

Focus on more consistency



Heads of the European Radiological
protection Competent Authorities

**ENSREG Second Regulatory Conference:
Nuclear Safety in Europe.** Brussels, 11-12 June 2013
Session 2.- Responding to nuclear emergencies

Presentation by Patrick Majerus (LU)

Chairman of the HERCA – WG “Emergencies” (WGE)

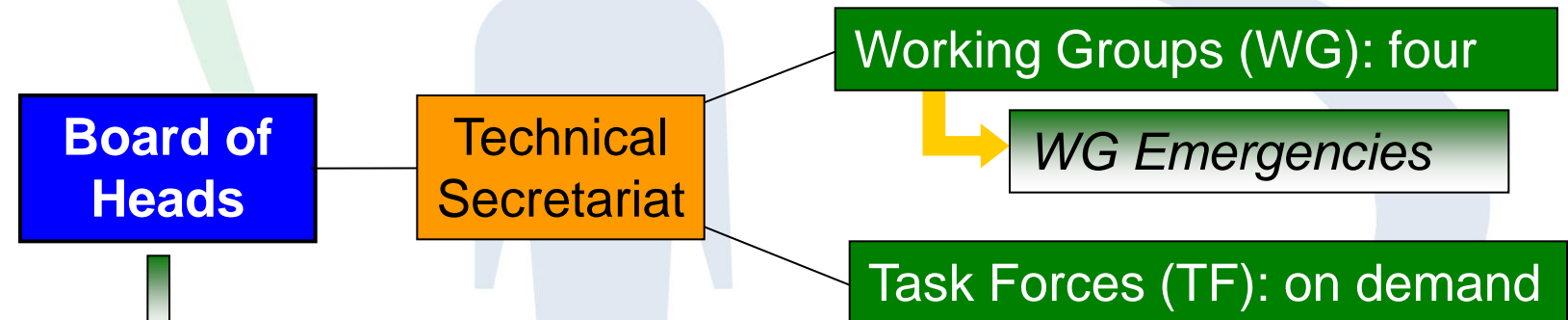
HERCA Overview

Creation & Status : in 2007 on the initiative of ASN. Voluntary association

Objectifs: Build and maintain a European network of chief radiation safety regulators in Europe with the aim to develop, whenever possible; a common approach to radiation protection issues and to have an impact on the practice of RP within the States of HERCA members.

Participation (official) : 49 RPA from 31 European countries (including the 27 EU States).

Structure & Working methodology



Chairmanship:

Mr LACOSTE, ASN, France 2007-2008
Mr HARBITZ, NRPA, Norway 2008 – 2011
Mr MAGNUSSON, IRSA, Island 2012 - 2015

*Approved Internal & External Policies
(Dec 2010)*

HERCA Overview

External relations :

- Since its creation HERCA approached by an increasing number of stakeholders + Aiming to collaborate and avoid duplication of work in some areas, HERCA has approached some international fora.



The total number of organisations, associations, platforms, projects etc, with which some kind of relation has been established has been increasing especially over the two last years (they amount > 30)

Special status of the EC: regular observer in Board & WG meetings

Some achievements:

- European radiation passbook & practical guidance for its implementation
- A common European strategy in a nuclear emergency situation is under discussion : “Top-Down approach”;
- Several joint statements and common views approved (i.e the justification of full body x-rays scanners in security, in the medical and non medical field)
- A common view on the regulatory aspects of lamps containing small amounts of radioactive materials ...
- Coordination of efforts established with major stakeholders (i.e MOU w/ FDA. IAEA, ...)

HERCA: Focus on emergencies

EP&R major priority for HERCA since its creation.

