

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN DECISION MAKING IN THE NUCLEAR DOMAIN

Luxembourg, 12-13 March 2013

A joint event under the auspices of the Aarhus Convention's
Task Force on Public Participation in Decision-making,
Association Nationale des Comités et Commissions Locales d'Information (ANCCLI),
and the European Commission

PROVISIONAL OUTLINE AGENDA

Chairs: **Mr. Philip Kearney**, Chair of the Aarhus Convention's Task Force on Public Participation in Decision-making;

Mr. Peter Faross, Director, Nuclear Energy, and Acting Deputy Director-general, Directorate-General Energy, European Commission

Mr. Jean-Claude Delalonde, President, ANCCLI

12 March 2013

9.00 – 10.00

OPENING SESSION:

Chair: Mr. Peter Faross, Director, Nuclear Energy, and Acting Deputy Director-general, Directorate-General Energy, European Commission

9.00 - 9.10

Welcome by Chairs of the joint event, adoption of the agenda

9.10 – 9.20

Opening remarks from the European Economic and Social Committee
Address by high-level government official

9.20 – 9.30

Overview of Aarhus Convention and Nuclear (ACN) Roundtable process

Presentation by ANCCLI of ACN Roundtable approach and methodology

9.30 – 10.00

Overview of recent and upcoming developments in European Union (EU) legislation

Presentations by the European Commission's Directorate-General Energy (DG-ENER) and Directorate-General Environment of developments relevant to public participation in decision-making in the nuclear domain under:

- (i) the Nuclear Safety Directive*
- (ii) the Directive on Radioactive Waste Management and*
- (iii) the current review of the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive*

10.00 – 12.15

**SESSION 1:
Key outcomes of the ACN Roundtables:**

Chair: Mr. Jean-Claude Delalonde, President, ANCCLI

10.00 – 10.30

(i) Radioactive waste management

Presentation by representative of ANCCLI and DG-ENER of the main outcomes of the ACN Roundtable on Radioactive Waste Management, followed by opportunity for discussion by participants.

10.30 – 11.00

(ii) Access to expertise and competence building

Presentation by representative of ANCCLI and DG-ENER of the main outcomes of the ACN Roundtable on Access to expertise and competence building, followed by opportunity for discussion by participants.

11.00 – 11.15

Coffee break

11.15 – 11.45

(iii) Preparation for and management of nuclear emergencies

Presentation by ANCCLI and DG-ENER of the main outcomes of the ACN Roundtable on Nuclear Emergencies, followed by opportunity for discussion by participants.

11.45 – 12.15

(iv) Nuclear safety

Presentation by ANCCLI and DG-ENER of the main outcomes of the ACN Roundtable on Nuclear Safety, followed by opportunity for discussion by participants.

12.15 – 14.00

Lunch

14.00 – 17.30

**SESSION II:
Challenges encountered in implementing the Aarhus Convention in the nuclear domain, and possible good practices to address them**

Chair: Mr. Philip Kearney, Chair of the Aarhus Convention's Task Force on Public Participation in Decision-making

This session will consider concrete cases (both past and currently ongoing) in which the following challenges have been encountered. It will examine what could have been done (or for ongoing cases, what could yet be done) to ensure genuinely effective public participation in each case. To this end, the session will examine practical good practice tools that might be used to help to address each challenge.

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| 14.00 – 14.30 | (i) Identification of the public concerned |
| 14.30 – 15.30 | (ii) Confidentiality and effective access to all information relevant to decision-making |
| 15.30 – 16.30 | (iii) Early public participation when all options are open |
| 16.30 – 17.00 | (iv) Changes to or extensions of existing activities |
| 17.00 – 17.30 | (v) The role of project developers in carrying out public participation |

13 March 2013

9.00 – 10.45 **SESSION II (continued):
Challenges encountered in implementing the Aarhus Convention in the nuclear sector, and possible good practices to address them**

9.00 – 10.00 (vi) **Arrangements for the participation of public concerned from neighbouring or downstream countries**

10.00 – 10.45 (vii) **Taking due account of the outcomes of public participation**

10.45 – 11.00 *Coffee break*

11.00 – 12.30 **SESSION III:
Open consultation on the Aarhus Convention's draft
Recommendations on Public Participation in Decision-making**

Chair: Mr. Philip Kearney, Chair of the Aarhus Convention's Task Force on Public Participation in Decision-making

Participants will be invited to provide their comments on the third draft of the Recommendations on Public Participation in Decision-making currently being developed under the auspices of the Aarhus Convention's Task Force on Public Participation in Decision-making

12.30 – 14.15 *Lunch*

14.15 – 15.45

**SESSION IV:
Roundtable on transition strategies towards enhanced public
information and participation in nuclear activities at national levels**

Chair: Mr. Jean-Claude Delalonde, President, ANCCLI

Even when the legal requirements to comply with the Aarhus Convention are in place at the national level, a significant change in understanding will often be required before genuine and effective public participation can occur.

This roundtable will review the most significant initiatives (successful and unsuccessful) at the national level that sought to bring about this transition in understanding under the framework of the ACN Initiative (in Bulgaria, Hungary, Ukraine, France) and the IPPA Project (Implementing Public Participation Approaches in Radioactive Waste Disposal) (in the Czech Republic and Poland). It will also address the importance of access to expertise in building the competence of both officials and the public to ensure effective public participation. Finally, it will consider possible countries where similar transitional initiatives might be undertaken in the near future.

15.45 – 17.15

**FINAL SESSION:
Priorities for future work**

Chair: Mr. Jean-Claude Delalonde, President, ANCCLI

Panel discussion on priorities for future work

Panellists will include senior representatives from international and regional organizations, technical support organizations, non-governmental organizations and other prominent experts in the nuclear domain.

Each panellist will be invited to share their organization's own priorities for future work to promote public participation in nuclear-related decision-making, and through this exchange, to hopefully identify possible synergies for their future activities.

17.15 – 17.30

CLOSING REMARKS BY THE JOINT CHAIRS

Led by Mr. Peter Faross, Director, Nuclear Energy, and Acting Deputy Director-general, Directorate-General Energy, European Commission
