

END OF YEAR AND NEW YEAR GREETINGS FROM THE OUTGOING AND INCOMING ERA PRESIDENTS

James Mc Laughlin (2014-2017)

and

Wolfgang Ringer (2018-2019)

Dear Member, we wish to take this opportunity to wish you a happy and prosperous New Year and to highlight some of the activities of ERA during 2017 and to outline the plans of ERA for 2018.

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SUMMARY OF ERA ACTIVITIES IN 2017 (James Mc Laughlin)

ERA RADON WORKSHOP

The VIth Annual ERA Radon Workshop on the theme of “Radon Risk Communication” took place in Sofia, Bulgaria on May 16th 2017 in conjunction with the TEERAS 2017 Conference May 15-19 (www.teeras.com). This was organised by Professor Dobromir Pressyanov of the University of Sofia who is a member of the ERA Executive Committee (EC).

ROOMS MEETINGS

ERA has been a strong supporter of the ROOMS (Radon Outcomes on Mitigation Solutions) series of meetings for a number of years. This year has been no exception and many ERA members actively participated in the ROOMS meeting organised locally by EPA Ireland and the National University of Ireland Galway (NUIG) which was held in Galway on October 18-19.

TRAINING COURSES

While ERA did not organise a radon training course in 2017 at present discussions on providing radon training courses are ongoing between ERA and the Radiation Protection Unit of IAEA in the context of the IAEA Radon Action Project. It should also be noted that IAEA recognises ERA and its membership as a resource of radon experts for its own training courses. A good example of this was the radon training course held in Ciudad Rodrigo, Spain in November



2017. This IAEA supported training course was organised by the radon group of the University of Cantabria led by Professor Luis Quindos who is a member of the ERA Executive Committee.

COIRA

COIRA is the Coalition of International Radon Associations of which ERA was a founding member association. COIRA is presently organising an international intercomparison project between radon laboratories in North America and Europe. It is anticipated that this project will commence in 2018. COIRA planning meetings for this project took place this year in Canada in April and in the US in October which were held in conjunction with the annual conferences of CARST (Canadian Association of Radon Scientists and Technologists) and AARST (American Association of Radon Scientists and Technologists) respectively. At both of these meetings ERA was represented by the ERA President, Secretary and by Martin Freeman, ERA EC Member. It is of interest to note that recently Prof. Shinji Tokonami, Hirotsuki University, Japan has expressed an interest in participating in the COIRA intercomparison.

EUROPEAN RADON DAY (ERD)

As you may know in 2015 the ERA Executive Committee designated November 7th (birthday of Marie-Sklodowska Curie) as European Radon Day (ERD). This year on November 7th the 3rd ERD took place and was marked by the holding of radon publicity activities in a number of European countries (i.e public awareness actions, press releases, radio and TV interviews etc). With the objective of improving the effectiveness of ERD in the future we would like to compile and analyse information on this year's ERD activities. Therefore we would greatly appreciate receiving from you information on ERD activities this year in your own country. Please submit any such information to: secretary@radoneurope.org

ERA VIDEO

Rebecca Coates of PropertECO Ltd (UK) who is a member of our Executive Committee took the initiative in 2017, which was financially supported by ERA, to design and produce a short video giving basic information on radon, its health effects and its control. While the original video was in English versions in French, German and Spanish have now been produced and will shortly be available for use.

ERA AWARD 2017.

I am pleased to inform you that the 2017 ERA Award has been presented to Dr Zora S. Žunić, Vinča Institute of Nuclear Sciences, Belgrade. This award, which is richly deserved, has been made in recognition of her outstanding and pioneering contributions, often in very difficult situations, in her investigations of the exposure of the population of Serbia to radon.

ELECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (2018-2019).

In accordance with the ERA Statutes the term of office of all members of the existing Executive Committee will end in a few days time on December 31st 2017. The process of electing the new Executive Committee to take office on January 1st 2018 was completed on May 17th. Subsequent to this the new Executive Committee had an internal election to elect its four

officers: President, Vice–President, Secretary and Treasurer. (Having completed two terms as President, which is the maximum permitted by the ERA Statutes, I could not be a candidate for incoming President.) The results of both elections are available on our website. I take this opportunity to wish every success to our incoming President Wolfgang Ringer and to assure him of my support in his period of office.

With my best regards,

James (Jim) Mc Laughlin

OUTLINE OF ERA PLANS FOR 2018 (Wolfgang Ringer)

Let me start with a big “Thank you” to James (Jim) Mc Laughlin for having been such a great President of ERA! To lead a new association through its childhood is certainly a big task but Jim, being appreciated as radon expert and personality worldwide, was certainly the right person for that task. The past four years were promising. ERA has been growing and is now a well-recognised association. I appreciate that Jim is willing to continue to serve ERA as a member of the Executive Committee.

2018 will see the bringing into force of the European Union Basic Safety Standards (EU BSS) Directive in Radiation Protection into the national legislation of the EU Member States. This will initiate a new period in radon protection with ERA being part of it! New challenges will have to be met and I expect the European radon community to grow. ERA will welcome all new radon colleagues and serve as a platform for the exchange of knowledge and networking.

In the coming year, I think we need to work on the following three main challenges:

Striving for strong cohesion and solidarity

ERA aims to unite the different stakeholders in radon protection, from authorities and universities to companies with commercial interest. I believe that keeping ERA attractive to all stakeholders and to make sure that the expectations of all members are met will be an important task.

Providing training and knowledge transfer

There will be an increasing demand for training for radon professionals and for knowledge transfer. In 2018, the “ERA Radon Week” will take place for the first time. On the first two days a basic training course on radon control in buildings will be provided. The annual ERA workshop will take place on Wednesday, followed by the ROOMS meeting on Thursday and Friday. The first ERA Radon Week will take place in Lugano, Switzerland, from 24 – 28 Sep 2018. Many thanks to the Radon Competence Centre at SUPSI for organising that event!

Working together

There are many other tasks that need to be tackled in the next year. We shall set up working groups to address those tasks. Already at this stage I kindly invite you to participate and to provide your ideas and feedback!



But before doing all that, let us step back for a moment, reflecting on those things that are so much more important than work and progress. I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May you appreciate that special time of the year with your family and friends!

Best regards,

Wolfgang Ringer