Chairman's proposals after Fukushima

- Internal communication: Sharing info on countermeasures adopted at national level IACRNE, Compilation by NEA made available (avoid duplication)
- External communication. → Statement: links from www.herca.org to national radiological environmental surveillance networks, airborne monitoring systems & overview of countermeasures applied
- Mandate of the new WG emergencies Extend the mandate of new WG Emergencies to include accidents occurring far away (little or no direct impact in Europe) + Stress (very) early stages of accident, incl.pre-release

Accepted by Board of Heads on 18 April 2011

Topical session on the role of HERCA on preparation for and management of nuclear emergencies after Fukushima (Jun.2011)

- need to enhance information exchange and communication relevant to national emergency management decisions at international level, in particular within European countries.
- need for harmonization and coordination of protective measures in a situation Fukushima-like in order to ensure a balanced response
- need for a mechanism to improve the communication exchange and coordination at international level and in particular at the European level

WG-Emergencies

Introduction

New WG Emergencies (WGE) (set up on the occasion of 7th HERCA meeting on 30/6/2011)

- Mandate.- Comprises **two subjects**, which are to be dealt with in parallel:
 - a) emergencies originating from within the boundaries of the HERCA member countries
 - b) happening at more remote sites
- Goal : propose practical, operational solutions from a more harmonized approach
- Participation: 37 members from 21 countries. It is chaired by Patrick Majerus , DRP, Luxembourg

Previous achievements:

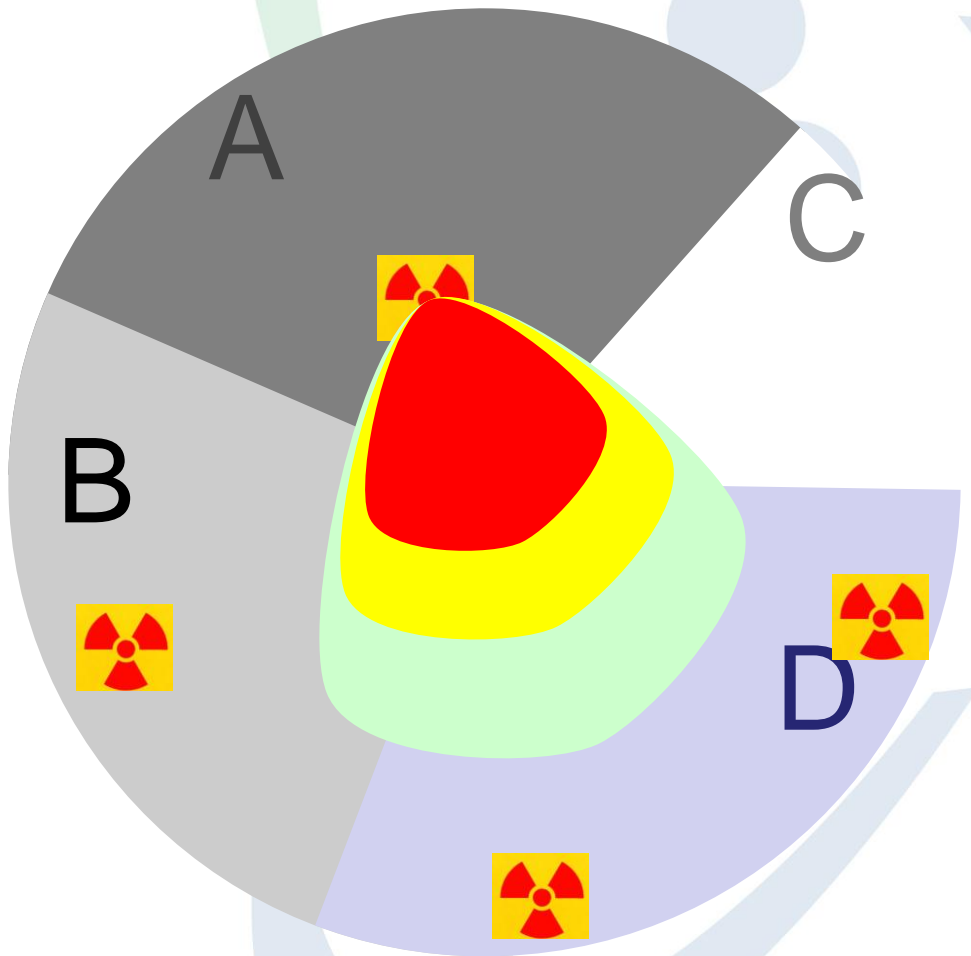
“Practical Guidance: Practicability of early protective actions” .



