

Minutes of the 2nd Meeting of the European Radiation Protection Authorities Network (ERPAN)

Date: 14th June 2007

Venue: ASN, Paris

Participants:

1. Alvarez Carmen, Nuclear Safety Council, Spain
2. Dorthe Muriel, Swiss Federal Office of Public Health, Radiation Protection Division, Switzerland
3. Economides Sotirios, Greek Atomic Energy Commission, Greece
4. Ekström Briggitta, Swedish Radiation Authority, Sweden
5. Fennell Stephen, Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland, Ireland
6. Jouve André, French Directorate General for Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection, France
7. Coy Klaus, Bayerisches Landesamt für Umwelt, Bavarian Environment Agency, Germany
8. Perrin Marie-Line, French Directorate General for Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection, France
9. Saxebol Gunnar, Norwegian Radiation Protection Authority, Norway
10. Thomas Gareth, Health and Safety Executive, UK
11. Vermeulen Ton, Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment, Netherland
12. Watson Isabelle, Scottish Environment Protection Agency, UK
13. Wetelaers An, Federal Agency for Nuclear Control, Belgium

Apologies for absence:

1. Janzekovic Helena, Slovenian Nuclear Safety Administration, Slovenia
2. Kropacek Jan, State Office for Nuclear Safety, Czech Republic
3. Majerus Patrick, Division de la Radioprotection, Luxembourg
4. Stritt Nicolas, Swiss Federal Office of Public Health, Radiation Protection Division, Switzerland

1. Introductions

Stephen Fennell (chairperson) welcomes all the participants and thanks André Jouve for organising the venue at the ASN headquarters. He opens the meeting by greeting the newcomers, Muriel Dorthe, who attends the meeting on behalf of Nicolas Stritt, Isabelle Watson and Marie-Line Perrin, and all the participants briefly introduce themselves.

2. Approval of minutes from preliminary ERPAN meeting in June 2006

The last minutes are approved without any comment. Stephen Fennell reminds the participants of the two fundamental aims of ERPAN:

- a) It is a place to share experience and discuss practical questions arising in the every day practice of regulatory bodies

Some members mention they would like to see the sharing of experience in a more organised form, such as a web forum. An ALARA forum exists already, but is rather formal. François Drouet will be contacted with the request to set up an ERPAN closed forum for members.

ACTION: Stephen Fennell

François Drouet could set up a restricted access website.

- b) It provides opportunities for members to learn from each other practice by doing joint inspections

It is suggested to have a double list, i.e. with one section with offers and one with demands. The table will be updated and sent out to members. A summary table will be posted on the ERPAN internet site. A suggestion to draw up a questionnaire about inspection activities, planning, types of inspection, what is being inspected, etc.. was sent by H. Janzekovic. She will be contacted to draw up such a questionnaire.

ACTION: Stephen Fennell will make contact H. Janzekovic.

3. Presentations

All the presentations will be posted on the restricted area of the ERPAN website under the following adress:

http://www.eu-alara.net/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=143&Itemid=58

An Email with username and password will be send separatly to all members of the ERPAN network by the secratary.

- **Use of the internet to allow users to update their authorization / registration details**
by G. Saxebol
The regulatory framework in Norway relies not only on authorization but also on notification. The Norwegian authorities have developed a new internet tool, where users can update themselves some of the details of their authorization.
- **Training of inspectors from two points of view:**
 - a) **to be an inspector in general** by T. Vermeulen
 - b) **radiological protection** by B. Ekström and S. Oikonomidis
Based on the three talks, there is hardly one route to the position of inspector. Some common features could nevertheless be identified: most inspectors have a University level education and some work experience before becoming an inspector. Training regarding legislation, procedure, methods to conduct interviews, inspections, audits as well as specific duties related to the status of civil servant is often provided in-house. While a number of the participants suggested that ideally all inspectors should be eligible to be approved as a Qualified Expert, it was noted that this isn't a mandatory requirements in any country.
- **EUTERP** by G. Thomas
Gareth reports on the EUTERP (European Training and Education in Radiation Protection) workshop where several working groups addressed questions related to the terminology, definitions of qualifications and roles in radiation protection as well as training methods throughout Europe, with the perspective of trying to harmonize the different national systems. Two mains options emerged and Gareth strongly recommends that regulatory bodies must be more involved in the process if they are not already.
- **Incidents in France** by D. Krembel (ASN)
A number of incidents in radiotherapy units have taken place in France in the last few years. An overview of these incidents was given by David which included a presentation of some of the causes which led to the incidents as well as some of the measures ASN has taken and is trying to implement in radiotherapy centres.

