

FIRST MEETING OF THE ESPOO CONVENTION *AD HOC* WORKING GROUP ON LTE[/LTO] OF NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

["Prepared by the European Commission in consultation with the Co-Chairs and the UNECE Secretariat"]

27-28 November 2017 | Luxembourg

The meeting was chaired by Christof Sangenstedt (DE) and Rory Wallace (UK) and attended by AT, BY, CZ, ES, FI, FR, IT, LU, NL, NO, PL, PT,RO, SK, UKR; UNECE Espoo Convention Secretary, Chair of Espoo Implementation Committee (Romas Švedas, LT), Chair of Espoo WG on EIA and SEA (Vesna Kolar Planinšič, SI); European Commission (DG ENV. E1 and DG ENER. D.1, JRC G.10).

Through Decision VII/3-III/3 the Parties to the Espoo Convention decided to establish an *ad hoc* group that will develop terms of reference for a possible guidance on addressing the applicability of the Convention with regard to decisions on the lifetime extension of nuclear power plants.

UNECE and the Implementation Committee Chair presented the context and background for the mandated work, highlighting the need for the guidance, including for the review of compliance purposes.

The European Commission Joint Research Centre presented a preliminary analysis that it performed upon the request of DG Energy. This analysis focused on the definition of LTO/LTE, the principle of continuous safety improvement, the categorization of major Nuclear Power Plants upgrades and the situation in the EU Member States regarding LTO/LTE and EIA. JRC noted that most countries make a screening to assess whether there is a potential impact on the environment.

After these general presentations, the discussion began along the lines of a working paper introduced by the co-chairs to focus, *inter alia*, on the following terms used in the Convention:

- "Proposed activity" & "major change to an activity"
- "Decision", as defined in Article 2(3) of the Espoo Convention
- "Competent authority" & "in accordance with an applicable national procedure".

The group held a brainstorming session and agreed that its co-chairs would revise the working document with elements for terms of reference based on its outcomes. During the discussions, the need was expressed to next focus on questions such as "likely significant adverse environmental impact", "transboundary consultations" and "public participation". The need was also expressed to speed-up the process with the view of proposing a possible guidance document by the next intermediate session of the Meeting of the Parties.

The group will meet again with the view to presenting draft “Terms of reference” for discussion at a workshop, including with civil society, during the next meeting of the Working Group on EIA and SEA (Geneva, 28-30 May 2018) and for agreement by the Working Group at that meeting.

Next Meeting

20-21 February 2018 | Brussels

Directorate General ENVIRONMENT

Avenue de Beaulieu 5, 1160 Brussels

Room C

The agenda of the first meeting can be found in annex.

AGENDA

**Espoo Ad Hoc Group on Life Time Extensions/ Life Time Operations of Nuclear Power Plants,
European Commission premises, (Building T2, Kirchberg, 1-7 Boulevard Pierre Frieden, L- 1543
Luxembourg, Room D-038)**

Monday 27 November

11:00 - 11:30 Welcome by DE/UK – Co-Chairs Christof Sangenstedt/ Rory Wallace

Including - introductory remarks from the

- UNECE (Secretary to the Espoo Convention and its Protocol on SEA) and
- European Commission (Hosts of the meeting)

11:30 - 13:00 Background and General Remarks

Including;

- Presentation by the Chair of the Implementation Committee of the Espoo Convention on its work on LTE;
- Presentation from the European Commission's Joint Research Centre on a Survey on Long-Term Operation of Nuclear Power Plants and Environmental Impact Assessment in EU Member States

13:00 - 14:00 Lunch

14:00 - 15:00 Clarification of Mandate and Presentation on the paper prepared by the co-chairs

15:00 – 18:00 Characteristics of “proposed activity” (see paper)

18:00 - 18:15 Roundup of Day I and Meeting Close

Tuesday 28 November

09:00 - 09:15 Opening and Approach to Day II

09:15 - 10:30 Questions to Consider (see paper)

10:30 - 11:00 Break

11:00 - 13:00 Questions to Consider (see paper)

13:00 - 14:00 Lunch

14:00 – 14:30 Roundup on position and Questions

14:30 - 16:00 Next Steps

- Second meeting of Ad-Hoc Group – February 2018
- Workshop – May 2018

16:00 – 16:15 Meeting Close

**Please note the meeting will be conducted in English as there are no translation services provided*