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EUROPEAN AND MEDITERRANEAN MAJOR HAZARDS AGREEMENT (EUR-OPA)

## **DRAFT RECOMMENDATION**

**on**

## **RADIOLOGICAL PROTECTION OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES: IMPROVING PREPAREDNESS**

*55<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Correspondents, Istanbul*



The Committee of Permanent Correspondents of the European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement (EUR-OPA):

Taking into account the need for local populations to be aware of the risks to their safety and environment of radiological installations and in particular of Nuclear Power Plants (NPP) and other nuclear facilities;

Recognising the role played by local authorities, given their proximity to the citizen, in the transmission of information on risks and their fundamental importance in risk prevention and management;

Subscribing the principles recognised in the “*Convention on access to information, public participation in decision making and access to justice on environmental matters*” (Aarhus, 1998) and wishing that local communities improve their information and preparedness for possible emergency situations due to radiological accidents in NPP;

Desirous to spread the lessons learned from the Chernobyl legacy so as to improve European nuclear safety, further involving citizens and local authorities;

Noting the conclusions of the international workshop on “*Public authorities and civil society together for a safe European nuclear future*”. .Learning from the Chernobyl legacy to make European nuclear energy safer: the role of local communities, authorities and central governments in emergency preparedness and management», Kiev, Ukraine 22-23 September, 2008, (document AP/CAT (2008) 24);

**Recommend that Governments:**

1. promote the dissemination of information on safety of NPP and on procedures for better emergency management, carrying out specific campaigns and exercises in the neighbourhood of NPP; promote regular community-based risk education in these areas;
2. facilitate the procedures for local and regional authorities to access radiological and safety information necessary for better preparedness and emergency management, promoting regular contacts between NPP managers and local authorities;
3. actively involve local and regional authorities in the elaboration of emergency plans and early warning systems concerning possible radiological or nuclear accidents;
4. in emergency situations, keep local and regional authorities better and truthfully informed and include them as appropriate in “emergency management ”;
5. provide appropriate financial support to local and regional authorities to embark on the tasks above;

6. promote coordination and exchange of experiences among local authorities of different countries in nuclear safety and radiation protection, supporting appropriate mechanisms such as those proposed in the conclusions of the workshop “*Public authorities and civil society together for a safe European nuclear future*”, Kiev, Ukraine 22-23 September, 2008, (document AP/CAT (2008) 24).