

## HERCA Working Group on Medical Applications - activities relating to implementation of the European Basic Safety Standards (BSS) Directive

HERCA - Heads of European Radiological protection Competent Authorities

For more information about HERCA, please visit our website [www.herca.org](http://www.herca.org); Contact: [secretariat@herca.org](mailto:secretariat@herca.org)

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### HERCA as an Organisation

The Heads of European Radiological Protection Competent Authorities (HERCA) was founded in 2007 on the initiative of the French *Autorité de sûreté nucléaire* (ASN). It is a voluntary association in which the heads of the Radiation Protection Authorities work together in order to identify common interests in significant regulatory issues and provides practical solutions for these issues. The uniqueness of HERCA is that it is composed of the heads of organisations that either have decision-making capacity or significant influence on policy and decisions within their countries.

### HERCA Working Group on Medical Applications (WG MA)

The HERCA Working Group on Medical Applications (WG MA) covers all radiation protection issues concerning the medical applications of ionising radiation for diagnosis and treatment. Its activities are conducted as work packages and include discussions, surveys, hosting stakeholder meetings and publishing position papers on key issues.

### Justification

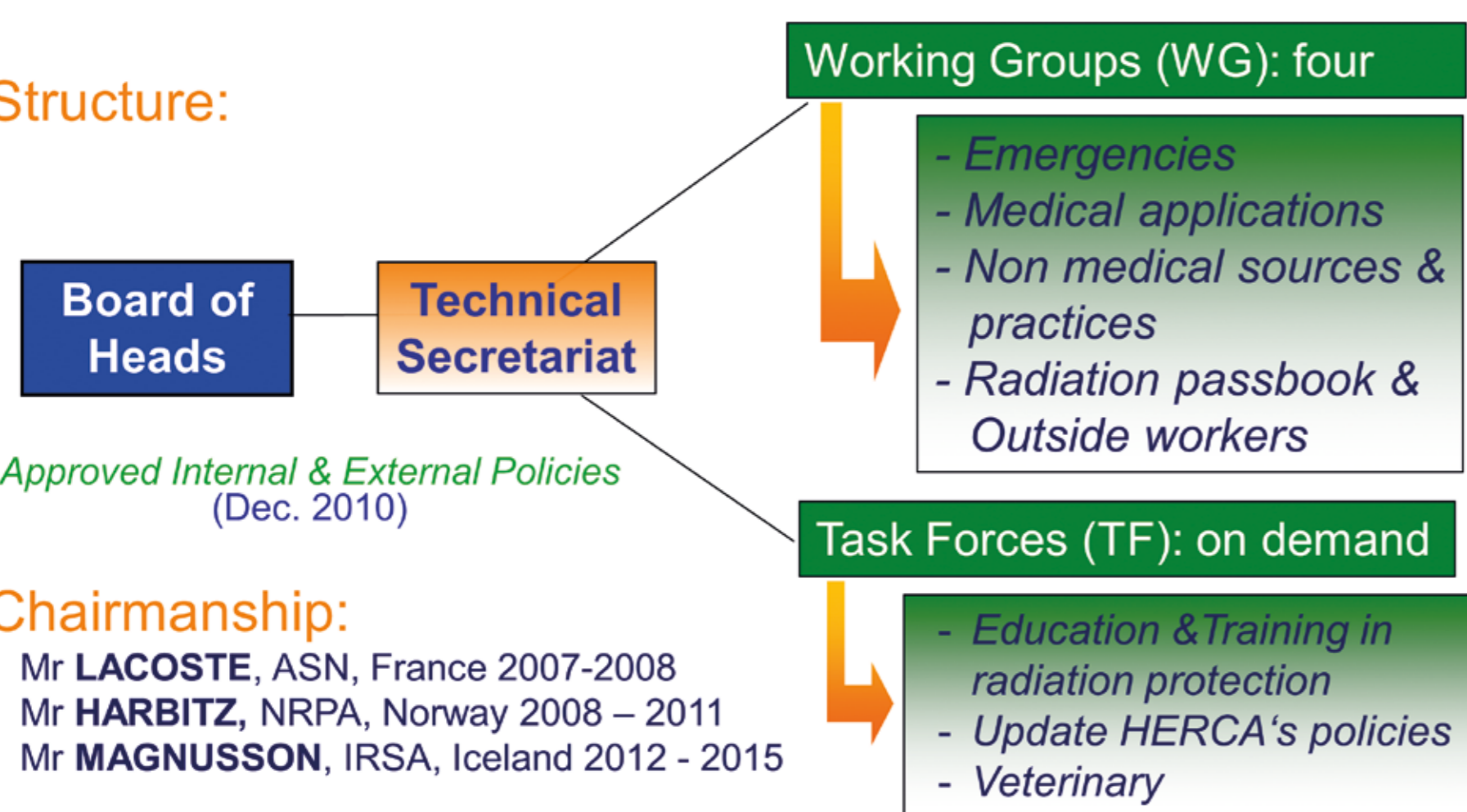
HERCA WG MA has already produced a position paper and addendum on individual justification (at ICRP level III), addressing conceptual and practical matters, and also on individual health assessment. It will continue and extend its work in this area under a specific work package, meeting and working with key stakeholders to develop an approach centred on voluntary commitments. This approach is intended to improve justification of diagnostic medical exposures through collaborative and coordinated initiatives.

