

Meeting:	NuLeAF Steering Group, 20 April, 2010
Agenda Item:	6
Subject:	International Projects
Author:	Catherine Draper
Purpose:	To report on attendance at a European Roundtable and to provide an update on the status and outputs of various international projects

Introduction

This report provides information about a European Roundtable on 'Application of the Aarhus Convention to the Field of Radioactive Waste Management', and an update on the status and output of the following projects:

- CARL (Citizen stakeholder, Agencies responsible for radioactive waste management, Research organisations and Licensing and regulatory authorities)
- COWAM in Practice (CiP) (A Co-operative Research on the Governance of Radioactive Waste Management)
- FSC (Forum on Stakeholder Confidence)
- OBRA (European Observatory on Radioactive Waste Management)
- PAMINA (Performance Assessment Methodologies in Application to Guide Development of the Safety Case)
- ARGONA (Arena for Risk Governance)
- MoDeRn (Monitoring Developments for Safe Repository Operation and Staged Closure)

The European Roundtable took place in Luxembourg on 8-9 April. Attendees included Councillor Knowles from Cumbria CC and Kerry Rickards from Sedgemoor DC. The Roundtable programme is attached as an annex. A verbal report will be provided at the Steering Group meeting.

The report is for noting

PROJECT	PROJECT OUTLINE	OUTPUTS	NEXT STEPS
ARGONA	The project investigated how approaches of transparency and deliberation relate to each other and to the political system in which decisions, for example on the final disposal of nuclear waste, are ultimately taken. The project also studied how good risk communication can be undertaken and the conduct of public consultations.	Details of the project deliverables together with the final report and summary and the report on the Argona end users conference can be found on the Argona website .	Project completed 30 October, 2009.
CARL	The research looked at the decision-making process relating to radioactive waste management, how social science issues affected these and how they could be developed to enable greater stakeholder involvement, while meeting legislative requirements.	The final report is available at Final Report . A Report from the workshop held in Cumbria 22-23 October, 2009 is also available. (If you have problems accessing this report, a copy can be emailed by the NuLeAF Secretariat).	The researchers in the CARL project have submitted a bid for project funding to Euratom FP7 for “unravelling some of the key remaining socio-political challenges with regard to the implementation of geological disposal as well as consider the potential technical implications of social requirements.” NuLeAF has expressed a willingness to participate in associated workshops, subject to reimbursement of travel and subsistence costs.
COWAM IN PRACTICE (CIP)	The objectives of CIP were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to contribute to enabling European societies to make actual progress in the governance of radioactive waste management (RWM) while contributing to increasing societal awareness of and accountability for radioactive waste management in Europe in order to reach practicable, accountable and sustainable decisions 	Final reports will be posted on the CIP website at the end of April 2010.	CIP findings are being presented at the European roundtable on 8-9 April. With support from NDA, NuLeAF has arranged for a delegation to attend from the UK (Cllr Tim Knowles, Cumbria CC, Cllr David Flear, Highland C, Fergus McMorrow, Copeland BC, Kerry Rickards, Sedgemoor DC, and

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to follow up and analyse five innovative national processes on RWM on the basis of COWAM 2 results with a view to supporting stakeholders, particularly local communities, directly in their engagement with their particular RWM programme(s) - and to capture the learning from that experience • to develop best practices and guidance for the application (implementation & improvement) of new inclusive governance of RWM approaches in the EU, including benchmarking on practical and sustainable decision making processes recognised as fair and equitable by the stakeholders in the short, medium and long term. 		Charles Holmes, Allerdale BC).
FSC	The Forum on Stakeholder Confidence (FSC) of the OECD Nuclear Energy Agency facilitates the sharing of experience in addressing the societal dimension of radioactive waste management and explores means of ensuring an effective dialogue with the public with a view to strengthening confidence in the decision-making processes.	<p>The latest report on ‘Partnering for the long-term management of radioactive waste’ was published this year and is available on the FSC website.</p> <p>The Forum also publishes a series of flyers which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • decision making for radioactive management • stepwise approach to the long-term management of radioactive waste, and • towards waste management facilities which become a durable and attractive part of the fabric on the local 	<p>There will be a 10th anniversary event and regular meeting of FSC on 14-16 September, 2010 in Issy les Moulineaux, and the International Conference on Reversibility and Retrievability will be held in Reims on 14-17 December, 2010.</p> <p>The full work programme for 2010 and beyond can be viewed on the FSC website here.</p>

