl\\_regulations\\_15\\_november\\_2018.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/energy/sites/ener/files/opinion_on_prolongation_of_post-chernobyl_regulations_15_november_2018.pdf)

nuclear power station<sup>8</sup>. In that opinion, the Group of Experts had confirmed that each consignment of mushrooms shall continue to be accompanied by a valid export certificate and considered it appropriate to require documentary checks on all consignments of mushrooms and random identity checks and random physical checks, including laboratory analysis on the presence of <sup>134</sup>Cs and <sup>137</sup>Cs. For products other than mushrooms, the experts recommended to maintain current control requirements in terms of certificates and measurements.

At this meeting, the Commission informed the experts of the content of the adopted Regulation and of its future review. All controls are integrated into the legislative framework of official controls in the agri-food chain. The maximum permitted levels of radioactivity are maintained but, following consultation with Member States, applied only on the longer-lived <sup>137</sup>Cs. Official certification is required for wild mushrooms and wild cranberries, wild bilberries and other wild fruits and processed products thereof. The Regulation requires 20 % of consignments to be controlled (sampled and analysed) for presence of <sup>137</sup>Cs at the border control posts. The list of third countries is updated.

A review of this Regulation as regards the list of affected third countries should be carried out by 31 March 2030. The representative of DG SANTE also informed the Article 31 GoE that, during consultations of the measure in the Standing Committee, a number of Member States suggested to initiate an up to date risk assessment analysing the actual contamination situation in third countries where the products originate from, already well before the foreseen review date of the measure in 2030. In such case, the GoE will be informed and involved.

The Article 31 Group of Experts took note of the developments.

## **5. TAXONOMY REGULATION (DISCUSSED IN A BREAKOUT SESSION ONLY FOR MEMBERS AND SECRETARIAT)**

The Commission had invited DG JRC to carry out a technical assessment of the “do no significant harm” (DNSH) aspects of nuclear energy and to prepare a report. It also invited two independent groups of experts, namely the Scientific Committee on Health, Environmental and Emerging Risks (SCHEER), and the Group of Experts referred to in Article 31 of the Euratom Treaty, to review the JRC report, once ready, and provide their opinions.

At the November 2020 meeting, the GoE had accepted the Commission’s request for an Opinion under Article 31 of the Euratom Treaty on JRC’s report *Technical assessment of nuclear energy with respect to “do no significant harm” criteria of Regulation (EU) 2020/852 (“Taxonomy regulation”)* after the JRC report would be completed. The group also established a Working Party on Taxonomy (WP TAX) to work on the requested Opinion.

At this meeting, the Chair of the Working Party on Taxonomy presented the membership and reported on progress made by the WP TAX since the receipt of the JRC report (on 26 March 2021). The first meeting of the WP TAX was held on 14 and 16 April 2021 to select a Chair and to discuss the methodological approach for the review and preliminary comments on the report. Since then, the WP TAX has embarked on a very tight meeting schedule (6 weekly meetings to this meeting date) to meet the three months’ deadline for delivery of an Opinion

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<sup>8</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/energy/sites/ener/files/opinion\\_on\\_implementing\\_regulation\\_on\\_post-  
chernobyl\\_measures\\_13\\_june\\_2019.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/energy/sites/ener/files/opinion_on_implementing_regulation_on_post-chernobyl_measures_13_june_2019.pdf)

of Article 31 GoE. The Chair presented in particular the proposed structure of the opinion, the preliminary conclusions, issues under discussion and next steps. The GoE provided general comments on the matter and agreed on the proposed structure and approach of the WP TAX. The GoE suggested that the WP TAX examines if a summary of the main opinion points could be included at the beginning of the Opinion document. On request of the experts, the Commission informed on the status of the parallel review procedure by SCHEER and confirmed that the same timeline for finalisation of the reviews applies to both committees.

The WP TAX will continue working on a weekly meeting basis with the view to finalise the draft Opinion and submit it to the Article 31 GoE by mid-June 2021. An extraordinary meeting of the plenary for discussion of the draft opinion and eventual adoption is envisaged for late June (the deadline for the final Opinion being 30 June 2021).

