



## **Aarhus Convention and Nuclear**

### ***European Roundtable "Aarhus Convention implementation in the context of a nuclear accident with durable consequences - New challenges after Fukushima"***

**Luxembourg, 15-16 February 2012**

**European roundtable organised by the ANCCLI and the European Commission (DG ENER) with the support of the French Nuclear Safety Authority (ASN)**

*The meeting will be held in the Jean Monnet Building in Luxembourg. It will start at 14:00 on 15<sup>th</sup> of February and finish at 17:00 on 16<sup>th</sup> of February 2012.*

## **Announcement**

### ***Context of the roundtable***

#### **New challenges after the Fukushima disaster**

The Fukushima disaster in Japan has brought back on the international scene the threat of a nuclear accident of great magnitude, almost 25 years after the Chernobyl accident. This accident has taken from its first moments a global dimension. Beyond the Japanese context of this disaster, populations from every parts of the world, including from the European Union, have directly experienced this event. Day after day, they have been seeking for information in order to assess the situation, its seriousness, its evolution and its danger to humans and the environment. Public access to reliable information during the emergency phase appears to be a complex issue. The Japanese population was at first concerned with identifying the appropriate behaviours in order to protect its health. It also appeared to be a concern for foreign residents in Japan and to their fellow country people in this perspective.

This disaster, like Chernobyl before, shows that the inhabitants of territories affected by long-lasting radioactive contamination are strongly and durably impacted in their daily lives and their social, professional, economic and cultural activities. Beyond the health aspects, they face a

multitude of difficult trade-off and choices, which are not confined to the implementation of technical radiation protection recommendations. The ability of local actors to have access to reliable information and to the necessary resources to build individually and collectively their actions in order to restore the various affected dimensions of their living conditions, in the terms posed by the Aarhus Convention, is a key issue. Beyond contaminated regions, populations are also seeking for information regarding products and food exported from the contaminated areas whereas activities like traveling & tourism are also questioned.

### ***Objectives of the roundtable and structure of the programme***

This European Roundtable aims to identify key issues for the practical implementation of the Aarhus Convention in the context of short, mid and long-term management of nuclear accidents. In particular, the roundtable will seek to draw first lessons from the Fukushima disaster from the point of view of European populations.

Grounding on the European feedback from the Fukushima crisis and the Chernobyl accident, this round table will address the complexity of the issue of information of the public in an accident and post-accident context, and the stakes linked to the plurality of institutional and non-institutional information sources. This will include identifying the conditions under which members of the public can form their opinion about the situation, its dangerousness and its possible impacts on their environment and their personal or professional activities and take appropriate actions in order to protect themselves.

The programme of the roundtable will be divided into an introduction, two thematic sessions and a conclusion.

### **Thematic Session 1: Lessons to be drawn from the Fukushima disaster on public access to information in the European context?**

This session will pay particular attention to the practical implementation of Article 5.1 c) of the Aarhus Convention which states that the parties must ensure that:

*'In the event of any imminent threat to human health or the environment, whether caused by human activities or due to natural causes, all information which could enable the public to take measures to prevent or mitigate harm arising from the threat and is held by a public authority is disseminated immediately and without delay to members of the public who may be affected'.*

The following issues and questions will be addressed:

- The type of information the public is seeking for, both in the regional context of accidents and beyond. The problem of getting on time, reliable and consistent information on the evolution of the accident, on appropriate protective actions to take individually and collectively (notably regarding vulnerable categories of people like children) alongside the evolution of the accident, the attitude to adopt regarding food supply, the conditions for public confidence vis-à-vis the information (need for plurality in the sourcing of information).
- Feedback from institutional information systems (international institutions, national regulators) during the emergency phase and beyond, and their specific constraints. The problems associated with the potential non-consistency of recommendations of national public authorities, of food standards. The need for harmonisation or at least coordination at European level...
- The role of civil society in the production of information (including radiological monitoring). The systems of information developed by civil society and NGOs, notably using Web 2.0 tools (blogs, crowd sourcing devices, ...)
- The potential contributions of experts (institutional experts but also knowledgeable members of the public) to the public information, their access (or non access) to on time

information on the accident, on its consequences, on formal institutional mechanisms of inter-state information exchanges (ECURIE, IAEA).

