

TERMS OF REFERENCE
OF THE
EUROPEAN AND CENTRAL ASIAN SAFETY NETWORK
(EuCAS NETWORK)

(including amendments of chairperson and vice-chairpersons in August 2022)

PREAMBLE

Recognizing that the region of Europe and Central Asia has significant experience, resources, technologies, knowledge in the field of nuclear and radiation safety, with facilities and activities ranging from the use of a limited number of radiation sources to the operation of a large nuclear power programme;

Recognizing that the region gathers countries with extensive safety expertise as well as countries needing to strengthen their safety infrastructure;

Acknowledging that nuclear and radiation safety is a transboundary issue in nature, and that the development of peaceful uses of nuclear technology in all countries in the region is intertwined;

Acknowledging that regional networks constitute relevant structures to discuss and build common understanding on nuclear and radiation safety matters, in particular when addressing aspects with a regional impact or relevance (e.g. transborder or common issues), and that enhancing the sharing of technical information and experience is essential to strengthen nuclear safety worldwide;

Acknowledging that networks can facilitate efforts to “strengthen and maintain capacity building” as requested by the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety ¹;

Welcoming the desire to foster cooperation of regulatory bodies and technical and scientific support organizations (TSOs) in Europe and Central Asia for reinforcing nuclear and radiation safety;

¹ <https://www.iaea.org/topics/nuclear-safety-action-plan>

Noting that a resolution of the IAEA General Conference², in 2012, encouraged “the Secretariat to assist in the establishment of [safety] fora and networks in regions where they do not exist” as a measure to strengthen international cooperation in nuclear, radiation, transport and waste safety.

We, the representatives of the Regulatory Bodies and TSOs from Europe and Central Asia, listed in the Annex, do hereby adopt the following Terms of Reference to establish the European and Central Asian Safety Network.

ESTABLISHMENT AND NAME

A Network to be known as the European and Central Asian Safety Network (hereinafter referred to as “EuCAS Network”) is hereby established.

OBJECTIVE

1. The EuCAS Network has the objective to support the strengthening of the nuclear and radiation safety infrastructure, in line with the IAEA safety standards, at regional level, through facilitating:
 - the exchange of information, experience, expertise and good practices;
 - the coordination and the development of activities including capacity building;
 - the cooperation on issues of specific interest and building of a common understanding.
2. The EuCAS Network shall aim at gaining overview of regional activities with similar objectives. The EuCAS Network’s activities shall be developed to be complementary to other initiatives, such as those developed under the auspices of the IAEA and other international organizations and associations. To this end, the EuCAS network shall collaborate with such entities.

MEMBERSHIP

3. The EuCAS Network shall be open to the national Regulatory Bodies and Technical Safety Organizations (TSOs) in the field of nuclear and/or radiation safety from the countries situated in Europe or Central Asia and which are also Member States of the IAEA. New Members shall apply and agree to the EuCAS Network’s Terms of Reference in writing.

² GC(57)/RES/9, GC(58)/RES/10

4. The Steering Committee may grant the status of Observers to the EuCAS Network to National Regulatory Bodies and TSOs in the field of nuclear and/or radiation safety of regions other than Europe and Central Asia for Member States of the IAEA and international or regional organizations who express an interest. See also para. 16.
5. The list of EuCAS Network Members and Observers shall be made publicly available on its webpage.

STRUCTURE

6. The EuCAS Network shall be governed by a Steering Committee, which may be supported by Working Groups.

Steering Committee

7. The Steering Committee shall be composed of **senior representatives from the member organizations**. They can be assisted by experts, as relevant. **One Steering Committee member shall be nominated for each organization represented in the Network**, together with an alternate.
8. The nominations shall be sent to the Secretariat of the EuCAS Network in writing and through official channels of the IAEA.
9. The nominations shall be renewed or reconfirmed every three years through official channels of the IAEA. The Secretariat will send a Note Verbale to the respective member before the end of the third year. Nominations may not expire at the same time.
10. The EuCAS Network Steering Committee members shall demonstrate a strong commitment to the objectives of the EuCAS Network. They shall attend the Steering Committee meetings and contribute to its work.
11. The Steering Committee shall meet **twice a year. The steering committee decides for the IAEA Headquarters in Vienna or for a Member State of the EuCAS.**
12. Steering Committee meetings shall be convened by its chairperson, as defined in para. 17, through notifications circulated by the Secretariat.
13. The EuCAS Network Steering Committee shall, inter alia:
 - develop an open dialogue on nuclear and radiation safety issues in the scope of the EuCAS Network as deemed relevant by the Members;
 - identify issues on which an exchange of information and/or regional efforts for coordination would be needed and facilitate mutual information on initiatives at regional level;

- decide on main orientations and oversee activities developed under the EuCAS Network; and
 - discuss and adopt an annual or bi-annual report, on the basis of the reporting elements from Working Groups, and the yearly EuCAS Network's work programme as described below.
14. The Steering Committee may establish Working Groups composed of experts of EuCAS Network members and/or other recognized experts, as the need arises, to support planning and implementation of the EuCAS Network activities. The terms of reference and membership of such groups shall be approved by the EuCAS Network Steering Committee. Working Groups that may be established shall meet as necessary to accomplish their designated task(s).
 15. Decisions of the Steering Committee shall be adopted by consensus of the members present at the meeting.
 16. Observers, as specified in para. 4., shall be invited to the meetings of the Steering Committee. They may provide presentations and offer recommendations for EuCAS Network's consideration but cannot participate in the decision making.

Officers

17. The Officers of the EuCAS Steering Committee are the chairperson and two vice-chairpersons.
18. The EuCAS Network Steering Committee shall elect a chairperson and two vice-chairpersons, from among its members, for a period of three years. The term of office of the chairperson shall be renewable twice. The chairperson may delegate its function to a vice-chairperson if needed.
19. The Chairperson shall chair the Steering Committee meetings and act as the spokesperson of the EuCAS Network, as relevant.

Reporting and Work Programme

20. The Work Programme shall list the main objectives and activities to be implemented in the upcoming year as well as on the longer term.
21. An annual or bi-annual report shall present the completed, ongoing and planned work of the EuCAS Network.
22. The draft annual report and the work programme are prepared based on the contributions and proposals from the WGs that may be established. The Secretariat circulates these documents to the Steering Committee members for their review and approval during the Steering Committee meeting to be held in the second half of the year.

23. The annual report shall be communicated by the Chairperson to the Deputy Director General of the IAEA's Department of Nuclear Safety and Security and to other relevant interested entities. The report shall be made public.

WORKING METHODS

24. The work of the EuCAS Network shall be organized according to these Terms of Reference. The Steering Committee may prepare and adopt additional rules of procedures if necessary. It may also revise these Terms of Reference, as necessary. Amendments shall be subject to approval by the EuCAS Steering Committee Members, as specified in para. 14.
25. To support the implementation of its objectives, an IT-platform for sharing knowledge and information within the network will be developed. It will be hosted within the IAEA Global Nuclear Safety and Security Network (GNSSN) website, including a collaborative workspace with an access restricted to its members.
26. Meetings of EuCAS Network Steering Committee and Working Groups shall be conducted in English.

SECRETARIAT, ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT AND COSTS

27. The Secretariat for EuCAS Network shall be the IAEA Secretariat (Department of Nuclear Safety and Security), subject to the availability of resources.
28. The travel and living expenses of the EuCAS Network members and invited experts attending meetings of the EuCAS Network shall, whenever possible, be borne by their respective organizations.

