

Nuclear Transparency Watch (NTW)
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Brussels, 24th February 2014

To: The European Commissioner for Energy
Mr. Günther Oettinger
c/o Mr. Mark van Stiphout
e-mail: mark.van-stiphout@ec.europa.eu
DG Energy Nuclear Safety and Fuel Cycle
Mr. Massimo Garribba
e-mail: massimo.garribba@ec.europa.eu

Re: Access to EC study "Review of current off-site nuclear emergency preparedness and response arrangements in EU member states and neighbouring countries"

Dear Commissioner Oettinger,

On February 6th & 7th last Nuclear Transparency Watch (NTW) held an inception seminar of its Working Group on Emergency Preparedness & Response (EP&R) in Paris. The participants, drawn from a wide spectrum of nuclear-related official bodies and NGOs, discussed the current situation regarding EP&R in Europe following the lessons learned from evaluation of the Fukushima nuclear accident three years ago. An action plan of the Working Group's activities for 2014 was agreed.

In the course of the seminar NTW learned of an important study on EP&R in EU Member States and some third countries commissioned by DG ENER in 2012. According to our information the study entitled "**Review of current off-site nuclear emergency preparedness and response arrangements in EU member states and neighbouring countries**" has been completed recently. Given the goals and objectives of this study the members of the NTW Working Group are very eager to have full access to the study and to use its results in their work. This would make a substantial contribution to the activities of the Working Group that aims to improve the level of EP&R in Europe through increased engagement of civil society.

Nuclear Transparency Watch has been informed that the European Commission does not intend to make the study available to the public but rather to integrate its results into a Communication to be published before summer this year. NTW believes that is in best interest of EU citizens, the European institutions and the nuclear sector to make the study publicly and fully available as soon as possible, including the questionnaires and any other ancillary material.

Access to the study would permit feedback to civil society on its results and enable evaluation beyond the self-assessments of the authorities involved. It would help civil society to contribute to the improvement and harmonisation of EP&R provisions and arrangements and enhance the management of transboundary activities in the nuclear sector.

Please regard this as a formal request for access to information made under the terms of the Aarhus Convention (Article 4 on Access to Information) to which the European Commission is a Party.

The following Regulation also apply:

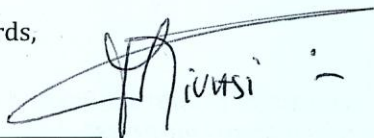
a) REGULATION (EC) No 1367/2006 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 6 September 2006 on the application of the provisions of the Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters to Community institutions and bodies

(<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2006:264:0013:0019:EN:PDF>)

b) REGULATION (EC) No 1049/2001 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 30 May 2001 regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents

(<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2001:145:0043:0048:EN:PDF>)

With regards,



Mrs. Michele Rivasi,
Chair,
Nuclear Transparency Watch (NTW)