Dear Associate Societies, Delegates and IRPA Members,

Following the very successful IRPA14 International Congress in Cape Town last month, we are now entering a new term for IRPA. The new Executive Council (EC) is very keen to move forward as quickly as possible, and to keep all the Associate Societies (AS) fully informed. As well as the Congress itself, we also had the business aspects relating to IRPA – that is the Associate Societies Forum (ASF) and the General Assembly. These were followed by a short meeting of the new EC, where we were able to agree on some key actions which can be set in motion immediately.

We are therefore very pleased to report the following progress and to seek the involvement of the AS as follows:

1. The new Executive Council has been appointed by the General Assembly (see Annex).

2. The Report of the Eye Dose Task Group led by Marie-Claire Cantone was discussed at the Congress and has recently been issued to the AS. It is open for comment by 20 September (cantone@irpa.net). The Task Group will also shortly issue a draft Guideline Protocol for eye protection and eye dose monitoring of workers, which will be for comment by the AS.

3. The draft report on the Certification of Radiation Protection Experts was also discussed at a special meeting during the congress. The report is being updated and will be issued shortly by Eduardo Gallego for final comment by 15 September (gallego@irpa.net).

4. Under the Education and Training programme IRPA is proposing to operate a database whereby each AS can enter its training courses and seminars/conferences and hence make them visible to all parties in a searchable manner. It would be the responsibility of the AS to keep the database up to date. A Webinar-based training session for AS administrators and managers will be held shortly – please watch for a further announcement.

5. The Education and Training Task Group will continue its activities under the leadership of Eduardo Gallego and Marie-Claire Cantone. AS can nominate members
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(or reconfirm their existing nominees) by the end of September please (gallego@irpa.net).

6. The Task Group on Radioactive Source Security will be re-established and its Terms of Reference reviewed. Existing TG members should assist in this review via the EC Liaison Klaus Henrichs (henrichs@irpa.net), and in due course there will be a call for new/reconfirmed members.

7. There will be a greater emphasis on establishing an effective Young Persons Network. The EC leads are Alfred Hefner and Hiroko Yoshida. The network coordinator is Christoph Stettner from Austria, and all AS are invited and encouraged to appoint a lead contact and forward details to Christoph (stettnerchristoph@gmail.com).

8. During the Congress there was great support for the work IRPA has done, and is continuing to do, on RP Culture (or Radiation Safety Culture in the new project in Health Care). The existing ongoing work in the medical sector, led by Executive Officer Bernard Le Guen in association with IOMP and WHO, will continue as planned. A workshop will be held in November for African countries focused on Paediatric imaging, another workshop is planned in February 2017 for Middle East countries and there is currently a project in US in 2017. All regional AS are invited to participate. Please contact the Executive officer for more information (leguen@irpa.net).

9. During the ASF there was a proposal from the UK to also develop further guidance in other sectors, particularly for the research/teaching/university sector and also in general industry, including the NDT area. The EC would welcome comment from the AS (leguen@irpa.net) to determine the level of support for this proposal, including the identification of priorities.

10. During the ASF we reported on progress to date on the consultation on how the system of protection could be improved so that it better meets the challenges of communication and understanding (see letter from the President dated 25 September 2015). To date there have been substantive responses from six societies, with some common themes emerging. This phase of consultation will close on 30 June and all AS are invited to respond (coates@irpa.net). The EC will then analyse the views and prepare a more considered proposal which will be subject to further consultation later this year. The final output will be shared with the AS and with relevant international organisations.

11. The work of the Societies Admissions and Development Committee will continue, now under the chairmanship of Vice President Eduardo Gallego. AS are invited to nominate or re-nominate members to this committee (gallego@irpa.net).
12. The **Publications Commission** will continue under the leadership of Publications Director Chris Clement. AS can nominate persons to assist in this work ([clement@irpa.net](mailto:clement@irpa.net)).

13. IRPA has been working closely with ICRP on the development of the ICRP report on the **Ethical Foundations of the System of Radiological Protection**. An early draft of this report has been made available to IRPA by the ICRP, and comments have been requested by **30 June**. Note that all comments to ICRP will automatically be copied to IRPA. We will then review what, if any, further work is appropriate, with particular emphasis on professional ethics.

14. At the ASF there was a proposal from the French Society to promote a reflection on the practical implementation of ALARA, with a focus on what is judged as ‘reasonable’. This is supported by the EC, and the society has been invited to develop its proposal. Further information will be available shortly, a workshop will be organised in Paris in February 2017. Please also copy responses to the Executive Officer ([leguen@irpa.net](mailto:leguen@irpa.net)).

15. There are other important parts of the IRPA programme that require greater reflection by the EC before we can identify the way forward. These include:
   - **Public Understanding of Radiation Risk**: IRPA has an established Task Group on this topic, which was led by Rich Vetter and which has made significant progress in sharing relevant resources of the AS (see the IRPA website). We are convinced that we need to do much more in this field – it was indeed one of the key topics coming out of the Congress. However, we will come forward with further proposals after our next EC meeting later in the year.
   - In the previous term we established an RP Strategy and Practice Committee which was aimed at assisting in ‘horizon scanning’ to help us identify at an early stage those developments in science, policy and standards under consideration by the key international organisations, or indeed by the AS, which could have a significant impact on the profession. To date this arrangement has perhaps had limited success and we need a little further reflection on how best to implement this important task.

You will see from the above that there is a lot happening in IRPA, and we need the full support and engagement of the AS in delivering this programme. We look forward to hearing your views and comment, and we encourage you to work constructively so that the professionals and practitioners have an effective international voice.

With best regards,

Roger Coates, IRPA President

Bernard le Guen, IRPA Executive Officer
Annex 1

The Executive Council for 2016-2020:

President      Roger Coates (UK)
Vice-President     Eduardo Gallego (Spain)
Vice President for Congress Affairs   Jong Kyung Kim (Korea)
Executive Officer     Bernard Le Guen (France)
Treasurer      Richard Toohey (US)
Publications Director     Christopher Clement (Canada)
Ana Maria Bomben (Argentina)
Alfred Hefner (Austria)
Sigurður Magnússon (Iceland)
Marie-Claire Cantone (Italy)
Klaus Henrichs (German)
Hiroko Yoshida (Japan)