

DG TREN Perspectives on International Radiological Assistance

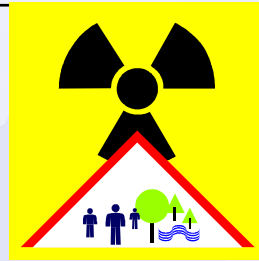
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European Commission DG TREN H4

Radiation protection

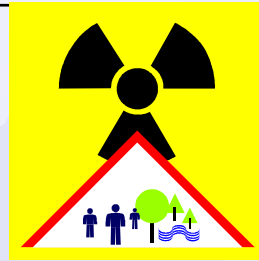
Topical day on creating synergies on regional assistance capabilities for nuclear/radiological emergency response

SCK/CEN Brussels, 10 May 2007



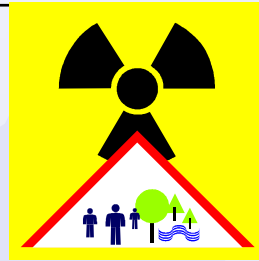
Introduction

- Europe is a crucial area for international assistance co-operation in the event of a radiological emergency
 - Large number of nuclear facilities, most of them close to national borders
 - Small national territories
 - Lot of interfacing emergency authorities



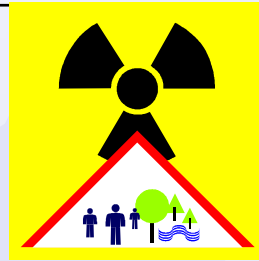
Introduction

- European Union is a key player in terms of making international arrangements in Europe
 - Legal framework (Euratom treaty)
 - Legislative powers
 - Funding possibilities
 - Political decision making
 - Synergy opportunities



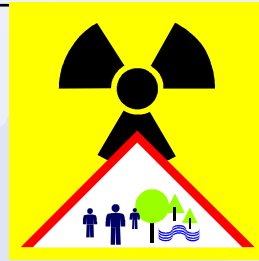
History

- EU has implemented arrangements for emergency communications, foodstuff legislation, public information and requirements for national preparedness arrangements, but efforts to create common assistance capabilities have resulted in only small steps forward
 - Lack of coordination among radiation protection and civil protection authorities
 - Lack of political will and difficulties with jurisdictions
 - Military assistance resources are outside the scope of EU work



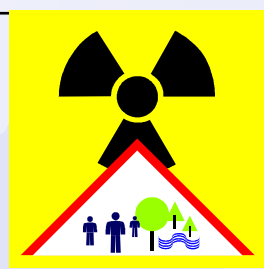
Mutual assistance Political framework history

- 1978: EC Health Ministers
 - to coordinate activities on mutual assistance
 - to facilitate cross-frontier aid
 - to streamline administrative formalities
- 1983: “Mutual health assistance measures ...”
 - survey of available resources
 - provide information
- 1986: Chernobyl accident
 - consequences reaching far beyond boundaries
 - requirement of various resources
- 1989: Council Conclusions on mutual assistance



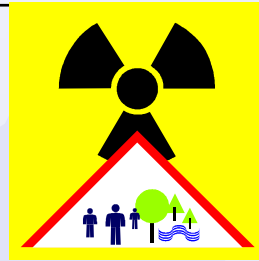
Mutual Assistance Council Conclusions 1989

- Supports Commission's intention to:
 - convene periodic meetings of experts (correspondents)
 - set up an inventory of human and technical resources
- Avoid duplication of bilateral and international cooperation mechanisms



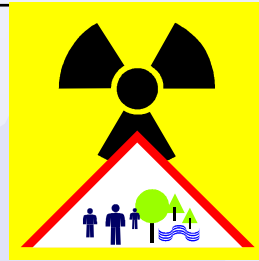
Operational manual

- Operational manual for mutual assistance in the EU in the event of a nuclear accident or radiological emergency (latest version 1997)
 - Contact points
 - Resources
 - Bilateral agreements
 - Regulations and Directives
- MS expert meetings were held in the 90's in order to draft and update
 - Last meeting in 1998



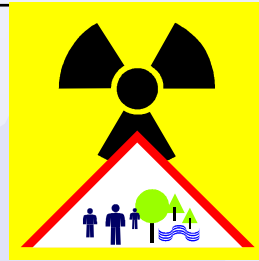
Operational manual

- The manual was not a great success due to following reasons:
 - Lack of firm legal basis
 - Difficulties in maintaining the resource database (no electronic database)
 - Difficulties in reaching the correct authorities in the MS (most cases other than radiation protection authority)
 - Lack of resources in the Commission
 - Manual listing did not mean binding & actual resource availability



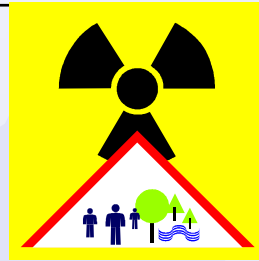
Situation today

- EU Civil protection mechanism covers also radiological emergencies, but the scope is on traditional civil protection.
 - Lack of radiation specific knowledge and equipment.
 - In some MS's civil protection does not communicate very well with radiation protection.
 - Very few civil protection organisations have experience in radiation emergency situations.
 - CBRN resources in the MS have improved since 9/11
- EU has in 2005 acceded to the IAEA Assistance Convention



Recent areas of regional assistance interest

- Measurements for exotic substances (Po-210)
 - Laboratory capabilities
 - Full body counting of victims
- Airborne environmental monitoring (ECCOMAGS exercise 2003)
- Illicit trafficking monitoring
- Search for lost/stolen high-activity sources (HASS Directive has improved the source situation)



EC position

- European Union has no assistance resources itself, so it has a natural role of broker/mediator/facilitator.
- European Commission supports regional assistance developments, but an EU action needs to eventually cover all Member States.