



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

17 May 2022

SUMMARY REPORT

(Approved by the Group of Experts at the meeting 29-30 November 2022)

INTRODUCTION

The meeting of the Article 31 Group of Experts took place on 17 May 2022 via WebEx.

The meeting was attended by 41 out of 48 members of the Group, representatives from observers (IAEA, WHO, NEA, HERCA, IRPA, Switzerland and UK), and representatives from DG JRC, DG RTD, and DG ENER. An external expert was also invited to present the QuADRANT study findings (ref. agenda item 7.1a).

The Chair opened the meeting and the Head of Unit ENER D3 Radiation protection and nuclear safety welcomed the participants. The Secretariat informed the experts on apologies and gave updates on observers to the group.

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The draft Agenda was adopted with one change under agenda *item 7*.

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

In line with the rules of procedure, the Secretariat invited the Group of Experts to declare any change in the information provided during the nomination procedure through the experts' Declaration Of Interest (DOI) forms. No conflict of interest was declared.

3. APPROVAL OF THE SUMMARY REPORT OF THE WEBEX MEETING HELD ON 9-10 NOVEMBER 2021

The Summary Report of the online meeting held on 9-10 November 2021 was approved with one change concerning updating the date of the current meeting that had been shortened to one day¹.

4. INFORMATION FROM THE COMMISSION

4.1. Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety

The Head of Unit ENER D3 Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety presented updates of the ENER-D activities in the areas of nuclear safety and radiation protection. In this context, he informed the experts about the adoption of the second progress report on the implementation of the Nuclear Safety Directive (NSD) and on the status of preparations for the second Topical Peer Review, which will focus on *fire protection at nuclear installations* and is planned to take place in 2024. He also updated the experts on progress with transposition checks of the Euratom Directives (Nuclear Safety, Basic Safety Standards, Drinking Water, and Radioactive Waste Management Directives). The Radiation Protection team leader informed the experts of the ongoing studies that are looking into the implementation of the Basic Safety Standards Directive. Information on ongoing and planned studies in the relevant activity areas will be distributed to the Group of Experts after the meeting.

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

4.2. Euratom research

4.2.a Presentation by DG RTD

A representative of DG RTD presented updates of the Euratom research funded projects on radiation protection. In this context, he introduced Horizon Europe and Euratom R&T, the Euratom Programme financial envelope 2021-2025, explained the selection procedure for the Euratom R&T funded Projects and detailed the currently/recently funded Euratom Research Radiation Protection Projects - H2020 (2014-2020). In addition, he addressed the incoming Euratom Research Partnership for European Research in Radiation Protection and detection of ionising radiation *PIANOFORTE* - Horizon Europe (2021-2027) as well as the projects *TITANS* (Tritium Impact and Transfer in Adv. Nuclear reactorS) and *SECURE* (Safe use and reliable supply of medical radionuclides).

The Article 31 Group of Experts took note.

4.2.b Presentation by DG JRC

A representative of DG JRC presented updates of their activities under JRC Euratom work programme 2021-2022, which contains five portfolios, namely, nuclear research for energy transition, promoting reversibility: from nuclear back to the green field, broadening nuclear knowledge and competence, strengthening global partnership in nuclear expertise and

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

nuclear R&I for protecting citizens. In addition, the representative outlined the JRC's participation in indirect actions as well as their new nuclear strategy.

The Article 31 Group of Experts took note.

5. SAMIRA ACTION PLAN

A representative of DG ENER updated the Group of Experts on latest and planned activities in the implementation of the Strategic Agenda for Medical Ionising Radiation Applications (SAMIRA) Action Plan, adopted on 5 February 2021 and developed by DG ENER in co-operation with DG SANTE, DG RTD and DG JRC, as well as with EAC and ESA. In this context, the representative informed of the status of activities under the 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, the Steering Group on Quality and Safety (SGQS) was established, comprising representatives from health and radiation protection authorities of 25 Member States and Norway. The SGQS will provide advice on the direction and content of the activities in this area, draw conclusions from relevant activities and projects and support the implementation of project results in Member States. The first plenary of the group took place on 25 November 2021 and the next one is planned for 14-15 June 2022.

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

6. WAR IN UKRAINE

6.a Presentation by the Commission on ongoing activities

The Commission (Head of Unit ENER-D3) presented its support activities to Ukraine in the field of nuclear safety and radiation protection. The presentation included the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations via the EU Civil Protection Mechanism, the support under the Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation in Ukraine, activities in the area of Emergency Preparedness and Response and cooperation with regulators (through ENSREG, WENRA and HERCA). The presentation was highly appreciated by the experts and triggered a discussion. The comments and questions focussed on availability of dispersion modelling calculations, on contamination risks arising from military activities involving hospitals that use ionising radiation sources, on emergency preparedness and response including also in view of the probability of a nuclear war, and on professional opportunities in the wider nuclear field for refugees of relevant background.

