NFLA meets IMO Secretary-General

NFLA representatives and independent marine pollution consultant Tim Deere-Jones met with the Secretary-General and senior officers of the UN’s International Maritime Organisation (IMO).

The meeting discussed the NFLA’s report on the ‘Atlantic Cartier’ fire incident and concerns it has over the regulation of certain type of vessels transporting radioactive materials.

The meeting provided a useful discussion on the role of the IMO and their interaction with national governments.

An interim report on the ‘Atlantic Cartier’ fire incident has uncovered a number of key safety deficiencies that the NFLA will seek further clarification on.

NFLA is also working with KIMO International over joint concerns around proposed rad-waste shipments from Dounreay to Sellafield. A media release on this matter can be found on the NFLA website.

Bike for Peace / Mayors for Peace joint tour of Scotland

The NFLA Secretary, in his role as UK & Ireland Mayors for Peace WG Secretary, assisted the Norwegian group ‘Bike for Peace’ in a highly successful cycling tour of central Scotland.

The tour follows on from the Bike for Peace world tour, which commenced in Manchester in March and also took in Coventry and London.

A meeting with Bill Kidd MSP, an Executive member of PNND, was also held.

Bike for Peace is looking to hold future tours in Iran, Pakistan, Burma, Russia and the US, leading in to next years NPT Review Conference. A joint press release can be found on the NFLA website.
**NFLA co-ordinates joint Trident letter published in 2 papers**

The NFLA Secretariat co-ordinated a joint letter from leading disarmament groups raising disappointment with the final report of the Trident Commission. Whether the Trident weapons system should be renewed.

While there are a number of welcome recommendations in the report, its final, main conclusion that Trident should be renewed disappointed a number of disarmament groups. The letter argued the Commissioners should lead calls for more concerned efforts at nuclear disarmament. It was co-signed by the NFLA Chair and leading figures in Greenpeace, CND, ICAN-UK, Medact, NIS, SGR and Article 36. A media release on the letter is on the NFLA website & The Guardian & Independent websites.

**NFLA responds to Irish Government’s Energy Paper**

The NFLA Secretariat has submitted a detailed response to the Irish Government’s review of its future energy policy.

The NFLA argue that the economics and technical issues with such reactors do not make them an attractive proposition, and Ireland would still have to develop an expensive regulatory regime. NFLA also argue that it would divert resources away from renewable energy production. It argues Ireland could become a major leader in such projects and increase its energy security. It advocates that Irish Councils are encouraged to be part of a future energy solution in promoting renewables and energy efficiency. The report is on the NFLA website.

**NFLA plans its upcoming national Forum meetings**

The dates and locations of the four NFLA Forums meetings in autumn are being finalised.

NFLA Scotland will meet in Perth in late October with an energy seminar. The NFLA English Forum is looking to hold a seminar in Oxford on nuclear weapons issues and the NFLA Welsh Forum will meet in Cardiff on Welsh nuclear matters.

A meeting of the NFLA All Ireland Forum in Dublin on key nuclear / energy issues is also being arranged.

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**NFLA media releases**

**July 2014:** *(On NFLA website.)*

- NFLA / KIMO concern over proposed Dounreay shipments
- NFLA’s views on Government radwaste White Paper
- NFLA welcome Bike for Peace tour around Scotland
- NFLA meet with IMO SG over nuclear transportation issues
- NFLA supports joint letter on Trident Commission report

**NFLA INITIAL VIEW**

**ON THE UK GOVERNMENT’S WHITE PAPER ON ‘IMPLEMENTING GEOLOGICAL DISPOSAL’**

In late July 2014, the Government published a White Paper putting forward its views on taking forward a process to build a ‘geological disposal facility.

The NFLA’s initial view was quoted in ‘The Guardian’. Its wider view raises concern over the dilution of the role of Councils, & the risks of a conflict between the ‘voluntarism’ approach and the national infrastructure regime. A full media release is on the NFLA website.
Hiroshima / Nagasaki events planned all over the world

August 6th and 9th will be the 69th anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki A-bombings.

As is usual practice, both cities will be holding moving peace ceremonies in memory of those who have died and to call for peace and a nuclear weapons free world. These are shown on NHK World, which is available online & on Sky Ch 507.

Global events are being planned to show other cities solidarity with Hiroshima & Nagasaki.

Major events will be held across the UK and Ireland: such as in London, Manchester, Glasgow, Leeds, Dublin and at the National Eisteddfod in Llanelli. A major ‘Wool against Weapons’ event will be held on the 9th. It will link the nuclear weapon facilities at Aldermaston & Burghfield by a 7km woollen scarf knitted by peace groups. See the ‘Network for Peace’ website for full details.

IPPR report endorses Councils roles for promoting energy

A report by the think-tank IPPR argues that UK Government policy should facilitate the big cities in the UK to develop more expansive policies to produce decentralised renewable energy and energy efficiency programmes.

The report argues cities are key drivers for local growth and should be able to develop energy service companies.

Access to funds and the structure of such contracts is also outlined in the report.

The NFLA have been developing a similar report, which looks at the process by which Councils can develop such policies. It outlines international examples to follow. It is being formally published on the NFLA website in August.

NFLA welcomes the IPPR report as another example of why local government could be essential to the development of low carbon energy policy.

Forthcoming meetings of interest to NFLA members

NFLA SC, Town Hall, Manchester, 3rd October

UK & Ireland Mayors for Peace Working Group, Town Hall, Manchester, 3rd October

Hiroshima and Nagasaki A-bomb anniversary events – civic events being held around England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland. NFLA Secretariat will email NFLA members with details.

Dates and locations for NFLA England, Scotland, Wales and All Ireland Forum meetings will be announced shortly.