## **6. MEDICAL EXPOSURES**

### *6.1. Europe's Beating Cancer Plan*

#### *6.1.a Europe's Beating Cancer Plan*

At the November 2019 meeting, the Commission (DG SANTE) had informed the GoE on the Commission's forthcoming action plan on beating cancer as well as of the status of the legislative proposal on health technology assessment.

At this meeting, a representative from DG SANTE presented Europe's Beating Cancer Plan (EBCP) adopted on 3 February 2021, which represents a Commission's flagship initiative and a main priority in the area of public health, and a corner stone of the European Health Union. The Plan has four pillars: prevention; early detection; diagnosis and treatment; quality of life of cancer patients and survivors, and includes the cross-cutting themes: research and innovation, digital and personalised medicine, and reducing inequalities, and addresses lessons learnt from Covid-19 impact on cancer. The representative of DG SANTE presented the state of play of EBCP, as well as examples of the EBCP's ten flagship initiatives and multiple supporting actions, which support its policy objectives. In terms of governance, the Commission has established the following groups to enable interaction with various stakeholders: i) a steering group at the level of European Parliament, ii) a Member States group under the Steering Group on Health Promotion and Disease Prevention as sub-group on cancer (first meeting on 3 May and second meeting planned for 4 June 2021), iii) Cancer Plan Implementation Group at the Commission service level to ensure that actions and policies are aligned across European Commission policy departments (first two meetings on 13 April, and on 19 May 2021) and iv) a stakeholder contact group set up under the EU Health Policy Platform as a basis for discussion and exchange (first meeting on 28 May 2021).

The representative from WHO welcomed the initiative, which is in full consistency with the WHO's latest resolution, and noted that it presents an excellent opportunity for collaboration among WHO, the Article 31 GoE and its Working Party of Medical Exposures, and for alignment of efforts in the area of radiation protection and safety in medical uses of ionising radiation.

A representative of DG ENER noted one more action under the EBCP, of interest to the GoE, namely on Radon exposure.

The presentation triggered many questions showing a high interest of the experts, which were answered by the Commission representative. The experts' questions referred to the scope and focus of the EBCP including plans for international collaboration, the scope of cancer inequalities registry and relevant assessment criteria, as well as to potential actions for information/education aiming to protection of patients (e.g. in order to avoid undue exposure to examinations involving ionising radiation), systematic assessment of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on cancer patients care and relevant recovery plans. The Commission shared the EBCP and its annex following the meeting<sup>9</sup>.

*6.1.b Update on the Steering Group on Health Promotion and Disease Prevention and its subgroup on proton therapy centres*

At the November 2018 and November 2019 meetings, the Commission (DG SANTE) informed the experts of the work of the Steering Group on Health Promotion and Disease Prevention (SGPP) and its subgroup on proton therapy centres and in particular on the status of development of their report on proton therapy centres.

At this meeting, a representative from DG SANTE presented the work of the proton therapy sub-group, an endeavour started in October 2018 and completed in October 2020. The main findings include an increase of the number of centres in the last 15 years (> 40 centres in EU expected by 2025), with more centres located in central-western Europe, some identified weaknesses hampering research, and lack of clear indication of benefit in spite of the widespread clinical application. The sub-group concluded a need for improved study designs, metrology and centres' networking, patient registries, and further evidence of effectiveness and safety. In addition, they identified three routes with EU dimension, namely supporting research, promoting collaboration and using conditionality in investment research. The sub-group shared its conclusions with the Members States representatives participating in the SGPP. The SGPP members were asked to respond to a survey on which actions they would propose at EU level and on complementary actions they would consider at national level. Based on the 14 responses received, most countries are interested in targeted research and improved collaboration of therapy centres, and several welcome conditionality and financing. As regards the identified critical questions that remain open, the Commission is currently discussing with DG RTD to examine which of these critical questions can be answered by current and ongoing research projects or could be addressed within the next Horizon research programme.

The presentation initiated a good discussion, which reflected the high interest of the experts who provided feedback and views on the matter. An expert argued in favour of clear benefits, and noted there have been efforts of centres' collaboration. In particular, on the sub-group's conclusion regarding lack of clear evidence of benefit/effectiveness of proton therapy, the expert commented that it is very difficult to evaluate new technologies introduced in the market and stressed the notable advantage of proton therapy technology for children in terms of optimisation of doses. One expert noted the lack of registries and databases as a factor that

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<sup>9</sup> Available also in this link: [https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/promoting-our-european-way-life/european-health-union/cancer-plan-europe\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/promoting-our-european-way-life/european-health-union/cancer-plan-europe_en)

hinders assessment of the benefits. DG SANTE representative took note of all expressed views. The Article 31 Group of Experts is interested to hear further updates on the matter.