## HERCA as an Organisation

### Participation:

51 Radiation Protection Agencies from 31 European countries (including the 28 EU States).

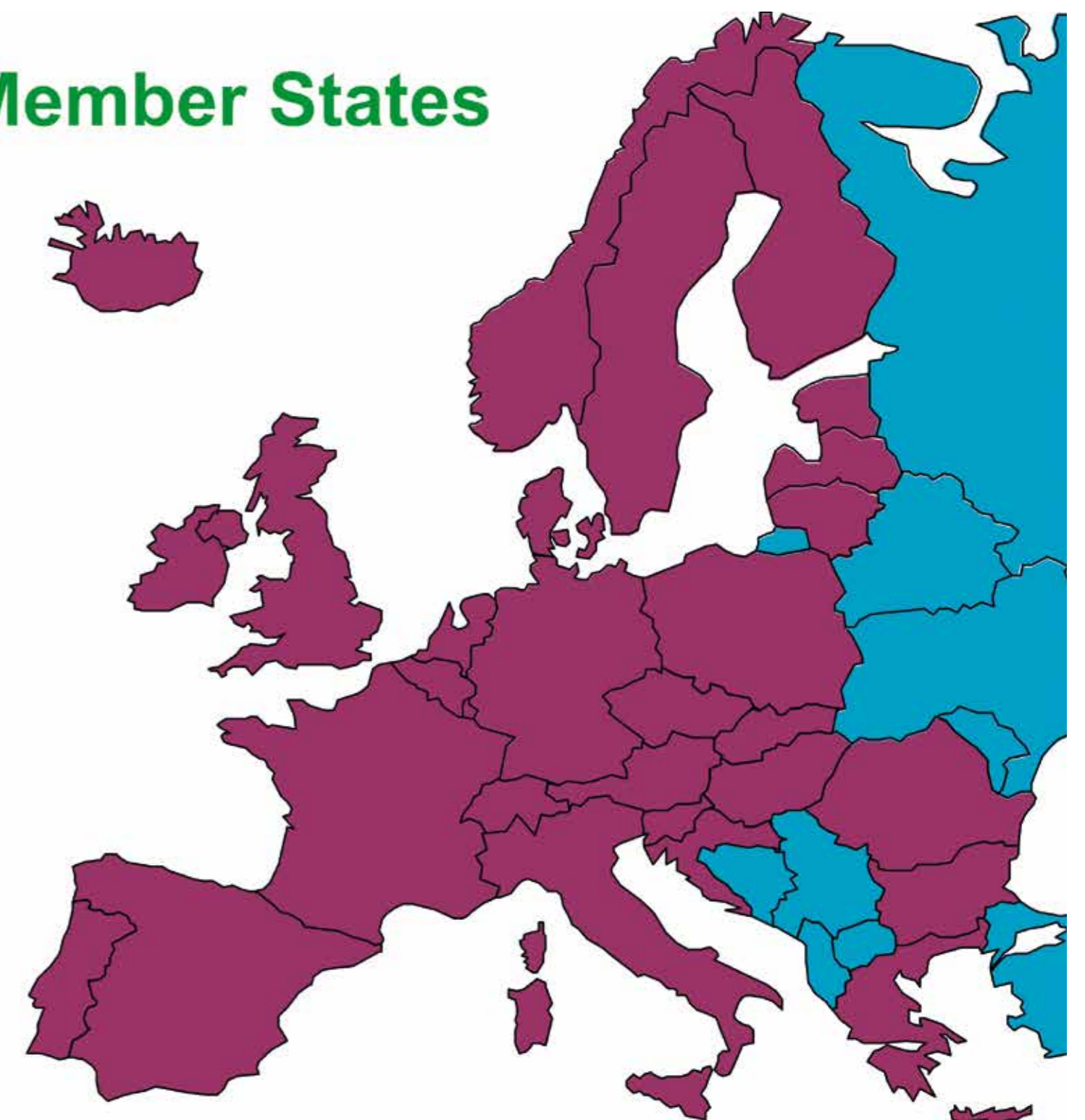
### Structure:



### Chairmanship:

Mr LACOSTE, ASN, France 2007-2008  
Mr HARBITZ, NRPA, Norway 2008 – 2011  
Mr MAGNUSSON, IRSA, Iceland 2012 - 2015

## HERCA Member States



### Activities relating to transposition of the BSS Directive

The publication on January 17, 2014 of the latest European Basic Safety Standards Directive – 2013/59/Euratom – will result in changes of national legislation and regulation across Europe. While many of its members were involved in the negotiations leading to agreement on the content of the Directive, HERCA itself has no statutory role in relation to the transposition of the Euratom BSS Directive as this is addressed to Member States. Nevertheless, HERCA can be a positive force in the process by:

- » Acting as a platform to identify and discuss practical and technical regulatory problems
- » Exploring a common understanding of new requirements and common approaches including providing guidance where appropriate and feasible
- » Informing the transposition process by being a resource for competent authorities
- » Acting as an interested stakeholder with the European Commission
- » Adding value to areas involving trans-boundary processes

Within this context, HERCA WG MA has identified for discussion five thematic areas which include additional or new requirements:

- » Justification at levels II and III, including consideration of occupational and public exposure when considering justification of types or classes of exposure (Articles 19 and 55)
- » Notification of significant events relating to accidental and intended exposures including consideration of exposures that are less than intended (Articles 63 and 96)
- » Medical equipment and in particular the availability and transfer of information about parameters relating to assessment of dose (Articles 60)
- » Procedures relating to incorporation of information relating to patient exposure in the report of the medical radiological procedure (Article 58b)
- » Education and training relating to continuing education on radiological practice as well as radiation protection (Article 18)

### Notification of significant events

In 2014, the HERCA Board of Heads agreed a second work package on the notification of significant events to competent authorities following accidental and unintended exposures. A key area for discussion with professional bodies and organisations will be the difference between these incidents and others which are considered to be clinically significant, which will need to be analysed and shared with the referring physician, the radiological practitioner and the patient or their representative. This subject is likely to be addressed in 2016 during a workshop convened by HERCA WG MA involving a range of medical, clinical and scientific societies. It is hoped this work will be completed in 2016.

### Other activities

HERCA WG MA will begin work on the remaining thematic areas during 2015 as part of its biannual meetings.