Development of Safety Network in Europe and Central Asia
Background, Status and Next Challenges

Safety and Security Coordination Section
Department of Nuclear Safety & Security
1. Background elements to this initiative

2. Current Status
   - 2 CS meetings
   - Expected network's characteristics: Main Focus, Membership, Scope, Structure and Governance, Possible Activities.

3. Next steps
   - TM in March 2016
1. Background | GC resolution and Fukushima LL

- The Safety Resolution GC(56)/RES/9, encouraged “the Secretariat to assist in the establishment of [safety] fora and networks in regions where they do not exist”. Similar statements were issued, in 2013 and 2014, welcoming the establishment of regional safety forums and related networks.

- In 2013, the IAEA Report on Strengthening Nuclear Regulatory Effectiveness in the Light of Fukushima:
  • called for the reinforcement of international cooperation in the form of regional relations and
  • stated that “sharing regulatory information and best practices among regulatory bodies can be achieved through regional networks”.

IAEA International Atomic Energy Agency
Throughout its work with other regional networks, the Secretariat noted:

- Existing European safety groups or fora are mostly EU centred. Many countries from Eastern Europe, South-Eastern Europe and Central Asia, including embarking countries, do not currently participate in any regional safety network.

- Existing safety networks in European region have quite narrow topical scope (e.g. focusing only on nuclear energy, on one type of reactor, on research reactors, on legacy issues, etc.) and do not implement capacity building activities.

- A regional network with large thematic and geographical scope would help sharing feedback and giving visibility to many ongoing sub regional or specialised safety initiatives in Europe and Central Asia.
2. Current Status | Developments

- Two CS for experts in the region (RB & TSOs) to have information and open discussions on the interest of this initiative (4-6 Feb and 6-8 May 2015). Very positive conclusions, incl. guidance on the next steps and draft Terms of Reference.

- The European Commission is supportive and a representative from the EC joined the second CS.

- WENRA Chairman joined the 2nd CS and expressed his full support to the project.

- Within the IAEA, TC Europe supports this initiative as it can help coordination of activities in the region.

- 16 Member States expressed strong interest: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, France (TSO), Hungary, Kazakhstan, Norway, Macedonia, Russian Federation, Romania, Serbia, Spain, Switzerland.
2. Current Status | Proposed Characteristics of the Network 1/2

Topical scope
“Nuclear and Radiological Safety”

Objectives
Sharing experience and knowledge, Capacity Building, Facilitate Cooperation and Convergence of Views + Give visibility to existing projects in the region.

Proposed Structure

Membership
Network Members are Countries
Members of the Steering Committee are designated individuals from the RB
WG or activities can include participants from operators
2. Current Status | Proposed Characteristics of the Network 2/2

Geographical Scope

The countries to which the Network is open for membership are:

Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kirghizstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Macedonia, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Norway, Russian Federation, Serbia, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, **EU Member States**, EC (observer).

Types of activities

Typically decided annually by the SC.

- Meetings of the SC and Working Groups
- Maintenance of an online platform, for sharing information of regional interest
- As needed, Capacity Building activities, Workshops on issues of common interest, Expert Missions, etc.
3. Upcoming Challenges and Future Steps

2-4 March 2016 Meeting for the Establishment of a Regional Safety Network in Europe and Central Asia (Vienna)

Objectives:

- Provide experts with information on this initiative to enable them to further discuss the characteristics of the network;
- Finalize the Terms of Reference:
- Discuss possible topical working groups and initiate preparation of a future work programme (taking into account the resources available).

- WENRA and HERCA will be invited, together other regional existing initiatives to allow proper information, discussion and possible participation in the new network.

- Financial consideration: Regional networks activities are mostly financed with extra budgetary funds. The budget allocated to the new Network will be dependent on donors and fundraising efforts are to be initiated.
Thank you for your attention