- **Recent incidents in Belgium** by A. Wertelaers
An Wertelaers describes a serious incident in a Co-60 sterilisation/irradiation facility, detailing the circumstances which led to the event. She mentions that a report into the incident is being written. Participants would be interested in obtaining the report, which Ann will be happy to provide, reminding everyone that the content relates to a sensitive issue, is thus confidential and must not be disclosed to other parties.
- **Inspection of radioactive waste site and storage place** by K. Coy
Klaus gives us a photographic tour of a radioactive waste storage facility in Germany. He also presents the various aspects included in the inspection of such a facility.
- **ISO accreditation for inspection bodies** by S. Fennell
Ireland is now working towards accreditation to ISO 17020, a standard for bodies undertaking inspections. The reasons which led the RPII to take the accreditation route were presented, together with the difficulties encountered so far and how to deal with them. The benefits of the accreditation were also presented.

S. Oikonomidis suggests it would be useful to have common basis for inspection, especially for medical applications – identification of points which are crucial, e.g. training of inspector in communication, management of conflict situations
- **Insulation Chamber Smoke Detectors.** by G. Thomas
Gareth discussed how he is reviewing the storage and distribution of these in the UK and enquired if any members have any experience of instances where such facilities or transport operations have been involved in a fire. The only incident the group were aware of was reported by André and involved a lorry fire in France in 1999. Details are available on the ASN website.
- **Methods of regulators engaging with stakeholders and duty holders** by C Alvarez Garcia
Carmen presents the work of the forum for radiation protection in the medical field. Its missions are to improve radiation protection and safety as well as the effectiveness of operations in medical radiation facilities. Several bodies are members of this forum and together they work on issues encountered
- **Novel approaches taken by Regulatory Authorities** by T. Vermeulen
The Netherlands has developed a new way to manage licenses in order to decrease the administrative burden thereby allowing more resources to be allocated to radiation protection matters. This was done by simplifying the licensing procedure, whereby some of the responsibility has been assigned to radiation protection units within firms, which report to the surveillance authority. The experience so far has been rather positive.
- **Inspection campaign** by A. Wertelaers
An presents the inspection campaign which was triggered by a serious incident. Facilities undertaking similar work to the facility where the incident occurred were inspected using a thorough methodology. Following this, a document with minimum requirements will be issued, comparison with international standards will be carried out and other types of facilities will be inspected with the same method.

4. Time allocated for meetings

A short discussion about the time allocated for the meeting takes place. It seems one day is not sufficient to have presentations and have thorough discussions. The chairman suggests that members should give some consideration as to whether they would like to make it a full day, or maybe arrive the night before and organise a dinner together. The use of such meeting is acknowledged by everyone, whereby having such a platform where experience and information can be exchanged in confidence is very useful.

5. Date and venue for next meeting

The next meeting of the ERPAN will be held at the ASN (former DGSNR) headquarters, 6 Place Colonel Bourgouin, Paris, on 2nd of June 2008 from 9h30 until 17h00.

6. AOB

A suggestion was made that a questionnaire should be created and sent to the members of the ERPAN in order to gather information about the methodology of inspections and about diverse others aspects of the tasks of radioprotection authorities.

Members are invited to make a list of topics which are important to them and they would like to discuss with other ERPAN members. Such topics could be:

- emergency preparedness / action level
- stakeholder involvement
- outside worker
- justification of radioactive sources
- new medical techniques and patient release

Stephen informs that has been invited by the IAEA to make a presentation at the 3rd RECAN Workshop, Brasov, October 2007.

For the Minutes: Nicolas. Stritt, secretary