

Fifth REVIEW MEETING

Convention on Nuclear Safety

Written questions addressed to Luxembourg on the national report by,

Latvia:

Question 1:

Context: General / Page: 11

Question: What are the measures/activities for the trainings of ASS as they might be do not have any professional with radiation protection background? What are the plans to ensure response and evaluation capabilities of DRP?

Answer: The Rescue Services Agency of the Ministry of Interior (ASS) is in charge with all kind of accidental emergency situations. The philosophy is, that depending on the type of crises, the agency can rely on the expertise of other competent administrations. In the case of a nuclear emergency the Ministry of Health, precisely its department of radiation protection (DRP) of the Directorate of Health, provides this expertise. The agents of ASS who are delegated to the crisis centre in case of a nuclear emergency do thus not necessarily need a professional background in radiation protection.

The agents of the DRP try to ensure expertise, concerning response and evaluation capabilities by regular training. Given the relatively limited own resources of a very small country, Luxembourg is somehow aware that an independent evaluation may be very demanding and in case of very complex situations eventually impossible. In order to compensate such a weakness, the DRP concentrates its efforts on international cooperation with the goal to share expertise with neighbouring countries to the mutual benefit of everyone. A common approach has also the advantage of a more harmonised response. One example is the International Cooperation on harmonizing Iodine prophylaxis and linked protective actions as highlighted on pages 16 and 17 of our national report. Presently a new subgroup has been set-up by the prefecture in Metz (France) to work on the implementation of harmonized and coordinated actions at a regional level. Additionally the DRP has very recently indicated its intention to actively participate at the working group on emergencies of HERCA (Heads of the European Radiological protection Competent Authorities). The Luxembourg authorities always defend within such working groups the idea of a common approach based on a common evaluation and assessment.

France:

Question 1:

Context: Article 16.1 / page 12

Question: Taking into account the new regulation in 2010, could Luxembourg explain what are the necessary training and competences for being accepted as a member of an intervention team?

Answer: The intervention team is based on volunteers; there are no special prerequisites for being accepted as a candidate, except the medical aptness and an extract of the police record. People working or having knowledge in this field are welcome, but the basic competences will be acquired during the training period of up to five years. After a successfully passed exam that is on an equivalent level than Rad1 in France, candidates are admitted as a member of the intervention team.

Question 2:

Context: Article 16.1 / page 11

Question: "Could Luxembourg give more details on the outcomes of the international expert team report of 2010? Could Luxembourg provide the follow-up of the recommendations issued?"

Answer: The international expert team presented its report on 11 October 2010 to the Minister of Interior. The experts proposed a fundamental reorganization of the Luxembourg rescues services with the following main issues:

- improvement of risk evaluation taking into account risk prevention, planning strategies and information of the public,
- merging of civil protection (within the competence of the State) and fire services (within the competence of the communes) in one single organization,
- provide better support of volunteers by professionals on the operational and training level,
- clear hierarchy and command structures in one national administrative structure,
- clear attribution of the responsibilities of the different stakeholders.

Since the publication of the expert report in October 2010 a general discussion on the reorganization has started on a political level as well as with all involved stakeholders. As the recommendations aim a fundamental reorganization of the rescue services. Initial steps have been taken to develop in more detail the reorganization.

Belgium:

Question 1:

Context: General / page 20

Question: What are the most important lessons learnt from the measurement exercise of 25 September 2010?

Answer: The very small scale measurement exercise with only 10 participating measurement teams from Germany and Luxembourg helped on the level of the intervention teams to exchange on working practises and measurement equipment used. The exchange of the data was as so far successful as the data measured in Luxembourg could be integrated into the software used by the authorities of the German "Länder" for producing maps of the radiological situation. Above the exercise has again shown that a radiological survey with mobile intervention teams is very time consuming (only few single results per

hour), not able to capture variations in time and at the end not very efficient. During an emergency phase, Luxembourg will thus continue to rely essentially on the automatic measurement network. Intervention teams shall perform sampling and punctual measurements in the post accidental phase.

Question 2:

Context: General / page 15

Question: A new edition of the brochure for the public on emergency preparedness was scheduled for 2009, but has been postponed for several reasons. What is the new target date been set?

Answer: For the moment the DRP works on dedicated information sheets for young people and children. Several information sheets will be published in 2011. Others will follow in 2012. A new target for the publication of a new brochure to inform the full population is not set.

USA:

Question 1:

Context: Article 16.1 / page 18-19

Question: Several weaknesses were identified as a result of your exercise associated with the Cattenom plant. Discuss your plans and schedule for addressing these weaknesses.

