Open issues related to radiation protection – Lithuania‘s perspective

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Radiation Protection Centre:
- a great attention to public, occupational and medical exposure;
- efforts to ensure radiation protection and safety of sources;
- high level preparedness for radiological and nuclear accidents.
The competence and functions of the Radiation Protection Centre is defined in the Law on Radiation Protection of the Republic of Lithuania (No. VIII-1019, 1999, last amended in 2011) and other legal acts.

The main activities of Radiation Protection Centre:

- participates, within its competence, in determining the principles and criteria for State regulation of the radiation protection and for ensuring radiation protection and safety of sources, drafts laws and other legal acts on radiation protection, prepares and approves recommendations for implementing the radiation protection principles and criteria;

- administers the State Register of the Sources and Occupational Exposure;

- issues and revises the licences and temporary permits for work with the sources (except in the field of nuclear activities);
The main activities of Radiation Protection Centre (continuation):

- supervises and controls how legal persons having licence for activities with the sources as well as other legal and natural persons keep to the requirements of radiation protection and safety of sources;

- initiates or applies sanctions provided in the Code of Administrative Violations in case of not complying with radiation protection requirements;

- organises and executes monitoring of the individual exposure of members of the public, workers or certain risk groups under normal conditions, in the events of nuclear and radiological accidents and incidents;

- takes part in emergency preparedness and response activities.
Lithuanian Presidency

Lithuania will hold the Presidency of the Council of the European Union in the second half of 2013.

Lithuania will be the first of the three Baltic States to hold the Presidency since joining the European Union in the spring of 2004.

The main open issues in the field of radiation protection during Lithuanian Presidency:

1) Basic Safety Standards Directive: due to the major efforts allocated to this dossier first during CY and currently by the IE Presidency, political agreement in the Council is expected to be reached shortly. Nevertheless, due to the EP schedule Lithuania will have a task of formalizing the agreement after the EP opinion is issued.

2) Proposal for a Council Regulation establishing a Community system for registration of carriers of radioactive materials: after informal consultations during the Irish Presidency, agreement to establish a technical working group has been reached. Lithuanian Presidency will plan further work with this dossier depending on the results of the technical working group.
The main open issues in the field of radiation protection during Lithuanian Presidency (continuation):

3) Proposal for a Council Regulation on food/feedstuffs following a nuclear accident or any other case of radiological emergency: European Commission plans to present the proposal in autumn. Possibilities to finalize this dossier will depend on timing of its presentation as well as the EP’s work schedule and views concerning the legal basis.
The role of Radiation Protection Centre:

- to represent Lithuania in the level of experts (the Working group on atomic questions) in developing of European legal framework in the field of radiation protection;

- to transfer the European legal requirements to national level and to assure implementation of these requirements.
Experience in transferring and implementing the requirements of Council Directives:

Radiation Protection Centre has substantial experience in transferring and implementing the requirements of Council Directives and European regulations

The requirements of Council Directives:

- 96/29/EURATOM of 13 May 1996 Basic safety standards for the protection of the health of workers and the general publics against the dangers arising from ionizing radiation and

- 97/43/EURATOM of 30 June 1997 On health protection of individuals against the dangers of ionizing radiation in relation to medical exposure

Experience in transferring and implementing the requirements of Council Directives (continuation):

The requirements of Council Directives:

- 90/641/Euratom of 4 December 1990 on the operational protection of outside workers exposed to the risk of ionizing radiation during their activities in controlled areas were transferred into Hygiene Standard HN 83:2004 “Radiation Protection and Safety of Outside Workers” adopted by the Order No. V-889 on 9 December 2004 by the Minister of Health Care (last emended in 2011);

Experience in transferring and implementing the requirements of Council Directives (continuation):

All these requirements were successfully implemented practically but exception is requirement concerning radiation protection experts.

Actually the institution of radiation protection experts was not created in Lithuania. In practice the functions of radiation protection experts in Lithuania are carried out by person (service) responsible for radiation protection (radiation protection officer) or, in advisory and expert level – by Radiation Protection Centre.

What situation regarding radiation protection experts is in other countries?
Transposition of the new BSS Directive

According the new BSS Directive project, Article 107 (Transposition), part 1:

Member States shall bring into force the laws, regulations and administrative provisions necessary to comply with this Directive by 00.00.0000 at the latest 4 years after adoption of the Directive depending on the final text.

Article 109 (Entry into force 9):

The Directive shall enter into force on the twentieth day following that of its publication in the Official Journal of the European Union.
Open issues and challenges regarding the new BSS Directive transferring in national legislation and implementation:

1) correct translation of the Directive to Lithuanian language. Particular attention should be paid to definitions and responsibilities.

2) the issues related to medical exposure of patients.

Lithuania, as many other countries in the world is very concerned about increasing medical exposure of population upon introducing new medical technologies. Sometimes the exposure is unreasonably high due to excessive or unjustified X-ray diagnostic, computer tomography or nuclear medicine procedures.

The implementation of principles of justification and optimization of medical exposure.
Open issues and challenges regarding the new BSS Directive transferring in national legislation and implementation (continuation):

How to control medical exposure?

- evaluation of national programmes as well as individual decisions,
- by clinical audits,
- by implementing European guidances in local procedures and
- by training, knowledge update and improvement of practical skills of inspectors, medical physicists and medical practicians.
Open issues and challenges regarding the new BSS Directive transferring in national legislation and implementation (continuation):

3) the implementation of institute of radiation protection experts. The system and legal requirements for certification and/or accreditation of radiation protection experts should be developed.

4) justification of some practices such as X-ray introscopese for whole human body in routine screening (e.g. in the airports), wide application of X-rays metal analyzers in scrap metal yards.

5) notification (registration) process for some kinds of practices. Lithuania has no such kind of authorization.

What kind of practices can be authorized only by registration and without licensing?
Open issues and challenges regarding the new BSS Directive transferring in national legislation and implementation (continuation):

6) safety assessment. For all practices? In Lithuania safety assessment is required only for practices with high activity sources (The order No 68V adopted in October 7, 2011 by director of Radiation Protection Centre “On approval of order of radiation protection assessment in practices with sources of ionizing radiation”).

7) evaluation of environment impact assessment in the frame of Espoo Convention and in future monitoring of new nuclear power plants planned in Belarus and Russia (Kaliningrad Region).

The site for new NPP in Belarus is selected in about 50 km from Vilnius and we are warning that in case of emergency situation new NPP can be dangerous for population of Vilnius and other people living near the border with Belarus.
Thank You for Your attention