## **Thematic Session 2: Information and public participation in the face of possible long-term consequences of a nuclear accident?**

This session will be an opportunity to highlight the mid and long term issues associated with long-lasting radioactive contamination of a territory and the associated stakes with information and participation of the public regarding :

- the management of actual post-accident situation in the mid and long term
- the preparation to potential long term radioactive contamination.

Several types of interventions are foreseen:

- Feedback from inhabitants of territories affected by long lasting radioactive contamination in Europe (as a result of the Chernobyl fallout) or Japan.
- A review of national initiatives taken (in France, Finland and other European countries) regarding civil society engagement into post-accident preparedness
- The international survey on stakeholder engagement in post-accident preparedness of in five countries (France, Norway, Great Britain, Finland, and the USA) from the EGSIOS NEA expert group.
- A contribution of the NERIS European research platform (European Platform on Preparedness for Nuclear and Radiological Emergency Response and Recovery)

This session will seek to identify possible approaches for implementing the Aarhus Convention in the field of post-accident management (and preparedness) at local, national and European level.

### ***The "Aarhus Convention & Nuclear" process***

The Aarhus Convention on Public Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental matters was signed in 1998 by the European Community, among which the 27 European Union (EU) Member States. The same year the Committee of the Regions adopted a resolution on nuclear safety and local and regional democracy. Both texts represent a strong political and legal recognition of access to information and participation in the nuclear field.

More than ten years later, how are these principles implemented in practice? It is the goal of the Aarhus Convention & Nuclear (ACN) roadmap to evaluate this implementation and identify, in different concerned countries, transition strategies towards more inclusive governance of nuclear activities in the perspective open by the Aarhus Convention.

Since September 2009, the French federation of local commission of information of nuclear facilities (ANCCLI) and the European Commission have opened a space for European dialogue on the practical implementation of the Aarhus Convention in the nuclear field, in partnership with European Nuclear Energy Forum (ENEF) and the French Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development.

This space is open to national initiatives. Several national round tables are set up in European Member States (Bulgaria, France, Hungary...), and in Ukraine as well.

Moreover, European round tables are organised by ANCCLI and the European Commission on thematic issues, in partnership with national and international partners organisations of ACN. The first European round table was held on April 2010 on the theme "Practical implementation

of the Aarhus Convention to the field of radioactive waste management". The second roundtable on "Access to expertise and competence building", was held in January 2011.

The Aarhus Convention Secretariat at the United-Nations (UNECE, Geneva) is associated to this works, notably through cooperation with the working group of the Aarhus Convention on public participation.

Main results and conclusions of the national and European roundtables will be presented and discussed in a final conference to be held mid 2013.



## **Aarhus Convention and Nuclear**

### ***European Roundtable "Aarhus Convention implementation in the context of a nuclear accident with long lasting consequences – New Challenges after Fukushima"***

**Luxemburg, 15-16 February 2012**

**Room M6**

**Building Jean Monnet**

**Street Alcide de Gasperi (Kirchberg area)**

**European roundtable organised by the ANCCLI and the European Commission (DG ENER) with the support of the French Nuclear Safety Authority (ASN)**

### **PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

#### **First Day**

##### **15<sup>th</sup> February 2012**

**13:30 Welcome coffee**

**14:00 Introduction**

M. Peter FAROSS, Director, DG ENER-D, EC

M. Jean Claude DELALONDE, Chairman of ANCCLI

**14:30 Session 1- What are the lessons from Fukushima accident for public access to information in Europe and the contribution of civil society to information in an accident situation?**

