

## **New Association Established**

### **ERDO Association for Multinational Radioactive Waste Solutions**

**After more than ten years of preparation, organizations from various European countries join forces and set up a multinational Association: ERDO. Before its establishment, the organizations worked together in the ERDO Working Group, which involved the cooperation between eight countries with smaller amounts of radioactive waste. The aim of the ERDO Association is to work together to address the common challenges of safely managing the long-lived radioactive wastes in our countries and to carry out the necessary groundwork to enable the establishment of one or more operational, shared multinational waste management solutions. That goal is a step closer with the new Association.**

The Association was established on January 7 in Vlissingen, the Netherlands by the signing of the articles of association by Dansk Dekommissionering (Dekom) from Denmark, NND from Norway and COVRA from the Netherlands – done by remote videoconference, owing to Covid. Other organizations from the working group will join the association over the coming weeks. In addition to NND, Dekom and COVRA, further working group members involved in the recent preparatory work to establish ERDO are: ARAO from Slovenia, Bundesministerium für Landwirtschaft, Regionen und Tourismus from Austria, ENEA from Italy and Fond-NEK from Croatia.

The new Association will allow organizations to work more closely together on the common challenges in managing radioactive waste safely by sharing knowledge, implementing joint projects and promoting multinational waste management solutions internationally. The association secretariat is located in the COVRA office in Nieuwdorp. The founding Board members are: Ewoud Verhoef (COVRA, President), Ole Kastbjerg Nielsen (Dekom, Vice President) and Håvard Kristiansen (NND, Treasurer).

#### **Background**

All countries in Europe have radioactive waste that has to be managed safely. This involves building deep underground geological repositories. This is currently recognized to be the only safe and secure way to dispose of these wastes without burdening future generations. In addition to working towards a national geological repository, some countries are also exploring the possibility of sharing a multinational repository: a so-called a dual-track policy. Over the past decade 11 organisations have worked in the ERDO Working Group on the development of the dual-track policy in Europe. The ERDO Working Group was created in 2009, following the preparatory based on the outcome of SAPIERR projects: these were feasibility studies into multinational disposal in Europe, organised by the Arius Association and funded by the European Commission.

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Note for editors:

For more information, see the attached PDF of the ERDO flyer, or contact Ewoud Verhoef at: 0113-616 666 or [info@covra.nl](mailto:info@covra.nl).