Decision making

The Minister of Labour, Welfare and Social Insurance (MLWSI) is the competent authority for radiation protection and nuclear safety in the country, acting through the Radiation Inspection and Control Service (RICS) of the Department of Labour Inspection (DLI) of this Ministry.

The National General Crisis Management Plan of the Republic titled ZENON defines that the Ministerial Body for Crisis Management, which in case of a nuclear or radiological emergency is presided by MLWSI, is the decision making body in the case of a severe crisis in the country. In case of a nuclear or radiological accident or incident with severe impact to the public, the national response plan titled ELECTRA is activated.

The Ministerial Body meets at the Emergency and Crisis Centre of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and has direct communication with all relevant emergency response stakeholders and European/International Organisations. Other Ministers, non-regular members of the Ministerial Body, may be invited to part in the meetings, according to the nature and the development of the crisis situation. MLWSI appoints a single contact point for communication with the media and the public. Technical inputs and advice is available to the Ministerial Body as described below.

Advice

RICS/DLI is responsible for the general organization and coordination of the radiation emergency response plan ELECTRA and provides consultation to the MLWSI and the Ministerial Body on all technical and scientific issues. RICS/DLI is also the focal point for the European Commission (EURDEP, ECURIE) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IRMIS, USIE). RICS/DLI is supported by the Inter-Scientific Committee, comprising of representatives of various stakeholders, and by various scientific committees and technical teams, each having responsibilities related to radiation emergency response (Radiological Assessment; Intervention; Medical Response; Environmental Radioactivity; Sampling; Atmospheric Dispersion Modelling).

MLWSI may consult, under certain circumstances as defined in the legislation, the Council of Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety (comprised of 23 members from scientific and professional associations; academia; and social partners).

Licensee

No nuclear power plants or other nuclear facilities operate in Cyprus. All authorized undertakings (licensees) conducting activities with ionising radiation have obligations under the legislation on radiation protection and nuclear safety and the conditions of the license granted to them by the competent authority. These obligations include having in place appropriate on-site emergency response plans, procedures and other arrangements, educating and training their personnel accordingly, and informing the competent authority in case of a radiological emergency.

Alarming

First information on a radiation emergency situation may reach the competent authority through various channels. The official national warning point for emergencies abroad (European Union, International Atomic Energy Agency) is the Centre of Operations of the Civil Defense Administration, which operates 24/7.
Emergency preparedness and response country fact sheet, Cyprus, Version 2, April 2019

**Protection strategy**

The most significant pathway of exposure of the local population in case of a nuclear emergency abroad is the consumption of radioactively contaminated food and through commodities (international trade). The contributed dose to members of the public can be averted through restrictions in the market, consumption and trade.

A protection strategy according to IAEA GSR Part 7 is implemented and this is reflected in the national radiation emergency response plan ELECTRA. A reference level of 20 mSv effective dose (within 1 year, all dose pathways) has been set. Operational Intervention Levels, Emergency Action Levels and Observables/Indicators are defined in the plan ELECTRA, as following:

**Criteria**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Protective Action</th>
<th>OILs /EALs</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Iodine thyroid blocking</td>
<td>50 mSv in the first 7 days ($H_{\text{thyroid}}$)</td>
<td>Urgent, early protective and other response actions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheltering; evacuation; decontamination; restriction of consumption of food, milk and water; contamination control; public reassurance</td>
<td>100 mSv in the first 7 days (Effective dose) 100 mSv in the first 7 days ($H_{\text{m.w}}$)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temporary relocation; decontamination; replacement of food, milk and water; public reassurance</td>
<td>100 mSv per annum (Effective dose) 100 mSv for the full period of in uterus development ($H_{\text{m.w}}$)</td>
<td>Early protective and other response actions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Screening based on equivalent doses to specific radiosensitive organs (as a basis for medical follow-up), counseling</td>
<td>100 mSv in a month</td>
<td>If the received dose exceeds the following generic criteria (GC) are used these longer term medical actions to detect and to effectively treat radiation induced health effects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counselling to allow informed decisions to be made in individual circumstances</td>
<td>100 mSv for the full period of in uterus development ($H_{\text{m.w}}$)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Comments**

1. Generic Criteria for protective actions and other response actions in emergency exposure situations to reduce the risk of stochastic effects.
2. Generic criteria are consistent with the recommended generic criteria in GSG-2.