



Council of the  
European Union

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**NOTE**

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From: Presidency  
To: Delegations  
Subject: Off-Site Emergency Preparedness and Response  
= Draft Council conclusions

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Delegations will find in Annex a second revised draft of the Council conclusions on "Off-site emergency preparedness and response". This revised draft is based on the discussions during the meeting of the Working Party on Atomic Questions of 5 October 2015 and on the subsequent comments received from delegations. Changes compared to doc. 11653/1/15 REV 1 are marked in **bold** and ~~striketrough~~.

This draft will be examined by the Working Party on Atomic Questions on 4 November 2015. In preparation for the meeting, the Presidency invites delegations to send any written comments by **30 October 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 **against the effects of ionising radiation** in case of **an** emergencies, 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, **yet bearing in mind that** ~~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 **against the effects of ionising radiation in case of an emergency**, 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 **mainly** civil protection authorities,

**STRESSING the importance of mutual assistance systems at EU level, to make the best use of specialised resources and capabilities in case of a nuclear emergency and to bring them into action quickly, taking account of existing mechanisms such as RANET and national systems,**

REAFFIRMING the commitment of Member States, the European Union and Euratom 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 Nuclear Safety<sup>1</sup>, the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management<sup>2</sup>, the Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency<sup>3</sup> and the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident<sup>4</sup>,

**RECALLING that according to Article 99 of Council Directive 2013/59/Euratom, Member States shall cooperate with other Member States and with third countries in addressing possible emergencies on their territory which may affect other Member States or third countries, in order to facilitate the organisation of radiological protection in those Member States or third countries.**

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<sup>1</sup> IAEA INFCIRC/449  
<sup>2</sup> IAEA INFCIRC/546  
<sup>3</sup> IAEA INFCIRC/336  
<sup>4</sup> IAEA INFCIRC/335

~~RECALLING further the approach developed by the European regulators for a better cross-border coordination of protective actions during the early phase of a nuclear accident<sup>5</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,——~~

**RECOGNISING the work on improved cross-border approaches to coordinate protective measures in case of a nuclear accident, which has been carried out by national experts, competent authorities and regulators in the framework of HERCA and WENRA,**

STRESSING Member States' effort to implement Council Directive 2013/59/Euratom and therefore to enhance international cooperation concerning the management of an emergency with cross-border consequences,

**RECOGNISING** that the transposition and implementation of ~~the~~ **Council** Directive 2013/59/Euratom gives an opportunity ~~for~~ **to improved mutual** understanding and **to revisiting** existing arrangements, achieving thus greater coherence of EP&R in the EU,

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 provisions of the directive, particularly between neighbouring Member States as well as with neighbouring third countries, focusing notably on the following radiation protection subjects:
  - Protection strategies and optimisation approaches, including the use of reference levels,
  - Generic criteria, operational criteria, default triggers,
  - **Arrangements for the Ttransition** from emergency to existing exposure situation arrangements,
  - **Emergency response arrangements and information to the public,**

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<sup>5</sup>—— [http://www.herca.org/herca\\_news.asp?newsID=41](http://www.herca.org/herca_news.asp?newsID=41)

- 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,
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,~~
  - **take account of the work carried out by national experts and regulators on improved cross-border approaches to protective measures in case of a nuclear accident, as appropriate and according to the national circumstances, when transposing and implementing the provisions of Council Directive 2013/59/Euratom,**
  - ~~elaborate a topical peer review 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,~~
  - **coordinate** ~~cooperate~~ closely when establishing **or reviewing existing** emergency planning zones around nuclear power plants ~~that are situated close to a national border, and particularly~~ where such zones extend **up to or** beyond the borders of a Member State,
  - exchange information about **planned or implemented measures for precautionary purposes to minimise long-term consequences at distances** ~~preparedness arrangements in~~ ease ~~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,

- ~~intensify~~ continue their efforts where a nuclear power plant is sited close to a national border, to regularly organise together with the concerned neighbouring **Member States, joint training sessions and realistic** nuclear emergency exercises, with the objective of testing cross-border arrangements. **Such training and exercises should aim to mutually share experience, promote good practice, exchange the findings and continuously improve the effectiveness of EP&R arrangements, whilst making use of existing international mechanisms such as ConvEX and/or INEX if appropriate, and as well as 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 **information** factsheets, to increase knowledge of each other's EP&R arrangements **and to contribute to the IAEA Emergency Preparedness and Response Information Management System (EPRIMS),**
- 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 emergency decision-making in accordance with the optimised protection strategy,
- consider the principle that in the first hours of an accident, applied protective measures take into account those applied in the Member State where the accident has occurred, based on the information received from that Member State, **taking into account Article 99 (2) of Council Directive 2013/59/Euratom.**