



## **Programme ACN – Aarhus Convention & Nuclear – 2009-2011**

*A joint ANCCLI / European Commission initiative on*

### **The practical application of the Aarhus Convention to the nuclear field**

## **European Roundtable, Luxembourg, 20-21 January 2011**

### ***Access to expertise and competence building***

**The meeting will be held in the Jean Monnet Building - Luxembourg  
It will start at 14:15 on 20<sup>th</sup> of January and finish at 17:30 on 21<sup>st</sup> of January 2011.**

The kick-off ACN European Workshop in June 2009 has highlighted the importance of access to expertise to ensure citizen participation in the nuclear field, but also the difficulties it entails (technical complexity, hurdles to access records and reports (confidentiality), low availability of pluralistic and diverse expertise...). These difficulties bring front and center the question of the competence building for civil society. What are the conditions which enable citizens to build their own questions about nuclear activities and be active participants?

This second thematic European Round Table focuses on access to expertise and competence building. It is co-organized by IRSN, ANCCLI and the European Commission.

For the purpose of this roundtable, we propose the following definition of “competence building”:  
*“processes where citizens, local stakeholders, lay people and NGOs investigate technical issues, notably in the context of decisions on nuclear activities or on a continuous basis, gathering or building relevant knowledge, interacting with experts and developing reliable expertise, identifying key issues at stake from their point of view, contributing to frame issues at stake, proposing options or alternatives, in order to raise their influence on the decision-making and their views to be duly taken into account.”*

These issues will be addressed through plural case studies from different countries involved in ACN.

## Provisional agenda

### 20 January 2011

**13:30 Welcome coffee**

**14:15 Introduction**

Mr Dominique Ristori, Deputy Director General, DG ENER, EC

Mr Jacques Repussard, IRSN, Director

Mr Jean-Claude Delalonde, President of the ANCCLI

*Why are access to expertise and competence building of major importance for a fair implementation of the Aarhus convention in the nuclear field?*

**14:45 Session 1 – Access to expertise and competence building within EIA from a CSO perspective**

Case studies considered: Lithuania, Bulgaria

*The objective of this first session is to identify the challenges and requirements for competence building and expertise for civil society in an EIA-type procedure, and the actions taken by citizens and civil society organizations to respond to these challenges.*

**17:30 Adjourn**

From 18:30 **Buffet dinner**

### 21 January 2011

**9:30 Session 2 – Access to expertise and competence building: a sample of regulators' initiatives**

Case studies considered: Great Britain, Finland

*What are the tools developed by operators and regulators to involve civil society actors in the technical assessment of new facilities (methodology for nuclear waste site assessment, site for new power plants)?*

**11:00 Session 3 – Access to expertise and competence building: establishing a sustainable cooperation between civil society and experts**

Case studies considered: France, Belgium

*Through two case studies, this session will highlight the need for cooperation on competence building between experts and civil society on a regular basis, upstream and in parallel to the decision-making process.*

**12:30 Lunch**

**14:15 Session 4 – General discussion / working groups**

**16:30 Conclusion**

IRSN, ANCCLI and DG ENER

**17:30 Adjourn**