6.b Experience of Article 31 Group of Experts

The experts shared their experiences in relation to the war in Ukraine and noted, among other issues, the importance of pre-planning, harmonising and coordinating response to a potential nuclear emergency in Europe, such as the procedure for iodine prophylaxis, and sharing information and data. The UK representative, who also chairs the HERCA working group emergencies, informed the group of the HERCA task force on Ukraine. Several experts expressed their concerns about the impacts of a nuclear war, the need for clarity of authorities' roles and responsibilities, and in general noted the need to be prepared.

6.c Refresh on Food and Feed procedure

The Commission (ENER D3) updated the Group of Experts on the legislative framework and procedure regarding food and feed in response to a potential nuclear emergency. The Commission's representative gave an outline of the *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 (OJ L13, 15.01.2016)*, which is to be applied in case of a nuclear accident or radiological emergency inside or outside EU. In such case, a specific Commission implementing regulation should be adopted following the "Comitology procedure", via examination or urgency procedure, and be periodically reviewed. The representative recalled the examples of such Commission Implementing Regulations, namely the Post-Chernobyl² and Post Fukushima³ Regulations and recalled also the applicable Drinking Water Directive.

The experts appreciated the comprehensive presentation.

7. REVIEW AND PRIORITISATION OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE WORKING PARTIES (WPs) AND RELATED PROJECTS

7.1. Medical Exposures (WP MED)

7.1.a Final Report of study on Constant improvement in quality and safety of radiology, radiotherapy and nuclear medicine through clinical audit (QuADRANT)

The project manager of the QuADRANT study presented the main findings and conclusions of the study.

The experts appreciated the presentation and discussed the way forward as regards the review and approval of the final report for publication in the Radiation Protection Series. It was agreed that the Secretary of the Working Party on Medical Exposures (WP MED) would make a proposal in the following weeks regarding the procedure for review and approval for the draft publication after the completion of the review by the WP MED members. The experts supported in principle the option of using a written procedure.

7.1.b Progress report of the Working Party on medical exposures (WP MED)

The Chair of Working Party on Medical Exposures reported on progress made since the last plenary in November 2021. The WP MED met on 16 May 2022 to discuss the ongoing studies launched by DG ENER (SIMPLERAD, EU-JUST-CT, Patient Dose Monitoring, RPE, RPO and MPE, Reporting and learning from incidents), as well as activities by other DGs (MEDIRAD under the EURATOM research & training Programme and an EU4 Health study on Workforce availability

² Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1158 on the conditions governing imports of food and feed originating in third countries following the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power station (OJ L257, 06.08.2020)

³ Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/1533 of 17 September 2021 imposing special conditions governing the import of feed and food originating in or dispatched from Japan following the accident at the Fukushima nuclear power station and repealing Implementing Regulation (EU) 2016/6 (OJ L330, 20.09.2021)

and training). They also received updates on the work of ICRP in relation to the review of the RP system and the work of Committee 3, as well as discussed the working party's rolling work programme. Finally, the Chair of WP MED gave an outlook on the way forward, noting also that further discussions are required to refine and develop the WP MED's work programme including the input/view of the Article 31 Group of Experts in this respect.

The Article 31 Group of Experts took note of the progress made.

7.2. Natural Radiation Sources (WP NAT)

The Chair of the Working Party on Natural Radiation Sources updated the Group of Experts on recent developments with the drafting of the report on radioactivity in building materials, which is progressing well, and on the WP NAT plans to consult external experts working in construction products regulation and with relevant standardisation committees. The WP NAT will aim to develop a new draft in view of the November Art. 31 plenary.

The Article 31 Group of Experts took note of the progress made.

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

7.3.a Progress report of the Research Implications on Health and Safety Standards (WP RIHSS)

The Chair of the Working Party on Research Implications on Health and Safety Standards reported on progress made since the last plenary in November 2021. The WP RIHSS met online on 25 March and on 5 May 2022. During these meetings, the WP RIHSS reviewed the speakers' contributions and prepared the draft proceedings of the EU Scientific Seminar 2021 on *Advances/Innovations in individual dosimetry* - report RP 197, and prepared the draft programme of the EU Scientific Seminar 2022 on Radiological protection considerations for fusion reactors.

7.3.b Draft proceedings of EU Scientific Seminar 2021 on Advances/Innovations in individual dosimetry

The Chair of the WP RIHSS presented the final version of the draft proceedings of the EU Scientific Seminar 2021 on *Advances/Innovations in individual dosimetry - report RP 197 (version 6 May 2022)* as prepared by the WP RIHSS.

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 good draft report.

