

**THE FIRST REGIONAL MEETING ON SCRAP METAL TRANSPORT
CONTROL AND EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON RADIOACTIVELY
CONTAMINATED SHIPMENTS OR SHIPMENTS CONTAINING
RADIOACTIVE SOURCES**

Zagreb, 21-22 March 2007

Minutes of the Meeting and Conclusions

The Meeting was attended by representatives of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Slovenia and Serbia. List of participants, their addresses and telephone numbers are attached herewith.

The Meeting aimed at establishing permanent regional collaboration and exchange of information on illicit trafficking of radioactive material, where this term covers all radioactive materials including nuclear materials.

A specific goal of the first meeting was to reach an agreement on reporting and exchange of information on detected radioactive material between regional radiation protection regulatory authorities, to improve and harmonize scrap material control methods, and response to radioactive material or contamination; to determine obligations of the material country of origin, and any potential contamination sources, possible routes by which radioactive sources are introduced into the scrap metal cycle and possibility of its contamination, all in order to minimize proliferation of radioactive material and consequently minimize its use for terrorist aims.

The supporting document used during the Meeting were the Recommendations on Monitoring and Response Procedures for Radioactive Scrap Metal prepared by a group of experts and published by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE),

The Meeting was chaired by Dragan Kubelka, Director General, State Office for Radiation Protection, who initiated the meeting.

At the opening, the Meeting was addressed by Ambassador Mario Horvatić, governor on the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration. Mr. Horvatić underscored that cooperation between the countries in the region is necessary and imperative, particularly as regards exchange of information on radioactive material in preventing illicit trafficking, regardless of whether such transfer is intentional or unintentional.

All the participants endorsed such need and expressed willingness for future cooperation of the countries in the region in preventing illicit trafficking or inadvertent movement of radioactive material.

The participants agreed to encourage collaboration in border control between customs and other border authorities. Such collaboration should result in sharing of equipment for radioactive material control and detection.

The Meeting participants were presented projects in which the State Office for Radiation Protection participates within the PHARE Program. The projects will

enable procurement of mobile and stationary equipment for radioactive material detection.

The border crossings that need to be fitted with stationary monitoring equipment will be proposed after the load analysis has been performed for individual border crossings, data collected on possible routes of illicit trafficking of the material under consideration and scrap metal traffic routes.

Final agreement on specific border crossings shall be reached by bilateral agreements signed between the countries.

To this end, it would be necessary to consider the need for and possibilities of setting up stationary monitoring equipment at the border crossings:

1. Between Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, i.e.

1.1. On the Croatian side:

rail border crossing Voljina – Dobrljin

road border crossings Županja – Orašje; Slavonski Brod – Bosanski Brod; Ličko and Gunja – Brčko

1.2. On the Bosnian-Herzegovina side:

rail border crossing Slavonski Šamac – Bosanski Šamac

road border crossing Petrovo selo – Izačić

2. Between Croatia and Serbia

2.1. on the Croatian side:

rail border crossing Tovarnik – Šid

road border crossing Bajakovo – Batrovci

3. Between Macedonia and Serbia

3.1. on the Macedonian side: to be proposed later

3.2. on the Serbian side: to be proposed later

4. Between Croatia and Montenegro

4.1. on the Croatian side: road border crossing Karasovići – Debeli Brijeg

The participating countries agreed to undertake the following activities for improvement and harmonization of scrap metal control methods and responses on detection of radioactive material or contamination:

- set up register of scrap yards, scrap melting plants and processing facilities;
- prepare an analysis of other activities involving risks of illicit trafficking of radioactive material;
- direct scrap metal to designated border crossings and determine transport corridors by national legislation, unless they are already regulated by national laws and regulations.

The participants agreed that the border officials are authorized to make decisions in the event an increased radiation is detected in a particular shipment, in

cooperation with regulatory authorities responsible for radiation protection. In case it is decided that the shipment has to be returned to the country of exit, the regulatory authority of the country of entry shall inform by telephone a regulatory authority of the country of exit and the regulatory authority of a country of origin. Within the next twenty-four hours, the regulatory authorities in the region shall be informed about the action taken by facsimile or e-mail, using a form agreed upon during the Meeting.

All the countries shall retain the shipment until the regulatory authority in the country to which it will be returned is informed about the decision to return the shipment. The regulatory authority of the country of origin will be informed about the finding by telephone.

The regulatory authorities, State Office for Radiation Protection, Radiation Safety Directorate of Macedonia, Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning Slovenian Nuclear Safety Administration are the authorities in these countries responsible for control of radioactive material, have early warning services accessible by telephone 24 hours.

Since the Republic of Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republic of Montenegro have still not established their regulatory authorities for radiation protection, the contact points are to be Ministry of Civil Affairs and Communications for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Center for Ecotoxicological Research for Montenegro and Ministry for Science and Environmental Protection Directorate for Environmental Protection for Serbia. Addresses, telephone numbers of officers in charge are attached herewith.

All participants agreed that the country of origin must assume responsibility for a shipment for which increased radioactivity is determined and enable it to be returned with minimum administrative formalities.

Representatives of the countries in the region shall encourage industry, scrap metal yards and melting plants to collaborate and exchange information and warnings about possible problems with individual scrap metal shipments.

As regards future cooperation, it was agreed to start with preparation of a manual for radioactive material detection that should result in harmonization of detection methods and procedures in the region. The Manual will contain a protocol to be used when special technological procedures are requested in handling nuclear material.

All participants underscored the need for informing the customs officials about the radiation basics and for organization of training for use of instruments and methods for detection of radioactive material. It has been concluded that cooperation with IAEA should be requested. Training must be organized in one of the national languages of the region.

All the participants concluded that the initiated cooperation should result in a regional international agreement on collaboration on the subject issue.

The Meeting agreed on Dragan Kubelka, Director General of the State Office for Radiation Protection being appointed the regional cooperation coordinator.

The next meeting is planned to be held in September or October 2007 in Belgrade, and the organization is Slaviša Simić, Serbian Ministry for Science and Environmental Protection, is in charge of organization