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| WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION **COMMISSION FOR BASIC SYSTEMS OPAG on DPFS**  **expert team on emergency response activitIes (et-era)**  **VIENNA, AUSTRIA, 1 – 5 OCTOBER 2018** |  | CBS-DPFS/ET-ERA/Doc. 4.3(x)  (15.IX.2018)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_  Agenda item: 4.3  ENGLISH ONLY |

**Co-operation between the RSMCs, RTH Offenbacha and the WMO Secretariat from the IAEA’s perspective**

*(Submitted by IAEA)*

##### Summary and purpose of document

Overview of the exercises, real events since the ET-ERA meeting in 2015 and the plan for the quarterly exercises with RSCMs for 2019-2020

##### Action Proposed

The meeting is invited to note, discuss the information presented in this paper and to agree on a schedule for the quarterly RSMC exercises.

**1. INTRODUCTION**

Since the last ET-ERA meeting in Buenos Aires in 2015 there were a series of regular exercise planned for the RSMCs and the IAEA. In addition, there have been a few ad-hoc exercises for which the IAEA had asked the RSMCs for support.

The IAEA runs different type of exercises with its counterparts. Some exercises are conducted by the IAEA to test the availability of the contact points and other exercises are conducted with a specific scenario to test some of the arrangements for emergency response. In addition, the IAEA performs the regular communication test with RTH Offenbach and the quarterly RSMC exercises.

In 2017 the IAEA conducted 13 Exercises with its contact points, 12 Communication Tests with RTH Offenbach, 3 quarterly RSMC exercises and 3 internal Full Response Exercises and a few bilateral exercises with Member States (overall >30 exercises).

**2. EXERCISES and RSMC support**

2.1 Communication test with RTH Offenbach

The regular Communication Tests with RTH Offenbach have been conducted on the 3rd Tuesday of every month, unless there was a quarterly RSMC exercise in parallel. In this case, the actions have been performed as part of the RSMC exercise. According to our records (on USIE Exercise) all test have been performed but not in April 2017 and April 2016. Overall, they communication tests worked fine, but the majority of replies were sent to IEC7 instead of IEC23.

2.2. Quartely RSMCs exercises

For 2016 and 2017 there was an agreed schedule for the quarterly RSMC exercsie which established in the ET-ERA meeting in Buenos Aires. For 2018 the IAEA has determined the sequence by itself, and published the exercises calendar – as every year – on the USIE web-site. Two major deviations from the exercise plan happened and the two events were linked. The first deviation was the cancellation of the exercise in November 2017 since the IAEA failed to identify a host Member States which had no objection to use one of the nuclear sites as the release location. Following there were some messages exchanged on the issues. The IAEA took extensive actions to get Member States commitment and consequently we got a positive commitment for the exercise in May, which was however, not planned for the relevant region. This was overlooked by the IAEA, and this constitutes the second deviation from the exercise plan.

Below please see the proposal for the quarterly RSMC exercises for 2019 and 2020

Feb 2019: RSMC Montreal and Washington

May 2019: RSMC Melbourne

Aug 2019: RSMC Exeter and Toulouse

Nov 2019: RSMC Bejing, Obninsk and Tokyo RSMC Montreal and Washington

Feb 2020: RSMC Exeter and Toulouse

May 2020: RSMC Montreal and Washington

Aug 2020: RSMC Bejing, Obninsk and Tokyo

Nov 2020: RSMC Melbourne

2.3. Other exercise and real events support

The IAEA conducted the Convex-3 based on a scenarion at the Paks NPP in Hungary, in June 2017. Since the WMO was involved and a quarterly RSMC exercise was scheduled for the same region just a month before,it was decided to combine these two events and only ask for RSMC support for the ConvEx-3 exercise in June. In parallel this event was used to run the ToA test by most RSMCs, however, this test run was not part of the operational arrangements for the ConvEx-3 exercise.

Support for an IAEA Full Response Exercise, which are purely internal exercises, was requested off-line form RSMCs Toulouse and Exeter, which were provided before our exercises and the IEC adapted the products (the dates were changed) for use in the internal exercise.

The detection of Ruthenium 106 in air over parts of Europe in Octoberr 2017 and consequently lead to a request for back-tracking calculations from RSMCs in Exeter and Montreal, which provided several outputs and in different formats which allowed us to present the results in an impressive way to the upper IAEA management.

**3. WMO – IAEA AGREEMENT**

The Secretariats of the WMO and IAEA have worked on an revised Memorandum of Understanding and it was signed by the WMO Secretariat in September this year. Currently, the MoU is being cleared in the IAEA Secretariat and will be signed by the Deputy Director General for Nuclear Safety and Security.

**4. CONCLUSION**

Staff of RTH Offenbach need to be reminded that they should communicate with IEC23.

The quarterly exercises still prove to be useful, since minor issues are still detected. E.g., we still getconfirmations from non-lead RSMCs at times, and certain messages (confirmation of receipt of request) from RSMC Melbourne are still received 9 times.