



Aarhus Convention and Nuclear Round Table

"Implementation of the Nuclear Safety Directive: transparency, public participation, and the role of civil society in independent nuclear regulation"

January 21-22, 2025

Location: hybrid sessions

Face to face: Luxembourg, DG ENER

on-line: Webex

The Nuclear Transparency Watch network and the European Commission (DG ENER), [in coordination with ENSREG, ANCCLI and the EEB] are organising an Aarhus Convention and Nuclear (ACN) Round Table on *"Implementation of the Nuclear Safety Directive: transparency, public participation, and the role of civil society in independent nuclear regulation"* with sessions to be held on January 21st and 22nd, 2025.

Based on the three pillars of the Aarhus Convention - access to information, public participation and access to justice in environmental matters, and in view of the fact that the Nuclear Safety Directive (NSD) lays down requirements on availability of nuclear safety-related information and public participation in the decision-making process relating to the licensing of nuclear installations, this Round Table will address the topics of transparency, public participation and the interaction between the nuclear regulatory system and civil society concerning nuclear safety. A strong and consistent implementation of the Aarhus Convention benefits the implementation of the Nuclear Safety Directive. The event will encourage an open exchange of views and experience between the participants, coming from a broad spectrum of stakeholders, with the aim to identify challenges, and best practices to address them.

First half-day: January 21st, 2025

14:00 Introductory session

Welcome, introduction to Nuclear Safety Directive and to this ACN roundtable

14:15 Implementation of the NSD with respect to the provisions on transparency and public participation, and the scope for the independent regulator and the licence holder to act as facilitators

This session will focus mainly on the views of different stakeholders on the implementation of NSD Article 8, in relation to Article 5.

- Reflection from the European Commission, including 2022 COM Progress Report on the NSD implementation and later developments
- Reflection from Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee (ACCC)
- Reflection from Österreichisches Ökolinstitut regarding NSD

15:15 Practical experiences of public participation under the Aarhus Convention and the Nuclear Safety Directive

- Nuclear regulators as facilitative authorities for access to public participation (Aarhus Article 3(2) and NSD Article 8(4))
- Role of public participation to support independent regulatory decision-making
- Concrete examples from civil society

Five introductions of 10 minutes from the field

- one European Commission
- one ACCC
- two nuclear regulators
- one civil society member

16:15 Break - in 3 to 4 person groups with buzz-questions and white board

The participants will be asked to huddle together in groups of three to four people to reflect on the introduction, relate their own experiences, formulate questions, and write down key messages on white board.

The proposed questions will be structured around Public Participation issues and will contribute to raise practical problematic cases to be discussed immediately afterwards.

Example of questions that could be asked:

- Do you have examples where public participation has worked well or where it could be improved? Please illustrate with concrete examples.
- What are the key building blocks/features of effective public participation that you welcome or miss in your concrete practice? Please illustrate with concrete examples.

16:40 Round table discussion on concrete issues raised by the participants - facilitated by Jan Haverkamp

Question asked: Who discussed during the break crucial topics they want to share?

The participants who raised issues after the huddle can put them into debate in the roundtable, having possible recommendations in mind.

18:00 End

Second half-day: January 22nd, 2025

09:00 Welcome and feedback from first day

09:15 Practical experiences with transparency & access to information under the Aarhus Convention and the Nuclear Safety Directive

- Nuclear regulators and licence holders as facilitative authorities for access to information (Aarhus Article 3(2) and NSD Article 8(1))
- Provision of information without clearance as an element of regulatory independence
- Concrete examples from civil society
- Issues around relations between regulators and civil society, compared to other stakeholders (e.g. information access for licensees, industry players, government institutions, democratic representatives, e.a.)

Five introductions of 10 minute from the field

- two nuclear regulators
- two civil society member
- one from the industry

10:15 Break - in 3 to 4 person groups with buzz-questions and white board

The participants will be asked to huddle together in groups of three to four people to reflect on the introduction, relate their own experiences, formulate questions, and write down key messages on white board.

The proposed questions will be structured around Transparency & Access to Information issues, and will contribute to raise practical problematic cases to be discussed immediately afterwards.

Example of questions that could be asked:

- Do you have examples where transparency could be considered exemplary or where it would need to be improved? Please illustrate with concrete examples.
- How could good practices of transparency information on nuclear plants and projects be conveyed to national operators? Please illustrate with concrete examples.
- What are the key building blocks/features of effective information sharing that you appreciate or miss in your concrete practice? Please illustrate with concrete examples.

10:40 Round table discussion on concrete issues raised by the participants - facilitated by Jan Haverkamp

Question asked: Who discussed during the break crucial topics they want to share ?

The participants who raised issues after the huddle can put them into debate in the roundtable, having possible recommendations in mind.

12:00 Collective construction of the next steps

Table round for short suggestions

Prioritisation

Concretisation of next steps for first three priorities

13:00 Conclusion of the Round Table

13:30 END