**14:30 Feedback on public information in the Fukushima context**

14:30 *Report on the EESC mission in Fukushima* by Laure Batut, European Economic & Social Committee (EESC)

14:45 *Societal alternative media around Fukushima* by Takashi Uesugi (Free -Press Association of Japan)

15:00 The search for information of the Japanese population in the Fukushima context by David Boilley, Association pour le Contrôle de la Radioactivité dans l'Ouest (ACRO)

15:15 *Discussion*

**15:45 Public information in the European context**

15:45 *Public information in France in the context of Fukushima, (ASN)*

16:00 *Feed-back from the European nuclear incident warning system ECURIE regarding Fukushima by (DG ENER-D4, EC)*

16:15 *Contribution of IRSN to public information, in the Fukushima context, (IRSN)*

16:30 *Need for European coordination and harmonization regarding public information on nuclear emergency by Raimo Mustonen (STUK)*

16:45 *Discussion*

**18:00 Adjourn**

## **Second Day**

**16<sup>th</sup> February 2012**

**9:30 Session 2: what are the stakes related to information and public participation in view of possible long-term consequences of a nuclear accident?**

**9:30 Public information & participation in long lasting radioactive contamination contexts**

*Information & participation of the Norwegian population in the context of long term radioactive contamination (Chernobyl) by Inger Eikermann (NRPA) with a representative of Sami population (tbc)*

9:45 *Information and participation of the population of Ukraine regarding radioactive contamination, 20 years after Chernobyl by Anna Golubovska (MAMA 86)*

10:00 *Rehabilitation of living conditions in the Braguin District (Belarus): The access of population to information for action by Jean Claude Autret (ANCCLI, ACRO)*

10:15 *Discussion*

10:45 *Coffee Break*

**11:15 Institutional approaches to post-accident preparedness**

11:15 *CODIRPA, post-accident management preparation in France by Jean-Luc Lachaume (ASN)*

11:30 *Preparation to long term consequences of a nuclear accident in Finland by dr Tarja K. Ikäheimonen (STUK)*

11:45 *Stakeholder involvement approaches in post-emergency management, a synthesis of the NEA EGSIOS comparative in USA, UK, France, Finland and Norway by Stéphane Baudé (Mutadis)*

**12:00 Stakeholders experiment on post-accident preparedness: the challenge of territorial preparation**

12:00 *The Framework* for post-accident preparedness by Thierry Schneider, (CEPN, NERIS)

12:15 *Spanish perspective on preparedness to long term consequences of a nuclear accident* by Eduardo Gallego (Universidad Politecnica de Madrid), with a participation of spanish mayor (tbc).

12:30 The IRSN contribution to territorial preparation in France, the OPAL project by François Rollinger (IRSN) and Pierre Gaillard, ANCCLI.

12:45 *Discussion*

13:15 *Lunch*

**14:45 Round table: Practical implementation of the Aarhus Convention in the context of nuclear accident with long lasting consequences: What are the progress achieved since Chernobyl? What should be a step forward?**

14:45 *Societal perspective, 2 NGO participants are invited to give their views on the action to be taken in order to improve AC implementation in this context*

15:05 *Emergency Response, the Missing Third Track of European Stress tests* by Roger Spautz (Greenpeace)

15:15 *Transparency regarding safety & radiation protection in emergency and post-accident contexts, ENSREG perspective*, by Andreas Molin (WGT, ENSREG) (tbc)

15:25 *The European research agenda* by André Jouve (DG research)

15:35 *The NERIS Platform: engaging civil society and experts to address major challenges of nuclear accidents consequences*

15:45 *General Discussion*

**16:30 Conclusion**

M. Jean-Luc GODET, ASN

M. Peter FAROSS, Director, DG ENER-D, EC

M. Jean-Claude DELALONDE, Chairman of ANCCLI

**17:00 End of the meeting**