



Estonian experiences with Legal Instruments

Merle Lust

A little about JC history

- Estonia signed Joint Convention and Convention on Nuclear Safety on 2001
- Ratification took place in the end of 2005
- Accession letter was sent in 2006
- First JC Review meeting in May 2006, as late ratifier

My own experience

- Preparation of the ratification process
- Preparation of the national reports and being national coordinator
- Representing country in the review meeting
- Being the country-group chair and member of the General Committee of the JC

Why JC is actually needed for a small country without NPP?

- Possibility to increase the population trust into the possibility of safe management of radioactive waste;
- Great place to gather the information – national reports, discussions on the review meetings (including during the breaks).

Some additional points

- Preparation of the national report is a good exercise for the state authorities involved and radioactive waste management organizations;
- This process can be used as training process for relatively new staff members, for example their responsibility can be preparation of the very first draft of national report.

Legislative instruments

- Radiation Act in 2004, mostly based on EURATOM directive;
- Also international conventions were taken into account;
- Regular action plan in radiation protection, which gives the aims for 10 years.

Management of DSRS

- Estonian experiences are more related to the Radiation Act (2004) and EURATOM HASS Directive;
- Changes in the licensing system since 2004;
- Mostly problems with the sources from “Soviet” period;
- New sources with the returning agreement. Financing available?

Problems?

- More countries joining JC – less time for every country;
- Difficult task for a small country to review all national reports and also to cover all the country groups;
- DSRS do not get much attention in the framework of JC.