

EXCHANGE OF VIEWS BETWEEN THE
TRADE UNION ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE OECD (TUAC)
AND THE BUREAU OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE
FOR NUCLEAR ENERGY

Tuesday, 25 February 2003 –

TUAC Bullet Point Issues Expressed at the Meeting:

- a) The NEA should orient its activities so as to promote the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) for the integration of the three pillars of sustainable development. Despite the few references about nuclear power in the WSSD text, the nuclear industry should be encouraged to better integrate the social dimension within its undertakings.
- b) In particular the social dimension should be integrated within research and development programmes related to nuclear power and the use of sustainability impact assessments should be encouraged as an ongoing tool of the agency.
- c) Employment and social transition issues should be a priority for the agency. Employment impacts of all phases of nuclear development should be well understood and addressed before the implementation of plans. This is especially true for the decommissioning of operations.
- d) The NEA should be encouraged to work closely with the International Energy Agency (IEA) to ensure proper sharing of knowledge, skill and technology with nuclear power development outside OECD countries. Further, the NEA should be encouraged to work with TUAC and BIAC in developing programmes of actions aimed at ensuring that other entities, like the IEA and other inter-governmental bodies both develop better standards with respect to the social dimensions and fulfill their commitments with respect to safety.
- e) Radiological protection of workers and communities should be a high priority of the NEA and it should work with stakeholders to ensure that it remain a high priority of the IEA also and that the reduction of worker and public dose limits be sought on an ongoing basis;.
- f) The NEA should be supported in efforts to develop sufficient levels of nuclear education and training so as to ensure the availability of a critical mass of skill at all times for the guarantee of nuclear power safety in all aspects of development. This is particularly important where the current generation of skilled workers must soon be replaced by a younger generation;
- g) The NEA should encourage and facilitate more in depth research into problems associated with radioactive waste and disposal, including identifying alternative approaches to using nuclear power.

- h) Efforts should be taken with stakeholders and Governments to ensure that nuclear energy not become an instrument for terrorism, aggression, or otherwise used as a tool for repression or war:
- i) As a government funded body the NEA should not promote the use of nuclear power but rather provide the necessary expertise and knowledge to governments and stakeholders to ensure its safety and to provide quality information for public decision-making. This is especially true of discussions taking place at the UNFCCC regarding climate change;
- j) The NEA should strongly uphold the role of government in energy planning, education, and in establishing frameworks and controls for infrastructure, management and operations of nuclear power development and uses;
- k) The NEA should be encouraged to improve communications with the public and stakeholders about its work and programmes. It should seek to increase transparency of its own activities and of the activities of all actors in the nuclear power industry and involve stakeholders in decision-making.