

No. 27482

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**FRANCE  
and  
SWITZERLAND**

**Agreement on exchanges of information in the event of incidents or accidents involving radiological risks. Signed at Berne on 30 November 1989**

*Authentic text: French.*

*Registered by France on 7 August 1990.*

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**FRANCE  
et  
SUISSE**

**Accord sur les échanges d'informations en cas d'incident, ou d'accident pouvant avoir des conséquences radiologiques. Signé à Berne le 30 novembre 1989**

*Texte authentique : français.*

*Enregistré par la France le 7 août 1990.*

## [TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

AGREEMENT<sup>1</sup> BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC AND THE SWISS FEDERAL COUNCIL ON EXCHANGES OF INFORMATION IN THE EVENT OF INCIDENTS OR ACCIDENTS INVOLVING RADIOLOGICAL RISKS

The Government of the French Republic and  
The Swiss Federal Council,

Bearing in mind the provisions envisaged in the international Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident, adopted at Vienna on 26 September 1986,<sup>2</sup>

Desiring to establish ties of mutual confidence between the two countries and to ensure the effectiveness of their respective arrangements to protect the populations in emergencies involving transboundary radiological risks,

Desiring to strengthen their exchange of information regarding the operation of specific nuclear facilities,

Have agreed as follows:

*Article 1*

The Contracting Parties shall promptly notify each other of any accident involving radiological risks that occur in their territory as a result of civilian activities and that may affect the other country.

*Article 2*

In addition to the provisions envisaged for the implementation of the international Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident, adopted at Vienna on 26 September 1986, the Contracting Parties shall establish and maintain in a service a special mutual information system in the event of emergencies involving:

- The le Bugey, Fessenheim and Creys-Malville power stations in France;
- The Mühleberg, Leibstadt, Gösgen and Beznau power stations in Switzerland;
- The transport of radioactive materials in the French departments bordering on Switzerland and the Swiss cantons bordering on France.

*Article 3*

Mutual early warning centres shall be established as needed, in France at the Operations Centre of the Civil Defence Office in Paris, and in Switzerland at the National Warning Centre in Zurich.

*Article 4*

The Contracting Parties shall ensure the maintenance of liaison between these early warning centres. Any change involving either centre which might affect the

<sup>1</sup> Came into force on 18 January 1990, the date on which the Contracting Parties informed each other of the completion of the national requirements, in accordance with article 15.

<sup>2</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1439, No. I-24404.

speedy transmission of information shall be reported by that centre in writing without delay to the other centre.

*Article 5*

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

*Article 6*

To that end, the necessary transmission networks shall operate continuously, their reliability shall be tested periodically and appropriate procedures shall be established to ensure their smooth operation.

*Article 7*

Information about emergencies provided by these mutual early warning centres shall include all available data for risk assessment, including:

- Date, hour and place of the occurrence,
- Nature of the occurrence,
- 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 8*

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 9*

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 10*

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 11*

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 Agree-

ment shall also apply, except that information concerning data involving military secrets shall not be communicated.

*Article 12*

The Contracting Parties, desiring to spare their populations any unnecessary concern, shall also inform each other of any incident not covered in article 1 which might become public knowledge with respect to the French le Bugey, Fessenheim and Creys-Malville power stations in France and the Mühleberg, Leibstadt, Gösgen and Beznau power stations in Switzerland.

*Article 13*

The modalities governing the implementation of this Agreement shall be specified in an exchange of letters between the Government of the French Republic and the Swiss Federal Council.

*Article 14*

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

*Article 15*

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 one year after notification to the other Party.

Upon the entry into force of this Agreement, the Agreement of 18 October 1979 between the Government of the French Republic and the Swiss Federal Council on exchanges of information in the event of accidents involving radiological risks<sup>1</sup> and the exchange of notes of 25 March 1985 and 15 January 1987 between the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Swiss Embassy in Paris, concerning information regarding the “Superphoenix” breeder reactor at Creys-Malville, shall be abrogated.

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

DONE at Berne, on 30 November 1989, in duplicate in the French language.

For the Government  
of the French Republic:

[PHILIPPE CUVILLIER]

For the Swiss Federal Council:

[RENÉ FELBER]

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<sup>1</sup>United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1183, p. 207.