## *6.2. SAMIRA Action Plan*

A representative of DG ENER presented the Action Plan under the Strategic Agenda for Medical Ionising Radiation Applications (SAMIRA) adopted on 5 February 2021. The Action Plan was developed in co-operation with DG SANTE, DG RTD and DG JRC, as well as with EAC and ESA, and represents the energy sector's contribution to the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan. The Action Plan defines EU actions in three priority areas: i) securing the supply of medical radioisotopes, ii) improving quality and safety in medical ionising radiation applications, and iii) facilitating innovation and technological development of respective applications. Under the pillar of quality and safety of medical ionising radiation applications, which is the most relevant to the Article 31 GoE, there are several key actions. Among these is the launch of the European Initiative on Quality and Safety of medical applications, which expands from 2021 to 2024, and for which the ENER representative presented specific actions. On the governance level, this action aims to establish a Member State Group on Quality and Safety, comprising representatives from health and radiation protection authorities, to provide advice on the direction and content of the Initiative, to draw conclusions from relevant activities and projects, to support the implementation of project results in Member States, and to liaise with patients, professionals, researchers and industry. The group should convene its work in autumn 2021. Under the EU support action on Quality and Safety, the focus is on providing evidence, evidence-based guidance and practical tools. The action will build upon Euratom actions on legislation and research and will provide further support to other actions such as EU4Health, Horizon Europe Health cluster etc<sup>10</sup>. The action on coordinated implementation of European legislation and policies, will aim to build a better cooperation and links between the Euratom requirements for radiation protection and the legislation for radiopharmaceutical and medical devices, as well as to enhance the regulatory cooperation between national radiation protection authorities, pharmaceuticals and medical devices.

The Article 31 Group of Experts took note of the developments.

## *6.3 Working Party on Medical Exposures (WP MED)*

### *6.3.a Adoption of mandate of the Article 31 Working Party MED*

The Chair of the Working Party on Medical Exposures presented the draft mandate as prepared by the WP MED during their meeting on 11 May 2021.

The Article 31 Group of Experts discussed and adopted the mandate of the Working Party with one wording change (see in Annex 1 the adopted mandate).

### *6.3.b Progress Report by the Chair*

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<sup>10</sup> See section Projects and grants on the SAMIRA webpage, <https://ec.europa.eu/energy/topics/nuclear-energy/medical-uses-of-radiation> or directly the EC Funding & tenders webpages: [EU4Health work programme 2021](#), Euratom work programme 2021-2022: [Call for projects](#) and [Call for an European partnership](#)

The Chair of WP MED presented the membership of the Working Party and reported on progress made with the work programme. The WP MED met on 11 May 2021 to select their Chair and Vice-Chair, to select the observer organisations to be invited, to prepare the draft mandate, and discuss the rolling work programme of the working party. An additional topic on the meeting's agenda was to receive updates on the SAMIRA Action plan and the recent Commission activities supporting the action plan such as the QuADRANT Study on Clinical Audit and the ESR Study on CT Justification. The Chair presented the outcomes of these discussions as well summarised the aims, status and next steps of the above SAMIRA purporting activities, which are being followed by the WP MED. Finally, the Chair gave an outlook on the way forward, and noted that further discussions are required to refine and develop the work programme including the input/view of the Article 31 GoE in respect defining its scope. In particular, the Chair sought the advice of the GoE as regards the specific proposals of members of the WP MED for inclusion of additional topics in the work programme, such as occupational exposure, Radiation Protection Officer duties, personal dosimetry. The Chair also emphasized the importance of working with other groups with a view to avoid duplication of efforts. The WP MED could have a key role in supporting implementation activities and preparing for the next revision of the BSS.

The representative from IRPA expressed the interest to join the WP MED as observer, which the Chair and Secretariat welcomed.

