

Working Group on Radioactive Waste and Decommissioning, WG2

Report by WG2 Chair
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Terms of References of the WG2



The WG2 was created in 2008 by the European High Level Group on Nuclear Safety and Waste Management (ENSREG), soon after its establishment, to follow the conclusions of Council of the European Union (Economic and Financial Affairs) of 8 May 2007

with the objectives

to identify elements, approaches and measures for a continuous improvement of the safe management of spent fuel and radioactive waste and of the decommissioning of nuclear installations and to strengthen cooperation among Member States.

The mandate of the WG2

According to its ToR, WG2 should:

- **develop** strategies for the safe management at EU level of all types of spent fuel and radioactive waste;
- **exchange** of ideas on how to address challenges regarding qualified staff and skills for the decommissioning phase;
- **exchange information** on good practices and legal framework in the field of decommissioning and the radioactive waste management;
- **conduct consultations** between review meetings held under the relevant IAEA Conventions;
- **build on activities** in international contexts such as IAEA standards, WENRA activities and consideration, NEA/OECD work, the Joint Convention process;
- **support effective implementation** of Council Directive 2011/70/EURATOM

WG2 composition

- Designated Representatives from EU Member States and the Commission Secretariat. **17 Member States are currently represented**
- From International Organization we have observers from **IAEA** and **OECD/NEA**. Since 2021, also **UK** participates as observer.
- Mainly **Nuclear Safety Authorities** are present but also some **National Radioactive Waste Management Agencies** are represented

WG2 Working Methodology

The group meets when necessary, but at least twice a year as required, and its chair reports to ENSREG in every plenary meeting.

WG2 advises and prepares proposals for endorsement by the ENSREG plenary.

WG2 interacts as required and when necessary with the other ENSREG working groups on nuclear safety arrangements (WG1) and on transparency arrangements (WG3).

WG2 main achievements (1)

WG2 has played an important role in the definition of the Directive 2011/70/Euratom and to its implementation with the objective to continuously improve the safe and responsible management of spent fuel and radioactive waste

In particular:

- with the view of facilitating EU participation in peer reviews via the IAEA's 'Integrated Review Service for Radioactive Waste and Spent Fuel Management, Decommissioning and Remediation' (ARTEMIS), WG2 has contributed to updating ARTEMIS indicative programs and to maintaining the ARTEMIS pools of experts.

WG2 main achievements (2)

- has developed **Guidelines** to support Member States in discharging **Waste Directive obligations** on reporting
 - *‘Guidelines for the content and objectives of national programmes for the management and the safety of radioactive waste and spent fuel’ (2010)*
 - Final Guidelines for MS Reports to the Waste Directive (2014), subsequently updated with “*Guidelines for reporting on Directive 2011-70-Euratom (2018)*” where in particular inventories reporting has been addressed

WG2 main achievements (3)

Has developed **technical positions** on specific aspects concerning the interface between national programmes and national reports;

- Interim Technical position on implementation of national programmes under Council Directive 2011/70/EURATOM and KPIs (2020)
- Technical position concerning the radioactive waste and spent fuel inventories reporting under Directive 2011/70/Euratom (2020)

WG2 main achievements (4)

- has organized specific events:
 - Seminar "*Better use of Joint Convention Process in EU*" (2011)
 - Workshop "*Member States lessons learned from notification of National Programmes and submittal of National Reports under the EC Directive 2011/70/ Euratom (2016)*"

Ongoing activities within WG2

With the view of further harmonization

- Survey of Member States' approaches to **defining starting point and end state of decommissioning**
- Survey of approaches in regulation and **management of radioactive waste arising from non-energy uses** of nuclear and radiation technologies (*Under the SAMIRA action plan, an ENSREG position on best practices in national management systems for radioactive waste generated from non-power use of nuclear and radiation technology has been envisaged*)

Thank you for attention