

EFNDT WG 5 and the 11th ECNDT**Session committed to Public Security
and Safety at the 11th ECNDT 2014**

Dear Colleagues,

As mentioned in my previous letter, a new aspect has been raised pertaining to the putative misuse of NDT technologies, i.e. a security matter. It is the secure handling of radioactive sources for industrial radiography. While concerns about the potential misuse have to be taken seriously on one hand, this should not allow any rules leading to prevent their use on the other hand. This inevitably would raise other risks.

As a consequence, the beneficial use and the potential of misusing have carefully being balanced. Since the recent MATEST conference in Zagreb in October last year, the matter of rare events has explicitly been added to the subject of the EFNDT Working Group 5. Doubtlessly the consequences of a misuse of sealed radiation sources could be considered as a rare event. It should remain far from common. By the same time, their genuine practical application is also directed to certain rare events, though of another nature, i.e. flaws that could lead to disastrous events, but nevertheless occurring rarely (at least they should).

In this context, it is now the NDT-community's term to proof the indispensability of radioactive sources with practical examples while those committed to radiation safety also have to demonstrate, beside the necessity of certain regulations, ways of their unhampered application to reduce rather obvious risks. Any exaggerated restrictive rule would make inevitably those who have established them responsible for the possible consequences of undetected signatures indicating a fatal event.

To facilitate this discussion on balancing these two aspects the 11th ECNDT congress in Prague in October 2014 with a dedicated EFNDT WG 5 session (<http://ecndt2014.com>) will provide an excellent opportunity for this purpose. There is still time to submit an abstract until the end of March. Everyone taking an interest in bridging public security with technical safety with a bunch of technologies with a beneficial potential for both sides will be welcome, independently from being a member of the NDT-community or not. In particular, people committed to radiation safety are sincerely welcome to participate. This pertains to numerous areas such as critical infrastructure protection, aviation and transport security, cargo inspection as e.g. requested by the U.S. H.R.1 regulation etc.

Looking forward to seeing you at the 11th ECNDT Conference in Prague on 6th to 10th October 2014

Kind regards

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