



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 revised draft of the Council conclusions on "Off-site nuclear emergency preparedness and response". The revised draft is based on the discussions during the meeting of the Working Party on Atomic Questions on 9 September 2015 and on the subsequent comments received from delegations. Changes compared to doc. 11653/15 are marked in **bold** and ~~strikethrough~~.

**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, **including those of nuclear origin,**

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~~ **as a necessary condition for the effectiveness of emergency management in case of a severe nuclear accident in a nuclear power plant,**

STRESSING the benefits of involving civil society in preparedness activities, in particular during nuclear emergency exercises **preparations and feedback analysis,** 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 **Member States**, the European Union **and** 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 the Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency<sup>1</sup> and the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident<sup>2</sup>,**

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

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<sup>1</sup> IAEA INFCIRC/336

<sup>2</sup> IAEA INFCIRC/335

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.herca.org/herca\\_news.asp?newsID=41](http://www.herca.org/herca_news.asp?newsID=41)

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

1. INVITES the Commission to:

~~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 **provisions of the directive**, particularly between neighbouring Member States **as well as with neighbouring third countries**, specifically focusing **notably** on the following **radiation protection** subjects:

- ~~Reference levels,~~
- Protection strategies and optimisation approaches, **including the use of reference levels**,
- Generic criteria, operational criteria, default triggers,
- Transition from **emergency to** 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,~~

2. INVITES Member States to:

- **take into account the approach developed by the European regulators when transposing and implementing the provisions of Council Directive 2013/59/Euratom,**
- ~~Member States and the Commission to elaborate a European topical peer review exercise of national EP&R arrangements, which in particular allows verification~~ **for the evaluation** 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~~ **cooperate** closely ~~when to establishing~~ emergency planning zones around nuclear power plants, ~~and specifically those sited~~ **that are situated** close to a national border, ~~of at least 5 km for evacuation and at least 20 km for sheltering and iodine thyroid blocking,~~ **and particularly where such zones extend beyond the borders of a Member State,**
- ~~Member States to define common~~ **exchange information about** preparedness arrangements in case protective measures need to be extended beyond the emergency planning zones, **taking into consideration local specificities, technical parameters of the installation and already existing cross-border cooperation arrangements,**
- ~~Member States to commit,~~ **continue their efforts,** where a nuclear power plant is sited close to a national border, to **regularly** ~~organising~~ together with the concerned neighbouring states ~~and the Commission at least every five years a nuclear emergency exercises with the objective of testing cross-border arrangements,~~ **the European Community Urgent Radiological Information Exchange (ECURIE) system and the European Radioactivity Data Exchange Platform (EURDEP),** and to exchange the findings, share experience and promote good practice,

3. and URGES Member States to:

- establish and exchange country-specific factsheets to increase knowledge of each other's EP&R arrangements,
- ~~establish~~ **maintain and develop, where necessary,** 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~~ **emergency** decision-making ~~process~~ in accordance with the optimised protection strategy,
- ~~adopt~~ **consider** the principle that in the first hours of an accident, **applied** protective measures **take into account** ~~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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