



Aarhus Convention & Nuclear (ACN)



European Roundtable on information and public participation in the field of Radioactive Waste Management (RWM)

13th to 15th of January 2021

Online seminar

NADJA ŽELEZNIK, NTW Chair

ABOUT NTW

- NTW was launched on 07 November 2013 after a call from Members of the European Parliament from different political parties for a „watch on nuclear transparency“, following the disaster of Fukushima.
- NTW is a European network of citizen watch on nuclear transparency and safety. Our organization carries out public interest advocacy and supports civil society participation in the development of nuclear regulation.
- **The missions of Nuclear Transparency Watch are to:**
 - Promote transparency and safety in nuclear matters;
 - Raise awareness among policy makers and European society about transparency in nuclear issues in order to increase safety;
 - Carry the voice of civil society in decision making processes at European Level regarding nuclear activities, and improve the quality of decision-making;
 - Develop a counter-expertise on nuclear safety at the local, national and European level.

AARHUS CONVENTION & NUCLEAR PROCESS

- The Aarhus Convention establishes a number of rights of the public with regard to the environment:
 - a right of access to information on public decisions impacting the environment,
 - a right to participate in environmental decision-making and
 - a right of access to justice should the afore-mentioned rights be denied.
- The ACN (Aarhus Convention and Nuclear) participatory process was initiated in early 2008 by the European Commission Directorate General for Energy (DG ENER) together with Nuclear Transparency Watch:
 - The aim is to investigate the implementation in practice of the Aarhus Convention in the context of nuclear activities.
- The ACN Roundtables involve various partners (national authorities, technical support organisations, operators of nuclear activities, civil society organisations, together with concerned international organisations).
- Last ACN European Roundtable in the field of RWM has been previously held in April 2010.

OBJECTIVES OF THE 2021 ACN ROUNDTABLE ON RWM

- The European context of public participation in the field of RWM has changed significantly in the last decade:
 - Council Directive 2011/70/Euratom of 19 July 2011 on RWM: requirements on information and public participation in the decision-making process, which reflect the provisions of the Aarhus Convention (to be transposed by August 2013).
 - First EC report in 2017 on the implementation of the Directive: presenting the status, as well as the need for additional efforts to be made.
 - Second EC report in 2019 on the implementation of the Directive: new development in the field, also adjustment of information from Member States based on first report.
 - A study at the request of the European Commission (DG ENER) on the practical implementation of these transparency provisions: BEPPER study whose proposals have yet to be put in discussion between the different categories of concerned actors.
- In addition, civil society access to expertise and R&D was identified as a major issue in the conclusions of the first phase of the ACN process (2008-2013):
 - several EURATOM R&D projects (SITEX II, JOPRAD and EURAD) that have enabled the development of innovative models of interaction between civil society and the main RWM stakeholders in R&D activities.
- The **objective of this roundtable** is:
 - to review the implementation of the Aarhus Convention in the area of RWM at European level,
 - in particular along the implementation of the Radioactive Waste Directive transparency provisions, and
 - on public access to research and expertise.

AGENDA, First Day - January 13th

- 14:00 Introductory session:
 - Ms Nadja Zeleznik, chair of Nuclear Transparency Watch
 - Mr Massimo Garribba, Deputy Director General, DG ENER
- 14:15 First session - Implementation of the information and public participation provisions of the Radioactive Waste Directive (2011/70/Euratom), Chair: Ms Zuzana Petrovičová, Head of Unit DG ENER D.2 “Nuclear energy, nuclear waste and decommissioning”
 - 15:30 Plenary Discussion
- 15:45 Break
- 16:00 Second session - National feedbacks on recent public engagement processes along RWM, Chair: Mr Jan Haverkamp, NTW/Greenpeace/Wise, Significant recent approaches or events that have taken place in the past few years in different national contexts
 - 16:00 Germany Roundtable - update on RWM public engagement in Germany:
 - 16:30 Plenary Discussion
 - 17:00 United Kingdom Roundtable - overview of recent developments on RWM siting procedures:
 - 17:30 Plenary Discussion
- 18:00 End of the first day

AGENDA, Second Day - January 14th

- 11:00 Second session (continued) - National feedbacks on recent public engagement processes along RWM, Chair: Mr Jan Haverkamp, NTW/Greenpeace/Wise
 - 11:00 France Roundtable – 2019 public debate on the RWM national plan
 - 11:30 Plenary Discussion
- 12:00 Lunch break
 - 14:30 Czech Roundtable
 - 15:00 Sweden Roundtable
 - 15:30 Plenary Discussion
- 16:15 Break
- 16:30 Third Session - Recent developments in civil society access to expertise and research, Chair: Mr Domenico Rossetti di Valdalbero, Deputy Head of Unit DG RTD D.4 “Euratom research”
- 17:30 End of the second day

AGENDA, Third Day - January 15th

- 14:00 Third Session (continued) - Recent developments in civil society access to expertise and research, Chair: Ms Elena Righi-Steele, Head of Unit DG RTD D.4 “Euratom Research”
 - 14:30 Plenary Discussion
- 14:50 Break
- 15:00 Final Roundtable – Improving existing arrangements on information and public participation in the field of RWM in Europe: the way forward, Chair: Mr Gilles Hériard-Dubreuil, NTW
 - 16:10 Plenary Discussion
- 16:40 Conclusions: Ms Nadja Zeleznik, Ms Zuzana Petrovičová,
- 17:00 End of Roundtable