In the discussion that followed, the Article 31 Group of Experts commented positively on the progress made and on the presented work programme. Following the discussion, the experts agreed that the work programme is already heavy and that further expansion is not advisable. The representative from HERCA suggested the need to look at the low dose CT procedures within the work of clinical audit and supported the WP MED's work on screening. One expert proposed the topic of clinical aspects of personal dosimetry and in particular the issue of incomparability of dosimetry values across practices/countries (due to measurements under different practical configurations and assessment methodologies), and stressed the importance of the topic given the large number of exposed workers in the medical group. Following a comprehensive discussion, it was agreed that occupational exposure is out of scope in respect to the WP MED work programme and that if a need would be identified, including during the next Scientific Seminar on *Advances/innovations of individual dosimetry*, this should be discussed in plenary as part of the GoE's work programme discussion.

## **7. NATURAL RADIATION SOURCES**

### *7.a National Radon Action Plans*

A representative from DG ENER presented the ongoing study on national radon action plans. The study aims to conduct a review and evaluation of national radon action plans established in EU Member States according to the requirements in Council Directive 2013/59/Euratom – the BSS Directive – focusing on the practical implementation of the actions defined in these action plans. The 2-year project commenced in December 2020. The expected outcomes comprise a review and evaluation of national radon action plans in Europe, with particular focus on practical implementation of the actions, organisation of regional workshops as well as a final workshop planned for September 2022. The DG ENER's representative gave an overview of the tasks and of the status of the study.

The Article 31 Group of Experts took note of the developments. The Commission will further inform the GoE of the progress and findings of this study. The representative from the Norway offered to share information on the Norwegian Radon Action Plan, which was welcomed.

*7.b Recent developments regarding the Article 31 Working Party on Natural Radiation Sources (WP NAT)*

The Secretariat of the Working Party on Natural Radiation Sources updated the GoE on recent developments. The Secretariat presented the membership of the WP NAT, and the draft mandate as prepared by the WP NAT.

The first meeting of the Working Party is scheduled for 15 June 2021. The agenda includes the selection of a Chairperson, discussion and conclusion of the list of observers to be invited, and discussion of the report on implementation of BSS Directive regarding building materials, which had started in the previous term.

The Article 31 Group of Experts discussed and adopted the mandate of the Working Party with one change (see in Annex 2 the adopted mandate).

## **8. EU SCIENTIFIC SEMINARS**

*8.a Adoption of mandate of the Article 31 Working Party Research Implications on Health and Safety Standards (RIHSS)*

The Chair of the Working Party on Research Implications on Health and Safety Standards presented the membership and the draft mandate as prepared by the WP RIHSS during their meeting on 26 and 29 March 2021.

The Article 31 Group of Experts discussed and adopted the mandate of the Working Party with one change (see in Annex 3 the adopted mandate).

*8.b Draft proceedings of EU Scientific Seminar 2020 Radiosensitivity of children - Health issues after radiation exposure at young age*

The Chair of the WP RIHSS presented the draft proceedings of the EU Scientific Seminar 2020 *Radiosensitivity of children - Health issues after radiation exposure at young age - report RP 196* as prepared by the Working Party during their meetings on 26 and 29 March and on 17 May 2021.

The Article 31 Group of Experts approved the draft proceedings for publication in the Radiation Protection series of the European Commission and thanked the WP RIHSS for the very comprehensive report.

*8.c EU Scientific Seminars 2021 and 2022*

### Scientific Seminar 2021

The Chair of WP RIHSS presented three topics proposed by the WP RIHSS for the EU Scientific Seminar 2021 with an outline of the respective possible seminar content, and the feedback received from the Article 31 GoE before the meeting. The three proposed topics were the following:

- Advances/innovations in dosimetry
- Proton therapy - health and safety implications
- Holistic approach to radiation safety under COVID-19 circumstances – challenges and lessons learned

The Article 31 Group of Experts discussed the proposed topics and approved the topic of *Advances/innovations in personal dosimetry* for the Scientific Seminar 2021. The seminar is planned to take place on 9 November 2021 and could cover the following elements:

- Overview presentation (new dosimetry techniques)
- Eye-lens dosimetry
- Aircrew and space crew dosimetry
- Dosimetry in pulsed fields
- Radiation protection of personnel in proton therapy facilities
- IT and computational science in dosimetry

Some experts proposed to include the topic of intake of radionuclides in respect to the ICRU/ICRP report on the new operational quantities in radiation protection. The programme of the scientific seminar will be finalised by the WP RIHSS in their next meeting planned for 7 June 2021. The members of the GoE are invited to express their interest to join the scientific committee of the Scientific Seminar 2021 by contacting the Chair and/or Secretariat of the WP RIHSS.