Initiatives taken to coordinating efforts and avoid duplicate work by others fora

Consideration of the issue

Nuclear accident in country A

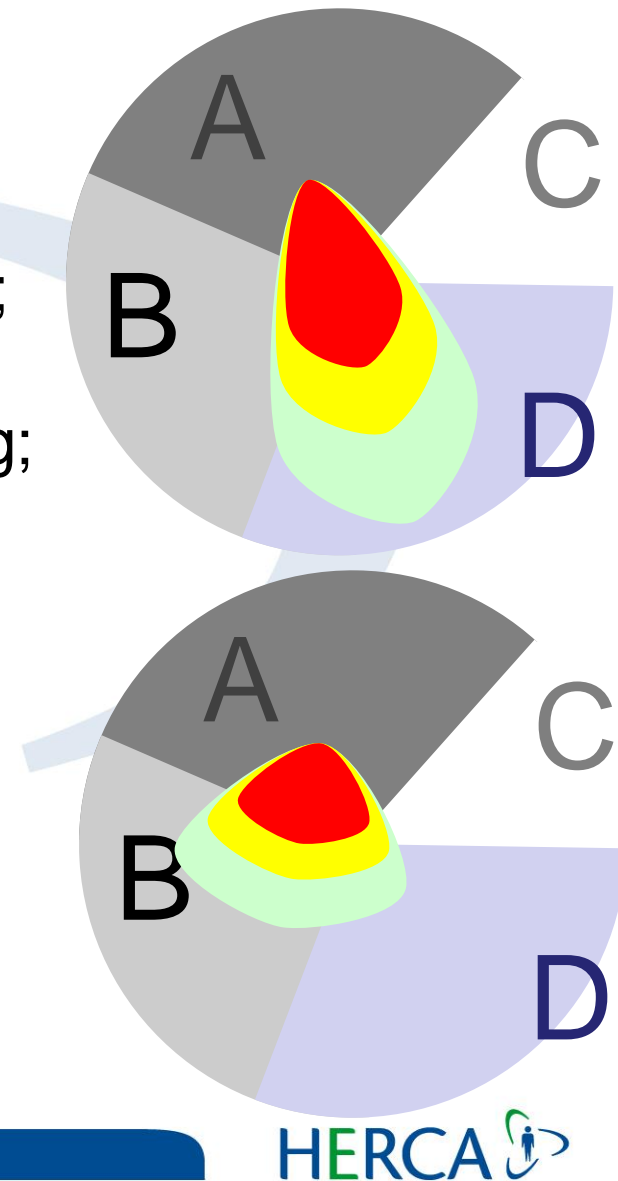


A nuclear accidents occurs in country A that affects the territories of neighboring countries.

All countries are fully sovereign in organizing the emergency.

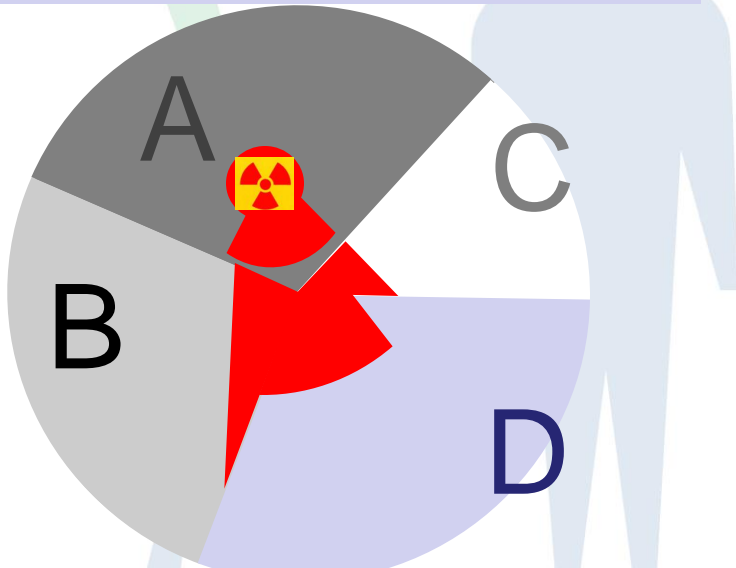
Countries have different provisions

- Methods for assessing source terms;
- Methods for radiological impact assessment and dispersion modeling;
- Intervention levels;
- Definitions of emergency planning zones;
- Appreciation of uncertainties.



