



REVISION OF THE PARIS AND BRUSSELS CONVENTIONS
ON NUCLEAR LIABILITY

Patrick Reyners
Head, Legal Affairs
OECD Nuclear Energy Agency
Le Seine St-Germain - 12, Boulevard des Iles
92130 Issy-les-Moulineaux, France
patrick.reyners@oecd.org

Abstract

The Contracting Parties to the 1960 Paris Convention on Third Party Liability in the Field of Nuclear Energy and to the 1963 Brussels Convention Supplementary to the Paris Convention, have concluded this Spring four years of negotiation on the revision of these instruments. This exercise was itself started as a logical consequence of the adoption in 1997 of a revised Vienna Convention on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage and of a Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage.

The Contracting Parties have concluded that the existing regime established by these Conventions remains viable and sound but that it also warrants improvements to ensure that greater financial security will be available to compensate a potentially larger number of victims in respect of a broader range of nuclear damage. A number of more technical amendments have also been agreed, in particular to ensure compatibility with other existing Conventions in this field. When the revised Paris and Brussels Conventions come into force, the total amount of funds available for compensation, provided by the liable nuclear operator and by the States concerned, will be 1.5 billion euros.

Key words: convention, compensation, nuclear, liability, damage and security