### Scientific Seminar 2022

The Chair of WP RIHSS presented two topics, and the respective possible seminar content, proposed by the WP RIHSS for the EU Scientific Seminar 2022 and the feedback received from the Article 31 GoE before the meeting. The two proposed topics were the following:

- Safety and radiological protection considerations of nuclear fusion reactors
- Activities involving naturally occurring radioactive material (NORM) – Radiation protection issues in operation, discharges of effluent releases, management of NORM residues, and management of legacy sites

The Chair of WP RIHSS supported the first topic, which provides an outlook to the future. In the discussion that followed, an expert suggested that a short presentation on radiation protection issues of nuclear fusion reactors could be arranged, during the next GoE meeting, in order to inform the experts before taking the final decision. In light of this request, the Article 31 Group of Experts agreed to postpone the final selection of the topic for the Scientific Seminar 2022 to autumn. The WP RIHSS and the Commission Secretariat will propose a presentation on radiation protection issues of nuclear fusion reactors for the November 2021 meeting.

### **9. STUDY “COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION AND ANALYSIS OF THE SITUATION OF TRANSPORT OF NUCLEAR MATERIALS”**

The Secretariat informed the experts that in light of shortly received information of illness of the representative of DG ENER who would present the topic, the Commission will instead

distribute the presentation document to the GoE after the meeting. Questions can be sent to the Secretariat via email and will be forwarded for adequate response.

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

No emerging issue was raised.

#### **11. INFORMATION FROM INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS**

The International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP) was not represented in the meeting but provided to the Secretariat in advance a report on their respective current activities, which was distributed to the meeting participants for information.

The Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA) provided to the Secretariat an activity report on the programme of work of the Committee on Radiological Protection and Public Health (CRPPH), which was distributed to the meeting participants for information.

##### *11.1 International Atomic Energy Agency*

The representative from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) presented an update of IAEA's activities and upcoming meetings.

The Article 31 Group of Experts took note of the newest activities.

##### *11.2 World Health Organisation*

The representative from the World Health Organisation (WHO) presented an update of WHO's activities.

The Article 31 Group of Experts took note of the newest activities.

##### *11.3 Heads of European Radiation protection Competent Authorities*

The representative from the Heads of European Radiation protection Competent Authorities (HERCA) presented HERCA, its working groups (Medical Applications, Veterinary Applications, Natural sources, Research and Industrial Sources and Practices, Education and Training, Emergencies) and gave an update of recent activities.

The Article 31 Group of Experts took note of the newest activities.

##### *11.4 International Radiological Protection Association*

The representative from the International Radiological Protection Association (IRPA) presented IRPA and latest developments and planned activities/ meetings in the wider area of radiation protection.

The Article 31 Group of Experts took note of the newest activities.

## **12. WORK PROGRAMME OF THE ARTICLE 31 GROUP OF EXPERTS “ROAD MAP”**

The GoE had last reviewed their rolling work programme during the November 2020 meeting. The Article 31 Group of Experts agreed to review the rolling work programme during the November 2021 plenary.

## **13. OTHER BUSINESS**

- **ICRP review and impact on future Basic Safety Standards** – A representative of DG ENER shared information regarding the revision of the system of radiological protection recently initiated by ICRP. The Commission is involved in the ICRP discussions, and will inform the GoE as regards their potential contribution.

## **14. DATES OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The **November 2021 meeting** of the Article 31 Group of Experts is planned for **9 - 10 November 2021**.

The dates of the **June 2022 meeting** will be communicated by the Secretariat in due course.

Depending on the evolution of the COVID-19 situation, the next meetings may take place as online meetings.

An **extraordinary meeting** will be organised towards end of **June 2021** for discussion and approval of the Opinion on taxonomy. The date will be communicated by the Secretariat as soon as possible.