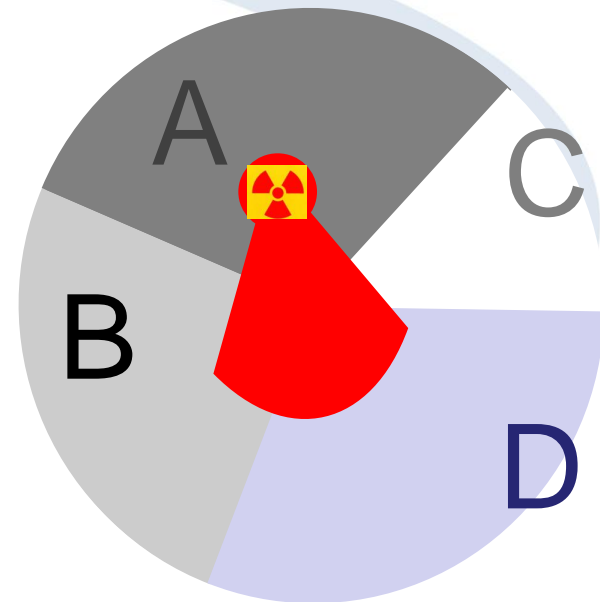
Territories for countermeasures

Individual differences risk to lead to inconsistencies along borders



Leads to distrust in the decisions of authorities and amplifies the serenity of the crisis

Main goal of the HERCA-WGE



= consistent.

Possible Approach

Harmonize identified differences = bottom up approach

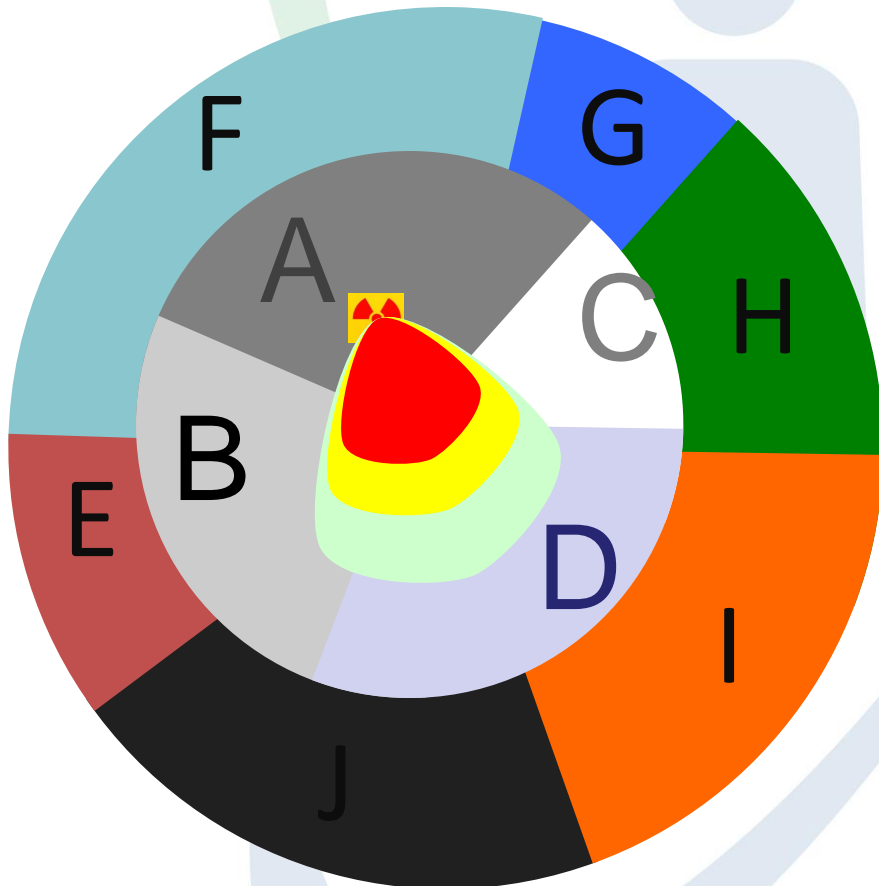
However:

A complete harmonization of different national provisions is very difficult, since the provisions stand in most countries on very solid grounds.
(national provisions \neq wrong)

Most important differences come from uncertainties → Doing things in the same way does not mean getting the same results!