Answer: Presently a new subgroup has been set-up by the prefecture in Metz (France) to work on the implementation of harmonized and coordinated actions at a regional level. Since summer several meetings have taken place, joining together regional authorities from Germany and France. The ASS and the DRP represents Luxembourg within this working group. So far several proposed agreements, basically on communication, have been worked out. Following the outcome of these discussions, Luxembourg will focus on the other weaknesses identified during the exercise. The goal is to have an improved emergency management in place at the next larger Cattenom exercise that shall normally take place in 2012.

Question 2:

Context: Article 16.1 / page 15

Question: A new edition of a public brochure was delayed for several reasons. Please discuss the schedule for issuing the new brochure.

Answer: For the moment the DRP works on dedicated information sheets for young people and children. Several information sheets will be published in 2011. Others will follow in 2012. A new target for the publication of a new brochure to inform the full population is not set.

South Afrika:

Comment 1:

Context: Article 16.1 /

Question: The participation of Luxembourg at the CORDIRPA Project in France and in International exercises is considered a very good practice.

Answer: Thank you

Comment 2:

Context: Article 16.1 /

Question: The national radiological monitoring network is considered a very good practice for a country with no operating nuclear power plants.

Answer: Thank you

Question 1:

Context: Article 16.1 / page 11

Question: The report states that an independent international team of experts has analysed the ASS situation related to reliance of over 2000 volunteers and that the report (of that team) is expected at the end of 2010.

Can a summary of the outcomes of this analysis (as presented in that report) be provided for example during the Luxembourg presentation of the National at the 5th Convention Review Meeting in April 2010?

Answer: Yes, we will present the main aspects of that report at the Convention Meeting. Our delegation will also be well informed on this topic to be able to respond adequately to additional oral questions.

Brazil:

Question 1:

Context: Article 7.2.4 /

Question: It is stated that: "Some agents of DRP are further attributed with legal power of police officers." What are the criteria to select these agents? And what are their additional qualifications to attribute them the additional powers?

Answer: Article 7 of the Law of 21 November 1980 concerning the organization of the Directorate of Health stipulates that the experts in radiation protection and the nuclear engineers of the DRP qualify for being further attributed with legal power of police officers and may exercise the additional power as stated in the report. In order to be nominated in one of the two above professional carriers, a candidate must have a university degree in natural sciences or engineering, an additional two years specialisation in radiation protection or nuclear engineering and a two years on job training within the DRP.

Question 2:

Context: Article 8.1 /

Question: How DRP is planning to cope with the 10% reduction in the budget announced for 2011? Will activities be curtailed?

Answer: A 10% reduction has indeed been decided by the parliament for the budget of 2011. This concerns the regular budget (not the investments) and all the public administrations. The DRP did some savings with a combination of measures, such as more efficiently use of consumables and renegotiating prices with suppliers. This shall allow continuing to offer its service and assume its

missions on the same level than in previous years, but with now a very tied financial margin of manoeuvre.

Question 3:

Context: Article 16.3 /

Question: Who is developing the new brochure with information to the public about nuclear emergency plans? Are professional communicators involved? Are external organizations participating?

Answer: The DRP develops the information to the public. Before publishing all information is verified either by communication experts of the Ministry of Health or by the press office of the government.

Question 4:

Context: Article 16.4 /

Question: Considering the geographical situation of Luxemburg, does the evacuation plans anticipate trans-boundary movement of people? Are these questions included in the related international agreements?

Answer: The initial planning had foreseen to evacuate people within Luxemburg, either to their relatives or to refuge centres. All the people that live in an evacuated area of a neighbouring country, who would at that moment be in Luxemburg, could also be guided to one of the refuge centres. This concerns tourists as well as border commuters. On one hand the situation become easier since the border controls have been abolished with the Schengen agreement. On the other hand, however the situation has become more complicated over the past 10 years, since the number of border commuters who come to work in Luxemburg has significantly risen. It is also evident that these people want in such a situation return to their families. Another issue is related to the recent expansion of the nuclear planning zone from 5 to 10 km around NPP's in France. In this new constellation, the planning zone goes up to the border with Luxemburg. Given that evacuation is logically done in direction away from the danger, it becomes obvious that an evacuation of the French population living north of the Cattenom NPP towards Luxemburg should be considered. Authorities on both sides of the border are aware that these are very important questions, that need to be well reflected before giving an appropriate answer. The new subgroup, that has been set-up in 2010 by the prefecture in Metz (France) to work on the implementation of harmonized and coordinated actions at a regional level, is also charged to reflect on the trans-boundary movements during a nuclear emergency and to propose adequate arrangements.