

Nuclear Transparency Watch Meeting of the Working Group on Emergency Preparedness and Response

The meeting took place on June 9 & 10 2014 at Conference Centre Albert Borschette in Brussels. The meeting facilities and translation services were provided by EC DG Energy, in spite of the fact that June 9 is a national holiday.

After introduction by the organisers the participants were also welcomed and addressed by Mr Bart Castermans on the behalf of EC DG Energy. Mr Castermans expressed interests of the DG Energy for cooperation with NTW and other civil society networks and organisations in the field of nuclear safety and of energy policy in the EU in general.

The general objective of the meeting was to check methodology, ongoing and planned activities on data collection of nuclear EP&R provisions in individual countries, including preparatory activities for national cross-border EP&R roundtables. Report on the first cross border EP&R roundtable on EP&R of NPP Cattenom, hold on May 17 in Schengen, Luxemburg was presented and lessons from the event discussed in details. The organisers of this first roundtable were commended to »break the ice« and organise this event in spite of non-cooperativeness of the authorities and NPP operators and lack of public funding. The main issue in the discussion was how to avoid obstruction of the authorities and NPP's operators in the future and achieve a balanced representation of different types of stakeholders. It was agreed that the future roundtables should predominately focus on practical aspects of EP&R and cross border issues from the perspective of local inhabitants rather than on broader aspects of nuclear safety or life-span extension of early shut down of the NPP.

The chair of NTW, Ms Michele Rivasi, presented the plans of NTW for 2015 and pointed out the needs to continue with the activities on EP&R, reactor's ageing and nuclear waste management, to extend and balance the network, to provide additional funding and to improve communication and promotion activities.

Plans for organising the cross border roundtables in Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, France, Slovenia and Ukraine were presented.

On the behalf of DG Energy Mr Bharat Patel presented the future activities of the EC related to the evaluation of the results of ENCO study and EP&R activities in general where DG Energy is looking forward to the inputs and proposals provided by NTW.

At the end of the meeting Mr Haverkamp presented in brief some very interesting simulations of the possible impacts of beyond designed accident events for different types of reactors that are currently in consideration in Poland for its first NPP.