Another approach (vision) – Top Down

Consider

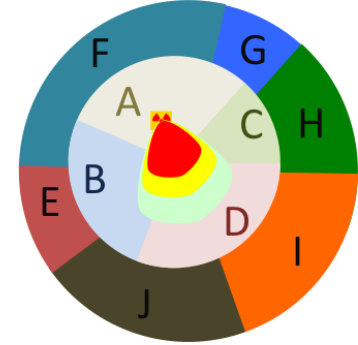


Accident in country A

Some are immediately affected (A, B, C, D).

Some are not immediately affected (E, F, G, H, I, J)

HERCA - Top down approach

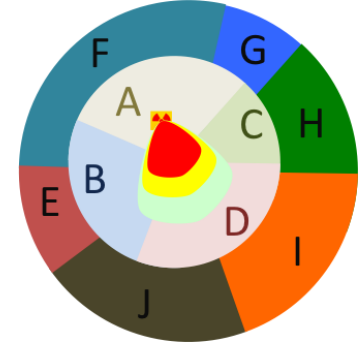


Basic principle

- Develop mechanisms for more consistency without necessarily changing national provisions.
- Take the prevailing differences into account, and to elaborate ways of how to find “compromise” solutions in a given situation.
- Cooperation and coordination between neighboring countries, or neighboring territories, as the main pathway.

Top down approach

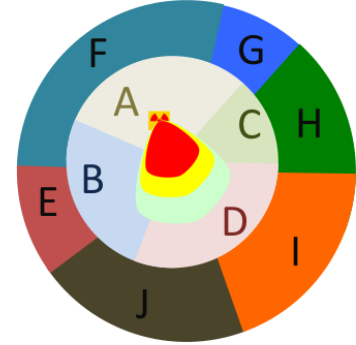
Assessment provided by country A



- Country A provides to countries (B-J) an assessment with recommendations for counter measures that cover all directly affected territories.
- Countries (B-J) may validate and follow those recommendations.

Top down approach

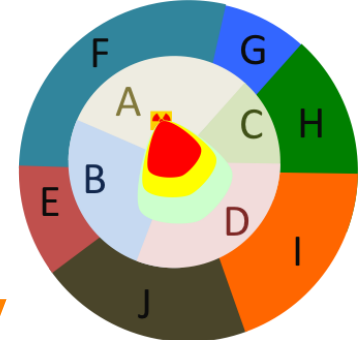
Gaining trust



- Countries A to J establish mechanisms for a common assessment
- This common assessment will be used as “second opinion” and made available to all countries (TSO or similar).

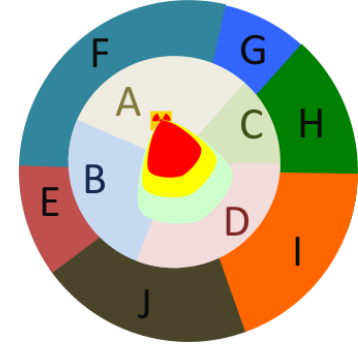
Top down approach

Implementation during an emergency coordination!



- Intensive local and/or regional coordination/consultation mechanisms between countries A-D for deciding countermeasures consistently. Following the recommendations of country A should be the privileged scenario.
- Ad-hoc coordination/consultations between Countries A-J in case of important differences of the assessments (audio-conference).

Top down approach



Prerequisites

- In depth knowledge of the existing arrangements and capacities in the neighboring countries.
- Countries A-J need a nuclear emergency policy with sufficient freedom of variable application (ex: intervention levels should not be a strict criterion)
- Countries A-J need to be ready to look at the situation as a whole, to trust each other and to align decisions.

Outlook

The WGE is presently finalizing work on distant accidents.

Up to the end of 2013, the WGE should be able to present a detailed road map towards implementing the “top-down” approach.

An intensive cooperation with WENRA in the frame of the ENSREG action*) plan is presently ongoing.

***) ENSREG action plan 25/7/12:**

ENSREG will ask HERCA and WENRA jointly to develop improved guidance on mutual assistance between regulators (WENRA action item I.4)