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MoDeRn	The MoDeRn project aims to provide a reference framework for the development and possible implementation of monitoring activities and associated stakeholder engagement during relevant phases of the radioactive waste disposal process, i.e. during site characterisation, construction, operation and staged closure, as well as a post-closure institutional control phase	<p>community</p> <p>The project website aims to provide the public with information, public documents and status reports.</p> <p>The work programme comprises 6 work packages which cover:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Monitoring objectives and strategies 2. State of the art and RTD of relevant monitoring technologies 3. In-situ demonstration of innovative monitoring technologies 4. Case study of monitoring at all stages of the disposal process 5. Knowledge dissemination 6. Reference framework for repository monitoring 	A workshop on Monitoring Technologies is being held in France on 7-9 June.
OBRA	The main objective of this project was to promote a new approach to the governance of spent fuel and long-lived radioactive wastes by bringing together a multidisciplinary network of radioactive waste management agencies, concerned stakeholders and the academic research community, in order to assess the feasibility of a European Observatory for long-term governance on radioactive waste management.	The project concluded that the Observatory could become a central point of reference for monitoring, disseminating and sharing information and practices regarding radioactive waste management in Europe. In addition, the Observatory could serve as a European contact point, allowing people needing	Included in the bid referred to above under CARL is the development of a pilot website, which would be tested throughout the project to determine its role and usefulness.

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		information to contact with those willing to provide it. The Final Report can be viewed on the OBRA website .	
PAMINA	The main objective of PAMINA was to improve and harmonise integrated performance assessment (PA) methodologies and tools for various disposal concepts of long-lived radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel in different deep geological environments. PAMINA aimed to provide a sound methodological and scientific basis for demonstrating the safety of deep geological disposal of such wastes, that would be of value to all national radioactive waste management programmes, regardless of waste type, repository design, and stage, which had been reached in performance assessment and safety case development.	The final workshop was held in Germany in September 2009 at which presentations were made on a) Safety case approach , b) Evolution of the disposal system , c) Modelling strategy , d) Safety and performance indicators , e) Treatment of uncertainties , f) Probabilistic safety assessment and g) Communication of uncertainty were presented to the scientific community and “other interested audiences” (please note documents range from 1-25 MB).	NDA has been asked for information about how the various outputs are being taken into account in its on-going work.



Programme ACN – Aarhus Convention & Nuclear – 2009-2011

A joint ANCLI / European Commission initiative on

**The practical application of the Aarhus Convention
to the nuclear field**

European Roundtable, Luxembourg, 8-9 April 2010

***Application of the Aarhus Convention
to the field of radioactive waste management***

**The meeting will be held in the Jean Monnet Building - Luxembourg
It will start at 14:00 on 8 April and finish at 17:00 on 9 April.**

Within the EU, some Member States have well progressed on radioactive waste management programmes, while others have faced difficulties. Analysis undertaken to understand the nature of these difficulties showed a possible democratic deficit in the processes which were set up, and stressed that an approach based solely on technical issues was not appropriate. The need to foster initiatives giving an increased role to civil society was identified, echoing the provisions of the Aarhus Convention on access to information, participation in the decision-making process, and access to justice.

As a consequence, a significant number of experiences and of new processes were set up meanwhile in Europe.

It is particularly interesting to consider them now and to analyse how these initiatives enabled or failed to enhance effective information and participation, and to identify challenges. The aim is to assess the conditions of an effective application of the Aarhus Convention in the nuclear field.

AGENDA

8 April 2010

13:30 Welcome coffee

14:00 Introduction

Mr Dominique Ristori, Deputy Director General, DG ENER, EC
Mr Jean-Claude Delalonde, President of the ANCLI

14:20 Practical application of the Aarhus Convention in the field of radioactive waste: what is at stake?

