

RECOMMENDATION GROUP 6

MEMBERS

Chairman :	Mr. Detlef Appel	AKEND	Germany
Vice-chairman :	Mr. Harald Åhagen	Oskarshamn	Sweden
Mr. Julio Barcelo	Spanish Nuclear Safety Council		Spain
Mr. George Blackwell	Copeland Borough Council		United Kingdom
Mr. Joël Blommaerts	Stola-Dessel		Belgium
Mr. Pascal Chaix	CEA		France
Mr. Jan Claes	Mona		Belgium
Mr. François Cox	Stola-Dessel		Belgium
Mrs. Ann Dierckx	ONDRAF/NIRAS		Belgium
Mr. Gilbert Eggermont	SCK CEN		Belgium
Mr. Hugh Sinclair Fearn	Scottish Environment Protection Agency		United Kingdom
Mr. Pius Frey	Nidwalden Canton		Switzerland
Mr. Filip Kenis	Mona		Belgium
Dr. Mike Marshall	Harwell Local Liaison Committee		United Kingdom
Mr. Lumír Nachmilner	RAWRA		Czech Republic
Ms Josefín Paiviö	SKI		Sweden
Ms Annika Sjölander	Umea University		Sweden
Mrs Vera Sumberova	RAWRA		Czech Republic
Mr. Lennart Sunnerholm	Östhammar		Sweden

SUMMARY ON TASK 4

REFLECTIONS ON THE INFLUENCE OF THE LOCAL ACTORS ON THE NATIONAL NUCLEAR WASTE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

The existence of a national framework for nuclear waste management is viewed as an essential basis for the decision-making processes at the local level. An important factor in the overall decision making framework is how the local actors, who are primarily affected by the decisions, are given provisions and are encouraged to influence the process.

During the series of COWAM seminars an attempt has been made to characterise and reflect over the key modalities according to which the local actors can influence the national decision-making process.

Need for a flexible approach: Compared to a rigid up-front defined decision making process a more flexible approach is suggested. A format established at the beginning of the decision making process where national as well as local parties can influence the direction of the programme as well as the narrowing of options is an essential part of such a flexible process. To carry this joint responsibility for the progress of the program the roles of the participating parties must be clear and well defined.

To define a well balanced decision making process may not be possible. Maybe a definition of important ingredients can be established. Three key factors identified are:

- a national legislative framework setting the grounds for a national policy and identifying the responsible key players (e.g implementer and regulator)
- basic standards to be met for health and safety
- the role of local communities in continuous development of the national framework

Early involvement of local actors: As regards waste management issues, historically local actors were mostly consulted at the very end of the decision-making process to approve of a siting decision. A conclusion in the COWAM discussions is that early involvement of local actors is an essential and valuable element in the decision-making process.

A challenge for any national dialogue to be initiated is the engagement of local communities without being subject to siting considerations. It has been suggested that host communities of nuclear facilities and a broad representation of communities potentially interesting after early screening should at least be invited to participate.

Modalities of influence: Possibilities for local actors to influence the decision-making process should be clear. A good common understanding of the capacity and channels of influence available to stakeholders need to be reached. A clearly laid out decision making process in stages should promote clarity when the actors are invited to review and discuss the program direction and the content of the next step.

The participatory process requires capacity for the local community and NGOs to participate. If subject to limited resources it will be difficult for the community and the NGOs to make their voice heard.

National provisions for the local debate: One important issue is to make sure that the local communities will not be left alone with the waste management issue and that national institutions, notably the central government and such bodies as the Parliament will maintain involvement in the decision-making process.

Role and missions of the different actors involved at the national and local level

The national framework should include a clear definition of the role and responsibilities of the various actors involved in each relevant context (national and local), as well as a clear definition of the relationships between them.

This includes the role of public authorities. National regulators should be involved throughout the decision making process as an independent authority. Their responsibility is to ensure that the waste operators achieve their task in a safe way and that their economic structures are safe. This role of guardian of the process should be defined in each national context.

There are many questions to be raised in discussing how to set up the decision making process and the role of the key players such as:

- What is the overall responsibility of the public authorities in the decision-making process?
- Who does what in the national policy implementation?
- Should the designer of the policy and the implementers be the same ?
- What are the links and relationship between the industry (producing the waste) and the waste management agency?

-

Structures for policy implementation

Of importance to the clarity of the decision making process are the type of structures used to implement the national policy. Implementation based as much as possible on established existing structures and decisions made within the normal regular framework in order to avoid any dispensation from the usual democratic decision-making processes is suggested. The example of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) was cited which is used as a general EU policy tool for environmental issues.