

29th January 2016

Public Communication on Nuclear Emergencies

Seminar of the Belgian Society for Radiation Protection

Friday 4th March 2016

Brussels

Palace of the Academies/Throne Building – Espace Roi Baudouin

Dear colleague,

We have the pleasure to invite you at our one-day seminar dedicated to the main challenges for an effective public communication on nuclear emergencies. The seminar will provide tracks on how to better overcome them and unravel the 'positive potential' of public awareness in emergency management.

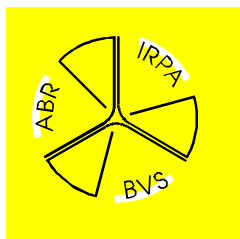
In recent decades participatory approaches have gained increasing support and recognition as a key characteristic of good governance. Involving the public in decision-making processes improves the quality of the decision-making process and strengthens the credibility of its outcome.

The Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters entered into force in 2001 and focuses on interactions between the public and public authorities, thus supporting the development of an open administration culture. The EU Basic Safety Standards Directive of 2013 also highlights the importance of public communication, including concrete obligations to inform those members of the public that are "likely to be affected" as well as those that are "actually affected" in the event of an emergency.

The seminar will be structured into two main sessions. The morning session will address communication during an emergency, while the afternoon session will focus on proactive communication and public participation in emergency planning, in order to enhance preparedness for emergencies. The introduction to the seminar will present the brand new report of the Health Council on nuclear emergency planning and an overview of the European regulatory requirements. The seminar will be concluded with a debate that should try to answer key questions based on examples of best practice, allowing also for the experience with non-nuclear emergencies.

Pierre Kockerols
For the BVS.ABR

Patrick Smeesters
President BVS.ABR



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PROGRAMME

8:45 *Welcome*

9:15 **Introduction to the seminar**

Belgian Society for Radiological Protection

Advisory report of the Health Council - Nuclear accidents, environment and health in the post-Fukushima era : emergency management

Dr. Gilbert Eggermont, President Working Group Fukushima, Health Council

European requirements on public communication on nuclear emergencies

Augustin Janssens, formerly European Commission

10:15 *Coffee*

10:45 **Session 1: Information provided to the public during emergency situations**

Improving communication with media in nuclear emergencies, general and practical suggestions

Tanja Perko, Researcher, Belgian Research Centre SCK•CEN

Role and experiences of the Communication Cell of the national Crisis Centre

Benoit Ramacker, Communication Officer, Crisis Centre of the Government

Organisation of the emergency communication at provincial and local level

Yves Stevens, Communication Officer, federal services of the Governor of the Antwerp Province

Information and participation of local actors confronted to a nuclear accident: lessons from the Chernobyl and Fukushima accidents

Stéphane Baudé, Senior Consultant, Mutadis, France

Wrap-up of the morning lectures

Herman Henderickx, retired journalist (formerly at broadcasting VRT)

12:30 *Walking lunch*

13:30 **Session 2: Communication and public participation in emergency planning**

Views of the Nuclear Transparency Watch on the needs to enhance public communication and involvement for nuclear emergency planning

Nadja Železnik, Country Office Director, Regional Environmental Centre, Slovenia

Expectations on emergency planning from communities in the vicinity of nuclear installations: the case of Mol and Dessel

Marlies Verhaegen, Anne Bergmans, University of Antwerp

Information to rescue services on nuclear hazards, experiences with drills

Frederik Vercruysse, Fire Protection Zone of Antwerp

Information to family doctors on radiation risks and emergency measures

Petra Willems, Federal Agency for Nuclear Control

Public involvement on emergency measures, French experiences

Yves Lheureux, Valérie Demet, Association Nationale des Comités et Commissions Locales d'Information (ANCCLI), France

15:15 *Coffee*

15:45 **Introduction to debate**

Example & Experience from non-nuclear emergencies:

The emergency phase in Romagna in 2000: seismic risk communication

Gaia Civiletti, Understanding and Managing Extremes (UME) International School - IUSS, Pavia, Italy

Debate

Who are the main actors to whom proactive communication on emergency planning should be addressed? How can we improve the interaction among them?

Which means should we use to ensure adequate public communication on planned emergency measures?

To what extent do we need to involve the public in the preparation of emergency plans?

17:15 *Closure*

Report to be published in the Annals of the Belgian Society for Radiation Protection

In follow-up of the seminar,, the outcome of the presentations and discussions will be integrated in a report published by the Belgian Society for Radiation Protection. This synthesis document will address the current status and key issues for future policies to improve public communication on nuclear emergencies.

Registration

*Please complete attached registration form; incl. registration fee €80 - €60 - €40.
Registrations forms should be introduced by 19.2.2016 at latest.*

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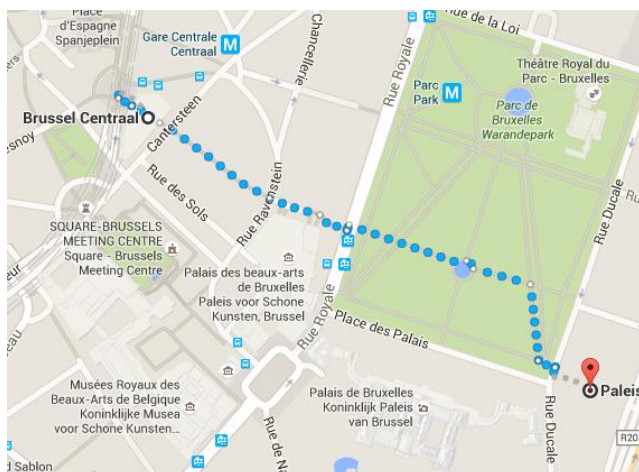
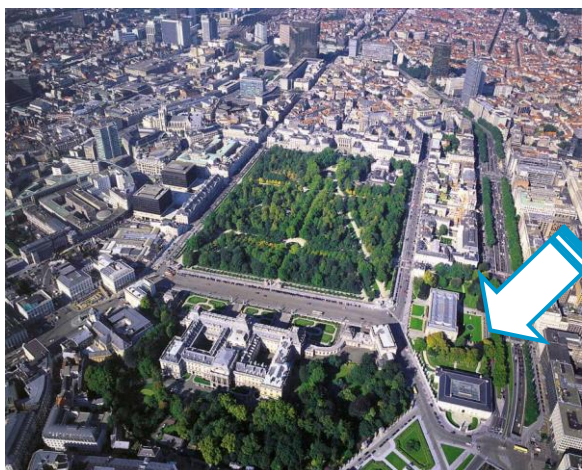
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VENUE

Palace of the Academies/Throne Building - Espace Roi Baudouin

Rue Ducale 1, Bruxelles – Hertogstraat 1, Brussel



10' walk from Brussels' Central Station

in the central hall of the central station, go right, through the "Ravenstein" gallery, cross the Ravenstein street and move to the Park of Brussels, walk through the park to the South East corner (see map above)



5' metro from Brussels' South/Midi Station

take the subway line 2/6 direction "Elisabeth", exit "Trône/Troon", then cross the square



By car

there are a limited number of parking places, entrance Boulevard du Régent - Regentlaan