Introductory presentation, Mrs Valérie Demet, ANCLI
Mr Peter Faross, Director, DG ENER, EC

14:45 Session 1 - Aarhus Convention and radioactive waste: Information

Which transparency in the nuclear field? Which access to information? How can citizens get the data they need to understand the nuclear waste management issues? How can they in their turn inform about the follow-up processes by producing their own knowledge? How different is information on low level, medium level and high level waste?

Theme 1.1 – Access to information

14:45 ***Access to information: the Bataapáti case (LLILW)***, Andras Perger, Energia Klub, Hungary

15:00 ***The cost of radioactive waste management: a public information from the perspective of the Aarhus convention?*** Frankie Schram, CADA, Belgium

15:15 **Discussion**

Theme 1.2 – Structures and process for information

16:00 ***UK Stakeholder Engagement Initiatives (HLW)***, Jay Redgrove, NDA

16:15 ***The Cernavoda local commission (LLLLW)***, Anton Angheliescu, AGIA, Romania

16:30 ***ANCLI Permanent Group on Radioactive Waste Management (GPMDR): information on the decision-making process on tritium waste***, Monique Sené, ANCLI

16:45 **Discussion**

17:30 Adjourn

9 April 2010

9:00 Session 2 - Aarhus Convention and radioactive waste: Participation

What are the conditions to take part to the decision-making processes on nuclear waste? How to articulate public participation with political representation? How to link local level participation with national level decision? In the prospect of a long-term waste management, is there a sense to organise trans-generational participation? How to build it?

Theme 2.1 – Structures and processes for participation

- 9:00 ***Feedback on Belgian and Slovenian Partnerships (LLILW)***
- **Presentation of the partnerships – principles and objectives**, Gaston Meskens, SCK-CEN
- **Assessment of the Slovenian partnership with respect to the Aarhus convention**, Metka Kralj, ARAO
- **Views from local actors**, Stane Preskar (Brezice), Mr ..(Mona)
- 9:40 ***Participation : the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and beyond, the Swedish Experience (HLLLW)***, Anna-Lena Soderbolm (Osthammar), and Kenneth Gunnarsson (MKG)
- 10:00 Discussion
- 10:30 *Coffee Break*

Theme 2.2 – National co-operations within European projects

- 10:45 ***Czech dialog on the waste management options in ARGONA (HLLLW)***, Hana Vojtechova, INR (tbc) and Petra Humlickova, CALLA/The Green Circle
- 11:10 ***Geological disposal reversibility: a pathway towards long-term participation (HLW)?*** Jean-Claude Autret, ANCLI
- 11:25 **Discussion**
- 12:00 Session 3.1 – How to ensure an effective application of the Aarhus Convention through the third pillar (Access to justice)?**
- The Aarhus Convention has a dedicated provision with respect to access to justice, which guarantees the appropriate legal implementation of the information and participation principles. Could this right be applied in the field of waste? How?
- 12:00 ***The role of national judges in the implementation of the Aarhus convention***, Luc Lavrysen, European Forum of Judges for the Environment
- 12:15 **Discussion**
- 12:30 *Lunch*

14:15 Session 3.2 - Conditions of the change for an effective application of the Aarhus Convention: governance approaches

Are there complementary means to strengthen the effective implementation of information and participation and to shift towards a new mode of governance associating civil society actors in the technical field? What are the experiments developed in this area under European research collaborative projects?

Feedback of European research projects: from return of experience to implementation and experimentation

14:15 *The COWAM projects (1999-2009)*, Serge Gadbois, Mutadis

14:30 *The ARGONA Guidelines for participation and transparency, and their relation to the Aarhus Convention*, Kjell Andersson, Karita research

15:00 Session 4 - Final roundtable: European contributions to the implementation of the Aarhus convention in the field of radioactive waste management (participants to be determined - EC, ANCLI, REC, Greenpeace, operator, ...)

After a synthesis of the issues discussed in the previous sessions (Which practical questions arise with respect to the Aarhus Convention implementation in the field of radioactive waste? Which lessons could be drawn from past experiences? – presentation to be confirmed), the participants in the roundtable are invited to discuss the different initiatives which have improved or could improve Aarhus Convention implementation in the RWM field: EU funded research projects, European network on governance issues, EU regulation... How to further progress at EU level? Which actions could be undertaken at the European level?

16:30 Conclusion
ANCLI and DG ENER

17:00 Adjourn