



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

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ACN ROUNDTABLE - 1

- ACN EU Roundtable on information and public participation in the field of Radioactive Waste Management was bringing many important and most interesting information on:
 - Implementation of the information and public participation provisions of the Radioactive Waste Directive:
 - Findings and recommendations in the EC report of the review of second national reports from Member States,
 - Civil Society review of the national reports and their conclusions, which point out some similar findings but also mention other important issues where efforts are needed,
 - Position of the representatives from governments, on the importance of transparency in RWM and necessary conditions,
 - Contribution of civil society experts in view of transparency for effective implementation of the Aarhus convention.

ACN ROUNDTABLE - 2

- National feedback on recent public engagement processes along RWM in the past few years in different national contexts:
 - Update on RWM public engagement in Germany: authority, implementer and civil society group.
 - Overview of recent developments on RWM siting procedures in UK: implementer and civil society group.
 - French 2019 public debate on the RWM national plan: government, TSO and national association of local groups.
 - Czech situation regarding deep geological repository siting: NGO and implementer.
 - Sweden development on the construction of deep geological repository: governmental regulation, authority and NGO.
- Some general remarks:
 - Learning process is very important and change the approach: the RW and SF management is a socio-technical issue and primarily society has to be involved and engaged;
 - The process itself is very crucial – the rules have to be established and followed, including how to manage the comments and suggestions from stakeholders.
 - Trust is one of the key components of the process – priority for long term collaboration of diversity of stakeholders.
 - All RW need to have clear management strategies to avoid any uncertainties or perception of mismanagement.
 - New bodies to monitor the RWM are currently established/proposed to improve the transparency.

ACN ROUNDTABLE - 3

- Recent developments in civil society access to expertise and research:
 - EC vision on the question of transparency in the field of research, relying on the facts revealed from science but also understanding how people perceive the information.
 - Feedback from innovative processes in interaction with Civil Society in MODERN 2020, where public stakeholders aimed to put "Responsible Research and Innovation" and "Co-production" into practice.
 - The SITEX European network of experts on RWM (involving TSOs, Regulators and Civil Society Experts) where Civil Society is understood as one of the key components of safety function.
 - Feedback from innovative processes in interaction with Civil Society in SITEX-II and JOPRAD,
 - The EURAD platform and corresponding processes of Interaction with Civil Society,
 - The ENTRIA Research project in Germany combining technical and social aspects of Radioactive Waste Management,

ACN ROUNDTABLE - 4

- Improving existing arrangements on information and public participation in the field of RWM in Europe - the way forward:

BIG THANK YOU

- To all speakers and panelists for sharing experiences, describing the challenges and pointing out their views and possible approaches for better RWM, especially in relation to transparency;
- To the chairs of the sessions to support excellent exchanges and looked at appropriate timing which also enabled most of the questions from audiences to be addressed;
- To the participants who brought their own positions and raised really relevant and interesting questions to the speakers.
- The recordings from the ACN on RWM will be available at the <http://www.nuclear-transparency-watch.eu/acn-round-table>.
- Written replies will be provided to all unanswered questions and circulated after the event.
- The presentations will be distributed to the registered.

SEE YOU NEXT TIME