



Hheads of the European Radiological  
protection Competent Authorities

# Hheads of **E**uropean **R**adiological protection **C**ompetent **A**uthorities Association

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# Background

- Recognition of the need for increased co-operation between Radiation Protection Authorities within Europe
- Need for a common understanding, mutual approach and whenever possible harmonization
- Importance of the independent professional standing of Radiation Control Authorities

# ToR: Objectives

The Association, HERCA, has the following objectives :

- to build and maintain a network of chief radiation safety regulators in Europe ;
- to promote exchange of experience and learning from each other's best practices ;
- to discuss and where appropriate, express its consensus opinion on significant regulatory issues
- to develop, by consensus whenever possible; a common approach to radiological protection issues
- to have an impact on the practice of radiological protection, within the States of HERCA members

*(As in its ToR)*

***Need for a common understanding, mutual approach and whenever possible harmonization***

# ToR: Fields of competence

The fields of competence of HERCA cover :

- radiation protection during the design, the construction the operation and the decommissioning of nuclear installations
- the transport, the storage and the use of radioactive materials for industrial, medical and veterinary purposes, including the radiation sources of natural origin.

*It considers radiological protection in **normal conditions** as well as in the event of **incidents or accidents** and the possible consequences of malevolent acts.*

*It addresses the protection of **people** and the **environment** against the effect of ionising radiation*

# ToR: Relationship with the EU and stakeholders

*The EC is systematically invited to HERCA meetings*

- The association will involve, as appropriate, the European Commission and other relevant stakeholders in its activities.
- The association is prepared to consider requests from relevant stakeholders for advice on radiological protection and regulatory matters and will ensure appropriate opportunities for them to comment on its work. .

*(As in its ToR)*

# Management structure

*Set up of HERCA : 2007 – Preliminary works in 2006 (ASN questionnaire asking for priorities on a list of challenges in radiation protection in Europe)*

- The management structure of HERCA consists of:
  - **Board of Heads** : HERCA's highest decisional body, composed of Heads and chaired by HERCA Chair.
    - 1<sup>st</sup> meeting (H1) Paris, 29 May 2007
    - 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting (H2) Paris, 19 May 2008
    - 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting (H3) Paris, 12 December 2008
    - 4<sup>th</sup> meeting (H4) Paris, 1 December 2009
    - 5<sup>th</sup> meeting (H5) Oslo, 30 June-1 July 2010
    - 6<sup>th</sup> meeting (H6) Paris, 1 December 2010
    - 7<sup>th</sup> meeting (H7) Brussels , 30 June 2011
    - 8<sup>th</sup> meeting (H8) ....., 8 December 2011
  - **Working groups (WG's)**:
    - *Outside workers & dose passports;*
    - *Justification of non medical sources and practices;*
    - *Medical applications*
    - *Emergency preparedness*
    - *Surveillance of collective doses from medical exposures*
  - **Task forces (TF's)**: urgent, strategic, ...issues
  - **Secretariat**:
- Networking activities: At different levels, including experts

# Participation

## Countries

- 32 European countries in the contact list

## Delegates

- Board of Heads
  - Heads at managerial or technical level
  - Chairpersons of the working Groups
- Working Groups
  - Heads at technical level
  - Senior experts

## Chairmanship

2007 – 2008      Mr. Lacoste, ASN, France

2008 –            Mr. Ole Harbitz, NRPA, Norway



# WG on Medical Applications

- **Scope & Mission:**

*The HERCA WG Medical Applications will cover all radiation protection issues concerning medical applications of ionizing radiation for diagnosis and therapy. The focus of this WG is on the harmonizing the implementation of radiation protection regulation in Europe especially concerning new medical applications,*

The WG MA shall:

- Enhance harmonizing the implementation of the radiation protection regulation on medical applications, focusing on justification and optimisation
- Engage in stakeholder involvement on radiation protection issues

- **Organisation:** A chair (P. Trueb, Switzerland), a co-chair (R. Bly, Finland, currently Acting Chairperson), a Secretary (A. Isambert, France), a core group and Working Groups. Eventually invited experts and observers.

- **5 Sub Working Groups in Action**

- **sWG *Release of Patients after metabolic radiotherapy***  
(Chair: Thierry Kiffel, France)
- **sWG *Stakeholder Involvement of CT-Manufacturers***  
(Chair: Philipp Trueb, Switzerland, Juergen Griebel, Germany)
- **sWG *Justification***  
(Chair: Lodewijk van Bladel, Belgium)
- **sWG *Optimisation***  
(Chair: Steve Ebdon-Jackson, UK)
- **sWG *screening; exposure of asymptomatic individuals in health care*** (Chair: Ritva Bly, Finland)
- (in future a sWG *Radiotherapy* is planned)

# HERCA Achievements

*Through the establishing of HERCA, a forum for closer co-operation between the radiological protection authorities in Europe is established.*

*Close contacts to the European Commission enables us to avoid unnecessary duplication of work.*

- A common European passbook has been produced by one of the HERCA working groups and will be soon implemented in Europe;
- A common view on the justification of full body scanners using x-rays for security reasons has been approved;
- Criteria for patient release after I-131 therapy are being developed;
- A dialog with important stakeholders (e.g. the major CT-manufacturers worldwide) is established discussing a future plan of action to ensure avoiding unnecessary and not justified high doses to patients;
- A coordination of efforts with North American agencies has been established (FDA, NCRP)
- A common European strategy in a nuclear emergency situation is under discussion;
- Data on the collective dose contribution from the top 20 most important CT-investigations have been published and the study will continue
- Policy on HERCA external relations
- Creation of a website, adoption of a HERCA branding style: logo, template,
- Internal rules approved: programme of work, governance,
- ...

**These are some good examples of the outcome of the HERCA association.  
Now, the challenge is to consolidate this important arena for discussion and harmonisation.**

# HERCA Interaction with other institutions/associations

## *Increasing demand for interaction with HERCA*



*Agreement: HERCA has developed and approved a policy paper to deal with interactions other organisations/associations/platforms*

- EC : natural participant as observer at HERCA meetings  
HERCA has been invited to Euratom Art. 31 meetings as other international organisation/associations to present the ongoing work.
- IAEA : contacts established
- WHO: observer in the WG Medical Applications
- USA Authorities (FDA,NCRP...): established contacts through the WG MA to be continued for other RP issues

## Other interactions

Invitations from ENETRAP-II , EFOMP, European Lamp Comp. Federation , ERPAN, ORAMED...

For more information about HERCA,  
please, visit our website  
[www.herca.org](http://www.herca.org) or contact the  
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