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EUROPEAN AND MEDITERRANEAN MAJOR HAZARDS AGREEMENT (EUR-OPA)

**Meeting of EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement
and the French Authority for Nuclear Safety (ASN)**

Council of Europe Office, Paris
3 February 2010

MINUTES

Subject:

Improvement of the radiation protection of the population by strengthening the co-operation between International organizations, National authorities and communities and by deploying a network for a wide exchange of best international experiences and practices

Participants:

Mr. Jean-Luc LACHAUME
Deputy General Director of the French authority for nuclear safety (ASN)

Mr. Eladio FERNANDEZ-GALIANO
Executive Secretary, European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement (EUR-OPA), Council of Europe, Strasbourg

Mr. Francesc PLA
Deputy to the Executive Secretary, European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement, Council of Europe, Strasbourg

Mr. Stepan BADALYAN
Permanent Correspondent of Armenia to EUR-OPA

Mme Monique BERNAERT
Permanent Correspondent of Belgium to EUR-OPA

Mr. Michel FEIDER
Permanent Correspondent of Luxembourg to EUR-OPA

Mr. Victor POYARKOV
Executive Director of European Centre of Technological Safety, EUR-OPA/Ukraine

Presentations and discussion:

Mr. Eladio FERNANDEZ-GALIANO opened the meeting and informed about EUR-OPA's activity on better radiological protection and information for populations living in areas that might be affected in the case of an accident at a Nuclear Power Plant or any other nuclear facilities through dissemination of best European experience on emergency planning, public awareness, iodine prophylaxis and other elements of radiological protection.

Mr. Victor POYARKOV informed about the international workshop "**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**" held in Kiev, Ukraine 22-23 September, 2008.

Workshop participants:

- representatives of international organizations: the European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement (EUR-OPA) of the Council of Europe, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).
- representatives of national, regional and local authorities and communities: Mayors of cities from 14 countries - Armenia, Belgium, France, Italy, Spain, Sweden and others.

The participants discussed and adopted the conclusions of the workshop and expressed their willingness to collaborate for better radiological protection of the population. (http://tesec-int.org/ConclusionKIEVworkshop2008_EN.pdf).

Mr. Poyarkov also informed about the **Task Force Group Meeting** "To foster better radiological protection and information for populations living in areas that might be affected in the case of a nuclear or radiation accident" which was held in Kiev, Ukraine on 2-4 September, 2009. The purpose of this Task Force Group (TFG) meeting was to develop the basis for co-operation with the Group of Local Authorities with Nuclear Facilities in Europe (GMF), the Spanish Group of Mayors in Municipalities with Nuclear Facilities (AMAC) and the Association of Swedish Local Authorities with Nuclear Facilities (KSO).

The participant of the TFG meeting recommended (<http://tesec-int.org/concl%2002-04%20SEPT%202009.pdf>):

1. There is a problem – necessity of better awareness and information of the population on radiological risk.
2. National, international organizations and the local community have to join efforts to use best international experience on this aim in the EU and in neighbouring countries. EUR-OPA, UNDP, GMF, KSO and AMAC are privileged partners for such collaboration; they could be the basis for a network for better awareness and information of the population on radiological risk.
3. The realization of priorities defined in the 2008 Workshop in Kiev could be a first step towards such collaboration. It is necessary to study the different opportunities for funding this activity.
4. We foresee the need to spread the positive experiences of Local Information Committees and Local Stake Holders Groups in the work of communication of radiological risks to citizens living near NPP's in Europe.
5. The organisations participating in the conference underline the need for a transnational European programme for information and experience exchange to learn the lessons of the Chernobyl disaster.

Mr. Jean-Luc LACHAUME informed about nuclear emergency preparedness and response in France. The **Nuclear Safety Authority (ASN)** is a state organization independent from the Government; its main aim is to protect workers, the public and the environment from nuclear risks, and to contribute to the information of the public. In the case of nuclear emergency situations, ASN responsibilities are the following:

- To ensure that the measures taken by the licensee are adequate
 - for managing the accident and reducing its consequences
 - to ensure on-site staff protection
 - to inform the authorities rapidly
- To advise the Prefect on the protective actions to be taken, based on
 - the diagnosis made by IRSN and the expected consequences of the accident
 - the real or potential consequences
- To contribute to informing
 - the public and media
 - French institutions (Prime Minister, other ministries,...)

To inform safety authorities abroad and international institutions (IAEA, EU), to request or give assistance if requested, in application of international, European and bilateral agreements with neighbouring countries.

Mr. Michel FEIDER informed about a common document of Belgium, France, Germany, Luxembourg and Switzerland: "**Trans-border harmonization of iodine prophylaxis and other linked protective actions in the first hours of an accident in Belgium, France, Germany Luxembourg and Switzerland**". This is a very good example of a fruitful collaboration between States for a better

understanding and improving the protection of the population in the case of nuclear accident. This document should be made available to other countries having similar problems, using that best international experience and encourage the implementation in their region.

All participants took a part in the discussion to identify the way for a better collaboration on radiological protection of the population and improve the co-operation of national and regional authorities.

Conclusion:

The participants agreed upon the necessity for joint activity to promote better radiation protection of the population by strengthening co-operation between international organizations, national authorities and communities, deploying the network for wide distribution of the best international experience.

As first step, **it was decided to organise a training course for state authorities and representatives of communities of populations living in the areas that might be affected by an accident at a Nuclear Power Plant (NPP) in June 2011 (location to be defined) .**

The training materials for this course will be developed by an international team of experts and will be based upon best national and international experience. The training materials for the course will be published on the Internet in French, English and Russian.