7.3.c EU Scientific Seminar 2022 on Safety and radiological protection considerations of nuclear fusion reactors

The Chair of WP RIHSS presented the draft programme of the EU Scientific Seminar 2022 on *Radiological protection considerations for fusion reactors* as prepared by the WP RIHSS (see in Annex 1 the draft programme). The slightly modified title of the seminar was proposed by the WP RIHSS to remain within the Group of Experts mandate. The seminar is planned for 29 November 2022.

The Group of Experts discussed and approved the draft programme for the scientific seminar and mandated the WP RIHHS to finalise the programme, including the selection of speakers. The members of the Group of Experts were invited to propose speakers for the presented topics by contacting the Chair and/or Secretariat of the WP RIHSS.

8. EMERGING ISSUES IN MEMBER STATES WITH POTENTIAL IMPLICATIONS ON A EUROPEAN LEVEL

No emerging issue was raised.

9. ISSUES OF INTEREST FROM INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

9.1 International Atomic Energy Agency

The representative from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) presented an update of IAEA's activities regarding RP Safety Standards, Radiation Protection of Patients, Occupational Radiation Protection, Radiation Safety Technical Services, as well as upcoming conferences and meetings. The representative informed also on latest developments within the Inter-Agency Committee on Radiation Safety (IACRS), which IAEA currently chairs.

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

9.2 World Health Organisation

The representative from the World Health Organisation (WHO) presented an update of WHO's activities under radiation and health and in particular in the areas of existing, medical and emergency exposures (including WHO's response to the war in Ukraine). The representative outlined also the good cooperation of WHO with the EC.

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

9.3 Nuclear Energy Agency

The representative from the Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA) presented an update of NEA's activities in the areas of radiological protection and public health. The representative presented NEA's standing technical committees and new strategic plan and focused on the current programme of work and priorities for the coming years of the Committee for Radiological Protection and Public Health (CRPPH).

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

9.4 Heads of European Radiation protection Competent Authorities

The representative from the Heads of European Radiation protection Competent Authorities (HERCA) presented updates of HERCA Chairmanship and new strategy, as well as on HERCA's activities including of their 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 representative informed that a dedicated drafting group is in charge of preparing HERCA's views on ICRP's project to update its recommendations.

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

9.5 International Radiological Protection Association

The representative from the International Radiological Protection Association (IRPA) presented IRPA's strategic plan 2021-2024 and gave the IRPA's perspectives with a focus on the Review of the System of Radiological Protection. The representative informed the experts of their newly established Task Group on the Review of the System of Radiological Protection and presented the issues identified based on RP professionals feedback on ICRP's "fit for purpose" paper.

The Article 31 Group of Experts took note of IRPA's perspective.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was raised.

11. DATES OF THE NEXT MEETING

The **November 2022 meeting** of the Article 31 Group of Experts is planned for **29-30 November 2022**. The meeting is currently planned to take place in Luxembourg as hybrid meeting⁴, in Room E, European Convention Center Luxembourg, 1, rue du Fort Thüngen, L-1499 Luxembourg (Kirchberg)

The dates of the **June 2023 meeting** will be communicated by the Secretariat in due course.

⁴ This is subject to change depending on the evolution of the COVID-19 situation.

Annex 1:

EU Scientific Seminar 2022
Radiological protection considerations for fusion reactors
Luxembourg, 29 November 2022
starting at 13:30 - ending at 18:00
in Room E
European Convention Center Luxembourg
1, rue du Fort Thüngen, L-1499 Luxembourg (Kirchberg)

Draft Programme

(Approved by the Group of Experts at the meeting 17 May 2022)

Chairperson: *Name tbc*

Rapporteur: Laurence Lebaron-Jacobs

13:30 – 13:40	Objectives of the seminar and introduction to the topic <i>Chair, on behalf of the Article 31 WP RIHSS</i>
13:40 – 14:20	Basic radiation protection issues in future fusion reactors <i>Speaker tbc</i>
14:20 – 14:50	Radiological inventories and source terms <i>Speaker tbc</i>
14:50 – 15:20	Occupational Radiation Exposure <i>Speaker tbc</i>
15:20 – 15:50	Coffee Break
15:50 – 16:20	Environmental Releases and public exposure in normal and accidental situations <i>Speaker tbc</i>
16:20– 17:50	Round table discussion: Policy implications and research needs 16:20-16:30 – Dosimetry , <i>Speaker tbc</i> 16:30-16:40 – Issues with tritium , <i>Speaker tbc</i> 16:40-16:50 – Radioactive waste issues , <i>Speaker tbc</i> 16:50-17:50 – Discussion <i>Moderator: the Chair</i> <i>Round table: Speakers, panellists,</i>

17:50 – 18:00	Concluding remarks and closing of the EU Scientific Seminar 2022 <i>Chairperson</i>
18:15	<i>Cocktail</i>