## **Annex 1: Mandate of the Working Party on Medical Exposures**

### **Mandate of the Working Party on Medical Exposures Term 2020– 2025**

(Approved by the Article 31 Group of Experts at the meeting on 1-2 June)

The Working Party on Medical Exposures (WP MED) of the Group of Experts referred to in Article 31 of the Euratom treaty consists of attending and corresponding members selected among the members of the GoE. WP MED elects a Chair and a Vice-Chair for a term equal to half the duration of its current mandate and extendable to the full duration of the mandate by simple majority. The Secretariat is provided by the European Commission.

WP MED may invite permanent Observers to their meetings as well as invite other organisation or individuals for particular points of a meeting agenda.

In organising its work, WP MED follows the applicable provisions of the Rules of Procedure of the Group of Experts referred to in Article 31 of the Euratom treaty.

The main objective of this Working Party is to discuss and propose resolutions to current issues in the radiation protection of patients and other individuals subject to medical exposures. In particular, the Working Party should:

1. Keep track of recent scientific and technical developments in the field of radiation protection in medical exposure as well as of the international recommendations in this field.
2. Share information and discuss new and emerging issues in the Member States relating to radiation protection of patients and other medically exposed individuals.
3. When deemed necessary by decision of the WP, or if requested by the Euratom Article 31 Group of Experts or the Commission, prepare reports or guidance on issues relating to the implementation of Council Directive 2013/59/Euratom and other matters.
4. When necessary, make proposals to the Article 31 Group for elaboration of formal opinions, guidance or statements on radiation protection in medicine.
5. Upon request by the Commission provide input on planned and ongoing Commission studies in the field of radiation protection in medicine as well as propose to the Commission to launch new studies in this field. In particular, the Working Party should provide advices on work related to the implementation of the Strategic Agenda for Medical Ionising Radiations Applications<sup>11</sup> (SAMIRA) in the area of quality and safety of medical applications.
6. Contribute to the Article 31 Group's discussions on other issues relating to medical aspects of radiation protection, such as radiation protection of medical staff, education and training of staff undertaking medical exposures and the appropriate aspects of non-medical imaging exposures.
7. Submit, through its Chairman, written reports with the results of its work to the meetings of the Article 31 Group.

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<sup>11</sup> SWD(2021) 14 final, COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT on a Strategic Agenda for Medical Ionising Radiation Applications (SAMIRA)

## **Annex 2: Mandate of the Working Party on Natural Radiation Sources**

### **Mandate of the Working Party on Natural Radiation Sources (WP NAT) Term 2020 – 2025**

(Approved by the Article 31 Group of Experts at the meeting on 1-2 June)

The main objective of the *Working Party on Natural Radiation Sources (WP NAT)* of the Group of Experts referred to in Article 31 of the Euratom Treaty is to discuss current and emerging issues related to radiation protection of individuals subject to exposure to natural sources of ionising radiation. The Working Party shall develop material to support the implementation of the requirements on natural radiation sources established in Council Directive 2013/59/Euratom – the BSS Directive.

In particular, the Working Party shall keep track of recent scientific and technical developments and knowledge in the field of natural radiation sources as well as of the international recommendations in this field. Further to this, the Working Party shall identify needs for research, development of new techniques, and education and training.

**Annex 3: Mandate of the Working Party on Research Implications on Health and Safety Standards**

**Mandate of the Working Party on  
Research Implications on Health and Safety Standards (WP RIHSS)  
Term 2020– 2025**

(Approved by the Article 31 Group of Experts at the meeting on 1-2 June)

The mandate of WP RIHSS is to review latest scientific progress and scientific literature relevant to Radiation Protection with the objective to identify emerging issues with potential policy and/or regulatory implications on Health and Safety Standards. Based on this review, WP RIHSS identifies and suggests topics, which would merit being subject of an EU Scientific Seminar.

WP RIHSS acts as a scientific committee preparing the programme of the seminar, summarising the discussions, and preparing conclusions for the proceedings. The scientific committee can be extended by inviting additional experts, from the members of the Article 31 Group of Experts, based on their scientific expertise on the specific topic. The Rapporteur of the seminar is nominated amongst the scientific committee members.

Further to this and on request of the Article 31 Group of Experts, the Working Party summarises the latest scientific literature on a given topic.