

No. 18951

**FRANCE
and
SWITZERLAND**

Agreement on exchanges of information in the event of accidents involving radiological risks. Signed at Paris on 18 October 1979

Authentic text: French.

Registered by France on 27 June 1980.

**FRANCE
et
SUISSE**

Accord sur les échanges d'informations en cas d'accident pouvant avoir des conséquences radiologiques. Signé à Paris le 18 octobre 1979

Texte authentique : français.

Enregistré par la France le 27 juin 1980.

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

AGREEMENT¹ BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC AND THE SWISS FEDERAL COUNCIL ON EXCHANGES OF INFORMATION IN THE EVENT OF ACCIDENTS INVOLVING RADIOLOGICAL RISKS

The Government of the French Republic, and the Swiss Federal Council,
Considering the need to ensure the effectiveness of their respective arrangements to protect the populations in emergencies involving radiological risks,
Have agreed as follows:

Article 1. The Contracting Parties shall promptly notify each other of emergencies involving radiological risks that arise in their territory as a result of civilian activities and that may affect the other country.

Article 2. The Contracting Parties shall establish and maintain in service an appropriate system for the exchange of information.

Article 3. Specifically, mutual early warning centres shall be established as needed, in France in the prefectures of the frontier departments and in Switzerland at the central monitoring station of the Swiss Institute of Meteorology in Zurich.

Article 4. The Contracting Parties shall ensure the maintenance of liaison between the early warning centres. Any changes involving the early warning centres which might affect the appropriate and speedy transmission of information to the neighbouring country shall be reported to the other Party through the diplomatic channel.

Article 5. The mutual information system shall be capable of receiving and transmitting on a 24-hour basis any information relating to an emergency involving radiological risks.

Article 6. The transmission networks from the potential sources of incidents or accidents to the early warning centre of the Party concerned and from there to the early warning centre of the other party shall be tested regularly, at least once a year.

Article 7. The operation of the transmission network shall preclude the transmission of erroneous information, by permitting confirmation to be sought from the early warning centre transmitting the information.

Article 8. Information about emergencies shall include all available data for risk assessment, including:

- Date, hour and place of the occurrence,
- Nature of the occurrence,

¹ Came into force on 13 December 1979, the date of the last of the notifications (effected on 18 October and 13 December 1979) by which the Parties had informed each other that the national requirements had been met, in accordance with article 14.

- Characteristics of any radiation present (nature, physical and chemical form and, to the extent possible, amount of radioactive substances emitted),
- Expected course of the radiation as a function of time,
- Nature of the transfer medium (air and/or water),
- Meteorological and hydrological data that could be used to predict the course of the radiation in space.

Article 9. The information on emergencies shall be supplemented by available data concerning the measures taken or envisaged to protect the population of the country concerned.

Article 10. Information concerning the development of the situation on both sides, particularly concerning the end of the emergency, shall be the subject of supplementary transmissions.

Article 11. In an emergency as defined in article 1, and if the two Parties agree that it is advisable, each Party may appoint one person as a correspondent in the territory of the other Party. The Parties shall make every effort to facilitate the correspondent's task. He shall be authorized to transmit the information collected to the relevant services of his own State.

Article 12. For emergencies not covered by the provisions of article 1 that arise in the territory of one of the Parties and may involve radiological risks in the territory of the other Party, the information procedure stipulated in the provisions of this Agreement shall also apply, except that information concerning data involving military secrets shall not be communicated.

Article 13. The competence of the authorities to implement this Agreement shall be governed by the national law of the Contracting States.

Article 14. This Agreement shall enter into force on the date when the Contracting Parties notify each other that the national requirements for its entry into force have been met. It may be denounced at any time by one of the Parties; the denunciation shall take effect six months after notification to the other Party.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the representative of the two Governments, duly authorized for that purpose, have signed the present Agreement.

DONE at Paris, on 18 October 1979, in duplicate in the French language.

For the Government
of the French Republic:

[Signed]

BRUNO DE LEUSSE DE SYON
Ambassador of France

For the Swiss Federal Council:

[Signed]

FRANÇOIS DE ZIEGLER
Ambassador of Switzerland
in Paris