NATO Science for Peace and Security (SPS) Programme

Workshop on CBRN Defence – 22-24 October 2013 – Brussels

Dr. Carlos Rojas-Palma – Belgian Nuclear Research Centre

“Threat Detection, Response and Consequence Management associated with Nuclear and Radiological Terrorism”

Brussels, Belgium, 22-24 October 2013
• NATO Advanced Research Workshop (ARW) on “Threat Detection, Response and Consequence Management associated with Nuclear and Radiological Terrorism”

• Held in Brussels during November 17th – November 20th 2008

• The ARW was co-funded by the National Nuclear Security Administration of the United States Department of Energy
Overview:

A four day NATO SPS sponsored workshop which gathered policy and decision makers, European Commission and NATO experts, researchers and senior officials.

In total more than 60 participants took part in the event.
Objectives and Scope

The ARW was intended to create new and enhance existing synergies between NATO, the US and EU stakeholders in the areas of threat detection, response and consequence assessments associated with nuclear and radiological terrorism.

The workshop was addressed to policy makers, research institutions, responders and emergency response planners to share their expertise, find common approaches, agree on best practices and establish a unique platform to counter in a harmonised and coherent way nuclear and radiological terrorism.
• Organisation

Co-Directors: Carlos Rojas-Palma
       Samuel Apikyan

Organising Committee:
       Ann Heinrich, DoE – NNSA, USA
       Vince McClelland, DoE – NNSA, USA
       Samuel Apikyan, Armenian Science and Technology Center
       Carlos Rojas-Palma, Belgian Nuclear Research Centre
• Main programme

Day 1 - Keynote speeches from EU, US and NATO

Day 1 - Afternoon - Threat/Detection I - current trends and R&D activities

Day 2 - Threat/Detection II - current trends and R&D activities

Day 2 - Afternoon - Creating/strengthening EU, US and NATO synergies on Threat/Detection
Project Description (6)

Day 3 - Response I - current trends and R&D activities

Day 3 - Afternoon - Response II - current trends and R&D activities

Creating/strengthening EU, US and NATO synergies on Response

Day 4 - Consequence Management I - current trends and R&D activities

Day 4 - Afternoon - Consequence Management II - current trends and R&D activities - Creating/strengthening EU, US and NATO synergies on Consequence Management
Keynote speakers

Joseph Krol, Deputy Administrator for Emergency Operations, National Nuclear Security Administration, DOE

Guy Roberts, Deputy Assistant Secretary General for Weapons of Mass Destruction Policy, Director, Nuclear Policy Directorate

Joaquim Nunes de Almeida, Head of Unit, European Commission, Directorate D - Internal Security and Criminal Justice. Fight against terrorism, trafficking in and exploitation of human beings, and law enforcement cooperation.
The workshop provided an excellent platform for the exchange of ideas and provided opportunity for the creation of synergies thus, it was labeled as a successful event (cfr. NNSA press release)

Although the SME exchange of ideas and know-how was not an issue:

- There was an unavoidable political connotation,
- Many potential contributors did not want to participate unless participants, venue and topics were classified =><= SPS programme.
- Need to be more strict with the selection of participants
November 20, 2008

United States Joins NATO at Nuclear Emergency Response Workshop

BRUSSELS, Belgium – The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) supported an international nuclear emergency response workshop that ended today in Brussels, Belgium. More than 60 representatives from the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), NATO member countries, the European Union, the United States and the former Soviet Union participated.

“This workshop shows that the world is united in its efforts to combat nuclear terrorism,” said Joseph Krol, NNSA associate administrator for emergency operations at the exercise.

The Advanced Research Workshop on Threat Detection, Response and Consequence Management Associated with Nuclear and Radiological Terrorism was intended to bring together experts from a wide array of organizations that would respond to a potential nuclear or radiological incident.

Associate Administrator Krol gave an opening address on NNSA’s work in this area. He and other NNSA officials also demonstrated some of the equipment used as the nation's premier responder to any nuclear or radiological incident within the United States or broad.
Way Forward – SPS CBRN

• Please elaborate on the following issues, including:

  • *What research in CBRN Defence requires urgent and substantial attention?* Cross-fertilisation to address civilian requirements, i.a., preparedness and resilience to CBRN incidents

  • *What should be the focus of the SPS Programme in CBRN Defence?* Harmonisation and avoid effort duplication (EC SME = NATO SME)

  • *Ideas for potential SPS activities in the CBRN field (according to your expertise)* To provide the possibility to organise similar events addressing the above mentioned bullets but in a secured environment to facilitate dialog