



Council of the  
European Union

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**NOTE**

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From: Presidency  
To: Delegations

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Subject: Off-Site Nuclear Emergency Preparedness and Response  
= Draft Council conclusions

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Delegations will find in Annex a first draft of the Council conclusions on "Off-site nuclear emergency preparedness and response". This draft is based on the exchange of views on the Presidency discussion paper (doc.10470/15) which was held at the meeting of the Working Party on Atomic Questions on 8 July 2015, as well as on the subsequent comments received from delegations.

This first draft of the conclusions will be examined by the Working Party on Atomic Questions on 9 September 2015.

**Draft Council conclusions on  
Off-site nuclear emergency preparedness and response**

The Council of the European Union:

REAFFIRMING the paramount importance of protecting citizens effectively in case of a nuclear emergency,

AWARE of the fact that nuclear emergency preparedness and response (EP&R) arrangements have been established for many years in the EU Member States and are tested and exercised regularly,

RECOGNISING that arrangements and measures applicable to nuclear emergencies may also apply to other radiological emergencies,

ACKNOWLEDGING that the provision of EP&R arrangements is essentially a national responsibility whereas the consequences of a nuclear accident can go beyond national borders,

STRESSING the need for coherent protective measures along adjacent national borders to protect populations equally,

STRESSING the benefits of involving civil society in preparedness activities, in particular during nuclear emergency exercises, to increase transparency and public participation, and to improve public confidence in the arrangements,

BELIEVING that actions to improve off-site nuclear EP&R issues require bringing together the key competent authorities in the Member States, drawn from nuclear safety regulators, radiation protection experts and regulators, technical support organisations and civil protection authorities,

BEING OF THE VIEW that strengthening mutual assistance systems at EU level is necessary to make the best use of specialised resources and capabilities in case of a nuclear emergency and to bring them into action quickly,

REAFFIRMING the commitment of the European Union, Euratom and their Member States to improve response, including cross-border coordination, to nuclear emergencies,

RECALLING Council Directive 2013/59/Euratom containing several provisions applicable to emergency preparedness and response, Council Directive 2014/87/Euratom requiring Member States to ensure that an organisational structure for on-site emergency preparedness and response is established, supplementing in this way the requirements of Council Directive 2013/59/Euratom, Council Decision 87/600/Euratom on Community arrangements for the early exchange of information in the event of a radiological emergency and Decision No 1313/2013/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council on a Union Civil Protection Mechanism,

RECALLING further the Review of Current Off-site Nuclear Emergency Preparedness and response Arrangements in EU Member States and Neighbouring Countries<sup>1</sup>, the HERCA-WENRA Approach for a better cross-border coordination of protective actions during the early phase of a nuclear accident<sup>2</sup>, and the commitment by ENSREG<sup>3</sup> to consult with Member State civil protection authorities in the field of EP&R and to report back in 2016 on this consultation,

STRESSING that the implementation of Council Directive 2013/59/Euratom calls for enhanced international cooperation concerning the management of an emergency with cross-border consequences, and that the transposition and implementation of the Directive therefore gives a unique opportunity for improved understanding and revisiting existing arrangements, achieving thus greater harmonisation of EP&R arrangements in the EU,

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<sup>1</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/energy/sites/ener/files/documents/2014\\_nep\\_epr\\_review\\_2012-474\\_main\\_0.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/energy/sites/ener/files/documents/2014_nep_epr_review_2012-474_main_0.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.herca.org/herca\\_news.asp?newsID=41](http://www.herca.org/herca_news.asp?newsID=41)

<sup>3</sup> European Nuclear Safety Regulators Group

1. INVITES:

- the Commission to organise workshops to facilitate the consistent transposition and implementation of Council Directive 2013/59/Euratom, aiming at developing a coherent approach to EP&R, particularly between neighbouring Member States, specifically focusing on the following subjects:
  - Reference levels,
  - Protection strategies and optimisation approaches,
  - Generic criteria, operational criteria, default triggers,
  - Transition from existing exposure situation arrangements,
- the Commission, based on discussions with the Member States, to develop Commission recommendations on cross-border EP&R to ensure effective and consistent protection across Member States, taking into account the HERCA-WENRA Approach,
- the Commission to report to the Council on the progress with the implementation of those provisions of Council Directive 2013/59/Euratom applicable to EP&R, following its transposition, and to make any further recommendations for their follow-up; and to review the effectiveness of other Euratom legislation in the field of EP&R with a view to further improving its effectiveness and enhancing cooperation between Member States,
- Member States and the Commission to elaborate a European peer review exercise of national EP&R arrangements, which in particular allows verification of the effectiveness of cross-border arrangements for a nuclear emergency response, following their implementation under the relevant provisions of Council Directive 2013/59/Euratom,
- Member States to coordinate closely to establish emergency planning zones around nuclear power plants, and specifically those sited close to a national border, of at least 5 km for evacuation and at least 20 km for sheltering and iodine thyroid blocking,

- Member States to define common preparedness arrangements in case protective measures need to be extended beyond the emergency planning zones,
- Member States to commit, where a nuclear power plant is sited close to a national border, to organising together with the concerned neighbouring states and the Commission at least every five years a nuclear emergency exercise with the objective of testing cross-border arrangements, and to exchange the findings, share experience and promote good practice,

2. and URGES Member States to:

- establish and exchange country-specific factsheets to increase knowledge of each other's EP&R arrangements,
- establish bilateral arrangements for better cross-border coordination of protective measures during the response to a nuclear accident with a focus on nuclear power plants sited close to national borders,
- include the alignment of protective measures along borders as a factor in the decision-making process in accordance with the optimised protection strategy,
- adopt the principle that in the first hours of an accident, protective measures are closely aligned with those applied in the Member State where the accident has occurred, based on the information received from that Member State.

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