First Joint Meeting of the European and Mediterranean Transport Networks (EACA and MedNet)

Athens, 15-16 May 2019

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International Encouragement

- Welcomes *networks of competent authorities* whose goal is to support the harmonized implementation and application of the Agency’s transport safety standards &

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

- Joining a Group or Association is an opportunity for mutual support.

IAEA General Conference Resolution 2009 and Action 51 IAEA Specific Safety Guide SSG-44 on Establishing the Infrastructure for Radiation Safety, 2018 (Transport Section)
EACA: Origin and Vision

- ‘Founded’ in 2007 by France and UK
- Open to all CAs in ‘Europe’. Currently 27 CAs participate
- Voluntary and non-legally binding membership
- Duties and responsibilities remain with the individual CAs

Vision:
- A common or harmonised approach for the interpretation of the regulations for the transport of RAM in Europe
- Maintaining and developing a consistent high level of safety for the transport of RAM in Europe and beyond
EACA: Objectives

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

- Benefits both for CAs and industry!
EACA: ‘Products’ and future work

- PDSR Technical Guide
- Compliance Inspection Programmes and Guidance.
  Both available on: http://www.euraca.eu/

- Increase the membership of the Association
- Increase communications and opportunities with other transport networks in the Med, South America, Asia, Africa, etc.
- Enhance the profile of the Association by having a bespoke website, presenting papers to European forums and collaborating with international networks
- Increase collaboration on joint inspections/assessments relevant work activities, etc.
- Collaborate with HERCA as appropriate
Mediterranean Region Transport Network

- ‘Founded’ in 2015 – main outcome of the Project C.3 “Strengthening of an effective compliance assurance regime in transport of RAM in the European Southern neighborhood region (Mediterranean Sea) and associated shipping states” - IAEA-EC CA 2013/313-757 (EU funding).
- Voluntary and non-legally binding membership of regulators.
- 20 Member States have participated in Project C.3 Events in 2013-2016.
- MedNet is a TEAM
  - main task: assure smooth and safe transport activities of radioactive material in the region
  - main tools: networking, sharing of operational experience, joint activities
Mediterranean Region Transport Network

- Greece - liaison with the European Association of Competent Authorities on the Transport of Radioactive Material (EACA)
- Tunisia, Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt et.al. – liaison with the Arab Network of Nuclear Regulators (ANNuR), the African network and the Asian network
- The MSs of the region:
  - have reviewed and revised self-assessments in order to determine strengths and shortcomings of existing infrastructure
  - have a better overall understanding of transport of radioactive material in the region
- The awareness and cooperation between agencies responsible for transport has been reinforced and contacts have been established
Mediterranean Region Transport Network – Main Achievements

- S.Vogiatzi et al “Mediterranean Network (MedNet) - Overview of the regulatory infrastructure for the safe transport of radioactive material” Paper - Proceedings of the 18th International Symposium on Packaging & Transportation of RAM, PATRAM 2016, Kobe, Japan


- Guidance Material for Notification/Approval of shipments of radioactive material (Import – Export –Transport & Transit), 2016

- MedNet website – IAEA GNSSN
Mediterranean Region Transport Network – Future

- INT 9184 project “Enhancing Transport Safety Infrastructure in Mediterranean Region Member States through Sustainable Collaboration” (2018-2019 IAEA Technical Cooperation Cycle) – designed to address challenges and weaknesses already identified

- submitted by Greece - supported by Tunisia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Malta and Jordan, Slovenia (FCM updated information)

- backed by EACA i.e. 26 European Member States in 2016, in a letter sent to the IAEA

- Implementable workplan with specific activities & estimated budget till 2021, developed in FCM & MedNet meeting, 13-17 May 2019, Athens, Greece (14 countries & 2 countries as correspondence members). Briefly:
  - Two workshops – inspection & authorisation
  - On-the-job training – Joint Inspections
  - Use of E-learning released by IAEA to address the identified training needs
  - Expert missions to assist on specific national needs
  - Development or improvement of procedures/guides
  - Papers/presentations to conferences (e.g. IAEA, RAMTRANS)
  - Improvement of TSA 7 profiles
Joint Meeting MedNet - EACA

- First Joint Meeting, hosted by Greece 15-16 May 2019
- Participants from 28 countries from Europe and Mediterranean region
- Introduction of the two Networks and participants
- Several general presentations (e.g. validation of package design certificates)
- Working groups to identify and discuss topics that could benefit from further cooperation between countries from the two networks
- During the lively discussions in the WG already information and experiences were exchanged, helping the participants to get to know each other and to create a better understanding of the challenges in each country.
Some potential topics for further collaboration:

- Practical approaches for setting up inspection programmes (applying graded approach)
- On-the-job training for inspectors (also ‘joint inspections’)
- Training of operators
- Sharing practical experience related to packages not requiring CA approval and validations of package design certificates
- Making information on package design approvals / validations accessible
- Making information accessible on the regulations applicable to the transport of radioactive material in each country (e.g. license requirements, contact points)
- Sharing of information between competent authorities on (non)compliances and transit shipments
- Practical guidance on emergency transports of orphan sources, security and special arrangements
- Sharing operational experience and knowledge
- Promoting safety culture
The participants concluded the countries of two networks share the continuous goal of safe transport of radioactive material in Europe, the Mediterranean region and beyond.

This joint meeting was considered a first important step in supporting this goal.

The Chairs were called upon to investigate the possibilities for further collaboration between the two networks.
Joint Meeting MedNet - EACA

- Albania
- Algeria
- Belgium
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Egypt
- France
- Finland
- Germany
- Greece
- Hungary
- Jordan
- Ireland
- Italy
- Lebanon
- Malta
- Netherlands
- North Macedonia
- Portugal
- Romania
- Serbia
- Slovak Republic
- Slovenia
- Spain
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Tunisia
- Turkey
- United Kingdom
Acknowledgments

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  - IAEA and EU for their financial and technical support in building this network
  - EACA for its ongoing support and for the unique opportunity of the EACA – MedNet Joint Meeting.
https://gnssn.iaea.org/main/Med-Net