

CBSS Expert Group on Nuclear and Radiation Safety (EGNRS) Terms of Reference (26 March 2009)

Para 1.

Nuclear and radiation safety, i.e. safety and security of installations, radiation protection and radioactive waste management, both civil and military, has been widely identified as an immediate and continuous concern for the Baltic Sea States.

The Baltic Sea States, therefore, are deeply interested in exchanging the necessary information about and improving the nuclear and radiation safety in the region. Coordination and planning of cooperation projects in the field of nuclear and radiation safety is needed so that funding priorities can be more clearly identified. The countries agree to help each other solve pressing problems regarding nuclear and radiation safety. To this end, the Committee of Senior Officials of the Council of the Baltic Sea States has decided to establish an Expert Group.

Para 2.

The Expert Group shall take into account relevant ongoing activities in the region and decisions and measures taken by the IAEA, EU, the Helsinki Commission (HELCOM) and by other relevant fora in order to provide effective contributions to the enhancement of nuclear and radiation safety in the region. While enhancing cooperation between different bodies working in the field of nuclear and radiation safety, overlapping activities with other bodies are to be avoided.

Para 3.

The Expert Group shall identify sources of radioactive materials which constitute a potential risk to life, health or the environment in the Baltic Sea States and prepare relevant recommendations accordingly. The Expert Group shall consider normal exposure situations as well as accident and emergency situations.

With regard to the extensive international cooperation that has been established in the area of nuclear power plant safety, the Expert Group shall pay particular attention to other installations and activities, both civil and military, presenting potential nuclear and radiation risks.

Para 4.

To that end the Expert Group should:

- a) collect and collate information about facilities and activities involving nuclear or radioactive materials including waste storages as well as information about levels of radioactive materials in the environment in the Baltic Sea States. These tasks should be performed in cooperation with other relevant international activities and organizations;
- b) identify among these facilities and activities, those which require immediate concerted action to reduce the risks to the general public and to the environment;
- c) take stock of and monitor various projects - national, bilateral, regional and multilateral - aimed at enhancing nuclear and radiation safety in the Baltic Sea States;
- d) suggest and develop projects and initiatives and make recommendations towards the enhancement of nuclear and radiation safety in the Baltic Sea States.

Para 5.

The Expert Group will establish its own working schedule and agenda, within the scope of its terms of reference. Each Member State and the European Commission have the right to

nominate experts to the Expert Group. The CBSS Observer States are invited to participate in the Expert Group's meetings. Other entities may be invited as guests on an ad hoc basis.

Para 6.

The Chair of the Expert Group will be elected by its members for a period of three years.

Para 7.

The host country will bear all costs in connection with holding meetings of the group. Participants will bear the expenses relating to their travel and stay.

Para 8.

The Expert Group will annually, and in addition to that, when necessary or requested, report about its activities to the Committee of Senior Officials of the Council of the Baltic Sea States. The tasks and working methods of the Expert Group will be, unless otherwise decided, thoroughly reviewed every five years, and presented to the Committee of Senior Officials of the Council of the Baltic Sea States for a renewed decision regarding continuation of the work of the Expert Group.