



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

Agenda

26th November 2020

Context of the Roundtable

Aarhus Convention & Nuclear (ACN) process:

The Aarhus Convention establishes a number of rights of the public with regard to the environment. It provides for 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 of the ACN process 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). In the field of Radioactive Waste Management, an ACN European Roundtable 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 RWM¹ has introduced requirements into EU law for information and public participation in the decision-making process, which reflect the provisions of the Aarhus Convention. The Directive had to be transposed by EU Member States by 23 August 2013. After a first report on the implementation of the Radioactive Waste Directive published in 2017², stating the progress made, as well as the need for additional efforts to be made in a number of areas, a second EC report on the implementation of the directive, based on MS second national reports, was adopted in December 2019³. A study has also been carried out at the request of the European Commission (DG ENER) on the practical implementation of these transparency provisions by a consortium of civil society organisations (BEPER 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). Important progress has been made in the context of Euratom R&D with several European research projects (SITEX II, JOPRAD and EURAD) that have enabled the development of innovative models of interaction between civil society with the main RWM stakeholders R&D activities.

The objective of this roundtable is therefore to make a waypoint on the implementation of the Aarhus Convention in the area of RWM at European level, and in particular along the implementation of the Radioactive Waste Directive transparency provisions as well as on the important issue of public access to research and expertise. The Roundtable will also be an opportunity for reviewing important aspects of transparency in the national context of RWM management such as Germany, France, Sweden, UK & Czech Republic.

¹ Council Directive 2011/70/Euratom of 19 July 2011 establishing a Community framework for the responsible and safe management of spent fuel and radioactive waste, Official Journal of the EU, L 199, 2.8.2011, p. 48

² COM(2017) 236 final, and corresponding SWD(2017) 159 final and SWD(2017) 161 final, see: https://ec.europa.eu/energy/topics/nuclear-energy/radioactive-waste-and-spent-fuel_en

³ COM(2019) 362 final and corresponding SWD(2019) 435 final and SWD(2019) 436 final, see: https://ec.europa.eu/energy/topics/nuclear-energy/radioactive-waste-and-spent-fuel_en

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” or possibly Mr Gianfranco Brunetti, Deputy Head of Unit DG.ENER.D.2

- **Implementation of the Radioactive Waste Directive in EU:** findings and recommendations of the second EC report to the European Parliament and the Council of the EU, Ms Jolanta Svedkauskaite, DG ENER D2
- **Civil Society Joint Project:** report on the implementation of the Waste Directive (as a third-party review), updated on the basis of the outcomes of the 2nd report of the Commission adopted on December 17th, 2019, Ms Gabriele Mraz, NTW and Ms Patricia Lorenz, Friends of the Earth
- **ENSREG Transparency Working group vision:** the conditions of independence of the regulator to implement transparency and ensure participation and trust building along the RWM decision-making process, Ms Verena Ehold, Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology
- **View of a representative of the Danish Ministry of Higher Education and Science,** Mr Kristoffer Brix Berthelsen
- **The BEPPER Report** on Transparency in Radioactive Waste Management: Improving national RWM transparency in the EU by effective implementation of the Aarhus Convention in the context of Article 10 on Transparency in the Nuclear Waste Directive, Mr Johan Swahn, NTW/MKG

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:

- Mr Axel Liebscher, BASE
- Ms Astrid Goebel, BGE
- Mr Jo Leinen, Nationales Begleitgremium (NBG)

16:30 Plenary Discussion

17:00 United Kingdom Roundtable - overview of recent development on RWM siting procedures:

- Mr Mike Brophy, Head of Stakeholder Engagement in siting team of RWM and representative of NDA
- Mr Colin Wales, Cumbria Trust

17:30 Plenary Discussion

18:00 End of the first day

Second Day - January 14th

14:00 Second session (continued) - National feedbacks on recent public engagement processes along RWM

Chair: Mr Jan Haverkamp, NTW/Greenpeace/Wise

14:00 France Roundtable – 2019 public debate on the RWM national plan

- Mr Aurélien Louis, French Ministry of Sustainable Development
- Ms Delphine Pellegrini, IRSN (tbc)
- Mr Jean-Claude Delalonde, ANCCLI

14:30 Czech Roundtable

- Ms Hana Konvalinkova, CALLA
- Mr Lukas Vondrovic, SURAO

15:00 Sweden Roundtable

- Mr Ingvar Persson, legal expert for the Swedish Council for Nuclear Waste
- Mr Bengt Hedberg, Swedish Radiation Safety Authority (SSM)
- Mr Johan Swahn, MKG

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”

- EC vision on the question of transparency in the field of research, Mr Roberto Passalacqua, DG RTD D.4
- Feedback from innovative processes in interaction with Civil Society in SITEX-II and JOPRAD, representative from IRSN (tbc)
- Feedback from innovative processes in interaction with Civil Society in MODERN 2020, Ms Ann Bergmans, University of Antwerp
- The SITEX European network of experts on RWM (involving TSOs, Regulators and Civil Society Experts), Mr Valéry Detilleux, Bel V

17:30 End of the second day

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”

- The EURAD platform and corresponding processes of Interaction with Civil Society, Ms Louise Théodon, ANDRA, EURAD coordinator
- The ENTRIA Research project in Germany combining technical and social aspects of Radioactive Waste Management, Mr Klaus-Jurgen Röhlig, TU Clausthal

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

The final Roundtable will give the opportunity to precise and discuss the way to further assess and improve existing arrangements for RWM in Europe.

- Mr Jan Haverkamp, NTW
- Mr Jonas Ebbesson, Chair of the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee (ACCC)
- Ms Zuzana Petrovičová, Head of Unit DG ENER.D.2 “Nuclear energy, nuclear waste and decommissioning” or possibly Mr Gianfranco Brunetti, Deputy Head of Unit ENER.D.2
- Ms Nina Cromnier, Head of the Swedish Regulatory Authority and ENSREG member
- Mr Valéry Dettileux, SITEX network
- Ms Astrid Goebel, IGD-TP
- Ms Albena Simeonova, FEA Bulgaria

16:00 Plenary Discussion

16:40 Conclusions

- Ms Nadja Zeleznik, chair of Nuclear Transparency Watch
- Ms Zuzana Petrovičová, Head of Unit DG ENER.D.2 “Nuclear energy, nuclear waste and decommissioning” or possibly Gianfranco Brunetti, Deputy Head of Unit ENER.D.2

17:00 End of the third day