



**Association of European
Competent Authorities (AECA)
for the Safe Transport of
Radioactive Material**

PATRAM 2010

Stephen Whittingham
Chairman of AECA

Dr Loris Rossi
European Commission – Directorate-General for Energy

Transport of radioactive material in perspective

Each year in the European Union (approximately)

- **3 million packages of radioactive material are transported**
 - **(5-10% are related to nuclear fuel cycle)** [yr 2000 data]

In comparison

- **350 million transport operations of dangerous goods**
 - **1 million per day** (mostly oil)

Background

- Transport of RAM is an important activity for:
 - Medical sectors; radiopharmaceuticals for diagnosis and treatments
 - Industrial / agricultural applications; NDT and measurement
 - Nuclear power programmes
 - Decommissioning programmes in the nuclear sector
- Transport of RAM is often trans-boundary and multi-modal
- Transport needs an integrated approach to improve efficiency, reliability and compliance
 - for example Trade Associations, user groups
 - Training (DGSA, RPA, RPS, ADR Driver and awareness training, etc)

Background

- Compliance with transport regulations is the most important factor that affects levels of safety; it also provides a basis on which to encourage public confidence
- Transport does not need more legislation but common/harmonised interpretation and implementation of existing legislation
- CAs have decided to work together on practicalities

Background: UK-France Bilateral

A Bilateral Agreement between Competent Authorities from France and UK for mutual recognition of certification of packages requiring multilateral approval was signed in March 2006

This Agreement was revised to provide extended co-operation in February 2008

Outcomes: UK-France Bilateral

- Improved understanding of assessment methodologies
- Clarified differences of approach
- Enhanced working relationships between the Authorities

UK and France proposed to share the benefits of the experience gained with their bilateral agreements by the

creation of an Association

which is open to all CAs from the European Union and candidate countries

Vision of Association

The coordinated approach of the Association will develop a common or harmonised approach for the interpretation of the regulations for the transport of RAM in the EU

This in turn will provide a proactive means of maintaining and developing a consistent high level of safety for the transport of RAM in all EU Member States

Objectives of Association

- Develop networking between Competent Authorities
- Share knowledge, best practices and, potentially, resources
- Identify issues / needs and participate in joint working groups with defined outputs
- Develop common understanding and promote more effective interaction between CAs at a working level

Domains of cooperation / work programme

All activities under the responsibility of CAs are possible

Work focus is the interpretation/ implementation of legislation:

- Exchange of information for example
 - Review of Member State variations
 - Issues and initiatives in Member States
 - Package assessment issues
- Develop best practices and guidance for example
 - Package Design Safety Report
 - Radiation Protection Programme (Reduction of doses)
 - Packages not requiring CA approval
 - Compliance Inspection Programmes

Domains of cooperation / work programme

- Development of joint actions (in future):
 - Joint audits, inspections,
 - Exchange of staff for training.
- Develop a Process for mutual recognition of practices
 - Reaching same objective by different means
- Adopt common position on changes to TS-R-1
- Workshops
 - Joint workshops on specific topics
- Development of CIRCA site for communication

www.circa.europa.eu

Benefits

Competent Authorities

- Improved networking and understanding at a working level
- Identify best practice
- Improved consistency of approach
- Provides clarity of the levels of compliance by understanding assessment processes in Member States

Industry

- More consistent regulatory processes
- Reduced delays at industry/regulator interfaces
- Reduced number of denial of shipments

Wider communities

- Contributes to a basis of confidence that transport of RAM is, and will, continue to be safe
- Demonstrates that the trans-boundary transport of RAM is in part being managed by Member State CAs in a trans-boundary forum targeting compliance and practicalities not regulations per se

Membership of the Association

Voluntary and non-legally binding

Duties and responsibilities remain with the individual CAs

Open to all CAs from EU and Candidate Countries


22 CAs participate (nuclear and non-nuclear MS)

- Representing 90% of EU population and territory

IAEA Resolution (Sept 09)

Welcomes **networks of competent authorities** whose goal is to support the harmonized implementation of the Agency's transport safety standards, and

calls upon **Member States to use these networks** to build capacity in the effective regulation of the safe transport of radioactive material.



The Association provides a blue print for Competent Authorities working together on practical and current issues.

Thank you.