

Legal Affairs

Nuclear Law Committee (NLC)

Mission

- To foster progress towards a global regime addressing liability and compensation for nuclear damage.
- To contribute to the modernisation of the Paris Convention and the Brussels Supplementary Convention on nuclear third-party liability and compensation.
- To promote the harmonisation of Member countries' nuclear legislation and to assist selected non-member countries in the field of nuclear law.
- To analyse and disseminate information on nuclear law issues for the benefit of both Member and non-member countries.

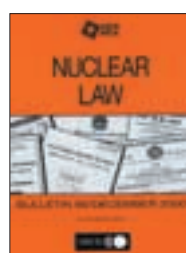
Highlights

- The Group of Governmental Experts on Third Party Liability in the Field of Nuclear Energy was renamed the "Nuclear Law Committee" and its mandate was expanded to include: examining issues concerning the interpretation and application of international nuclear liability instruments and encouraging adherence to those instruments so as to foster progress towards a global regime of nuclear liability and compensation; encouraging the development of national legislation governing the peaceful uses of nuclear energy based upon internationally accepted principles; serving as a forum for the exchange of information and the sharing of experience on nuclear law issues; and undertaking all other work of a legal nature that may be entrusted to it by the Steering Committee.
- With six meetings convened in 2000, the Paris Convention States and the Brussels Supplementary Convention States made substantial progress in their negotiations to revise both Conventions.
- An International School of Nuclear Law was established at the University of Montpellier 1 in co-operation with the NEA to provide a high-quality programme in the various disciplines of nuclear law.
- Two issues of the *Nuclear Law Bulletin* were published together with their Supplements, and a revised Index was made available.
- A new edition of the *Overview of Nuclear Legislation in Central and Eastern Europe and the NIS* was published.

Civil liability for nuclear damage

Through its legal affairs programme, the NEA continues to serve as a forum for the examination of legal issues in the nuclear field with particular emphasis on civil liability and compensation for nuclear damage.

The programme's objective of pursuing the modernisation of the international nuclear liability regime was largely met in 2000 through two activities. The first was to support the Nuclear Law Committee in its work aimed at minimising legal impediments to the safe use of nuclear energy, encouraging provisions for equitable compensation of nuclear damage in the event of a nuclear incident, analysing issues relating to the emergence of a global nuclear liability regime and addressing problems associated with the interpretation and application of various international nuclear liability instruments. The Committee met in October 2000 to study and deliberate upon a variety of such issues. The second activity was to provide support to the Contracting Parties to the Paris Convention and to the Brussels Supplementary Convention in their ongoing efforts to revise both Conventions, efforts which included six negotiating meetings in 2000. This revision exercise is of real significance, given the operation of the 1988 Joint Protocol on the Application of the Vienna and Paris Conventions, the amendment of the Vienna Convention in 1997 and the adoption, in that same year, of a new global Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage.





University of Montpellier 1

Another important objective of the legal affairs programme is to provide legal assistance to certain non-member countries in which NEA Member countries have a particular interest, such as the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the New Independent States. This assistance is primarily aimed at helping those countries develop nuclear legislation that reflects internationally accepted principles for the peaceful utilisation of nuclear energy and in particular, legislation that will permit adherence to one or more of the international nuclear liability instruments including that which establishes a global regime. Most of this work is undertaken within the ambit of the NEA Contact Group, which met in February 2000 or, in the case of Ukraine, the Joint Task Force on Nuclear Legislation, which met in May 2000 in Kiev.

Information on nuclear law

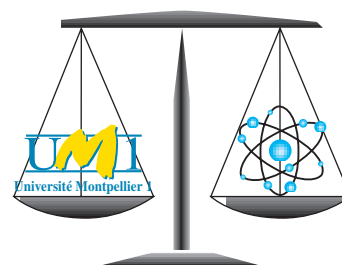
Issues No. 65 and 66 of the *Nuclear Law Bulletin* were published in June and December 2000, along with their respective Supplements reproducing new nuclear legislation adopted in Armenia, Croatia and Ukraine. This periodical, issued twice a year, provides up-to-date information on recent developments in the field of nuclear law at the national and international levels. The Bulletin has proved an invaluable tool over the past thirty years for those in government, regulatory, academic, industry and international circles that work closely with nuclear law. The Index to this publication was also revised during 2000 and is now available, along with back issues of the Bulletin, on the NEA website at www.nea.fr/html/law/pub.html.

A new, updated edition of *Nuclear Legislation: Analytical Study - Regulatory and Institutional Framework for Nuclear Activities* in OECD Member countries was also published in 2000. This latest edition, which has been completely reformatted, provides comprehensive information on nuclear regulatory activities in all OECD countries. The year 2000 also saw the publication of the proceedings of the Budapest international symposium on the *Reform of Civil Nuclear Liability* and a new, revised edition of the *Overview of Nuclear Legislation in Central and Eastern Europe and the NIS*.

International School of Nuclear Law

An International School of Nuclear Law was established in 2000 within the University of Montpellier 1 in co-operation with the NEA. The school also benefits from the support of the International Nuclear Law Association and the European Commission.

The objective of this school is to provide a high-quality, two-week programme on various aspects of nuclear law both to law students pursuing their studies at doctoral or masters level and to young legal professionals who are already active in the nuclear sector.



The opening session of the school, which is due to take place in summer 2001, will include classes on the following subjects: protection against ionising radiation; safety of nuclear installations; radioactive waste management; transport of nuclear materials; physical protection; non-proliferation; regulation of trade; third-party liability and the compensation of nuclear damage; and environmental law. An information brochure, application form and further details on the programme may be downloaded from the NEA website at www.nea.fr/html/law/.

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