



ACN Programme– Aarhus Convention & Nuclear - 2009-2011

A joint initiative ANCLI / European Commission on

**The practical implementation of the
Aarhus Convention in the nuclear field**

**European roundtable, Luxembourg,
8th-9th April 2010**

***Implementation of the Aarhus Convention
in radioactive waste management***

**The meeting will be in the Jean Monnet building in Luxembourg.
It starts at 14:00 on the 8th of April and ends at 17:00 on the 9th of April**

TEMPORARY PROGRAMME

This temporary programme is currently reviewed by the services of the European Commission

All radioactive waste management programmes in European member states have faced at one time or another difficulties and major failures from the late 80's. The return of experience that followed these failures highlighted a deficit of democracy and the impasse of a purely technical approach of these issues. The need to initiate approaches giving a more important place to civil society was underlined. These concerns are also carried out by the Aarhus Convention on access to information, participation to the decision making process and access to justice. From this observation, an important number of experimentations and new processes were implemented in Europe. It is particularly interesting to observe this field today and analyse how these experiments allowed or not a real information and participation, and what obstacles arose. This distance allows conveniently looking at the progress achieved, the obstacles met and considering conditions for a real implementation of the Aarhus Convention in the nuclear field.

Day 1: 8th of April 2010

13:30 Welcome and registration

14:00 Introduction

Mr. Ristori, Deputy Director-General DG TREN

Mr. Delalonde, ANCCLI President

14:20 Stakes of the practical implementation of the Aarhus Convention in the field of nuclear waste management

14:45 Aarhus and Waste: Information

What transparency in the nuclear field? What access to information? How can citizens get the data they need to understand the issues of nuclear waste management? How can they inform in turn these issues by producing their own knowledge?

Cases expected (to be confirmed)

- Return of experience on the Slovenian partnerships: what model(s) and information process(es) ?
- The notion of « affected community » in Great-Britain
- Local Commissions of Information: French and Romanian experiences
- Czech dialogue on waste management options

Roundtable and discussion with the audience

17:30 End of the first day

Day 2: 9th April 2010

09:00 Aarhus and Waste: Participation

What are the conditions for participation in decision making processes on nuclear wastes? How to link together participation and political representation? How to link participation at the local level and decision making at the national level? In a long term waste management perspective, what is the meaning of participation between generations? How to build it?

Cases expected (to be confirmed)

- Return of experience on the Belgian partnerships
- Spanish mayors engagement in setting up a debate on the national policy of waste management
- Disposal reversibility in France in an intergenerational perspective: what practical implementation on technical and democratic aspects?

Roundtable and discussion with the audience

11:30 Conditions for change towards a practical implementation of the Aarhus Convention: Access to Justice and constructive democracy

The Aarhus Convention has an access to justice component as a guarantee of the good legal implementation of information and participation principles. How has this right been implemented in the waste field? Are there any complementary ways to reinforce the practical implementation of information and participation and carry out a transition towards more democratic forms of governance in the technical field? What are the experimentations developed in this area as part of cooperative research projects?

Cases expected (to be confirmed)

- Case law in member states
- Feedback on European cooperative research processes (COWAM, RISCOP-ARGONA)

12:30 *Lunch*

14:15 Conditions for change for a practical implementation of the Aarhus Convention: Access to Justice and constructive democracy (concluded)

Roundtable and discussion with the audience

15:00 Final roundtable

What practical issues for the implementation of the Aarhus Convention in the waste field? What can we learn from the experimentation carried out ? Which ways of progress ? Which actions at the national level ? At the European level ?

16:30 Conclusion

17:00 End of the meeting