NFLA liases with new Euro Network

The NFLA Chair & NFLA Secretary attended a meeting with staff representing a new Network of European Cities seeking a phasing out of nuclear power in the EU & renewable energy alternatives to nuclear power.

The meeting in Brussels was organised by Vienna Municipality and the Network includes a number of large and influential cities in Germany, UK, Ireland, Belgium, Cyprus and Norway.

The aim of the network is to lobby the European Commission and the European Parliament to amend the Euratom Treaty and raise wider concerns over nuclear safety post Fukushima.

The NFLA Chair also helped to launch an influential exhibition on uranium mining with Vienna councillors and a cross-party panel of MEPs.

The NFLA welcomes this new Network and will seek to work closely with it in the future.

NFLA calls for major reform of emergency plan regulations

The NFLA Secretariat has published a detailed report on the Fukushima disaster and the UK nuclear emergency planning regime.

The briefing outlines the many concerns over failings in both emergency preparedness and response at Fukushima. Developed by the NFLA Secretary, it also extrapolates these to the UK context.

The briefing analyses the current UK ‘REPPR’ nuclear emergency planning guidance and argues for a series of reforms.

It argues emergency planning zones around nuclear sites need to be increased, that there needs to be an increase in training of staff with radiological experience and in the need for ‘live’ realistic exercises. It also raises concerns over security and the transporting of nuclear materials.

The briefing can be found on the NFLA website. The NFLA Secretariat has sent the report to all key agencies.
NFLA media releases September 2012: (On NFLA website.)

- NFLA supports Vienna European cities nuclear safety network
- Manchester hosts ‘Minute of Silence, Moment for Peace’ on International Peace Day
- NFLA Scotland submission on ILW storage in central & southern Scotland
- NFLA nuclear emergency planning briefing outlines the need for a review of the REPPIR regulations
- NFLA welcomes Galway City Council as its newest member

NFLA / Mayors for Peace events on International Peace Day

The NFLA English Forum and NFLA Steering Committee, in association with Mayors for Peace, held a useful and informative seminar and special event to coincide with the UN’s International Day of Peace.

Following a well attended NFLA Steering Committee its members shared a platform to hold a minute’s silence to all innocent victims of war. The ceremony was held in solidarity with other leading Mayors for Peace members across the world like Montreal and Hiroshima.

The afternoon seminar considered prospects for limiting the spread of nuclear and uranium weapons.

Peter Burt of NIS, Doug Weir of ICBUW and the NFLA Secretary were amongst the speakers. The presentations from the seminar and photos from the Peace Day event have been placed on the NFLA website.

Galway City Council joins NFLA & other Irish developments

At a full Council meeting, members of Galway City Council agreed to join the NFLA and become its newest Irish member.

Councillor Connolly of Galway City Council had tabled the resolution to join NFLA due to concerns on radiation risks, the potential risks to Ireland of a nuclear emergency incident in the UK, and the benefits of renewable energy alternatives rather than nuclear power across the island of Ireland.

In early October, the NFLA All Ireland Co-chairs and staff are meeting officials from the Irish Government to discuss its approach and policy towards a major expansion of nuclear energy across the Irish Sea.

Confirmed speakers for its mid October Forum seminar include Down MP Margaret Ritchie and Ciara McMahon from the RPII. The seminar will consider the risks of shale gas.

NFLA submits views on ILW storage in Scotland

The NFLA Secretariat has submitted its views, and developed a model response, for NFLA members on the NDA’s consultation on options for the managing of intermediate level waste at nuclear sites in central and southern Scotland.

The NFLA urges the NDA to use sound environmental principles to monitor such waste and discourages waste transport between sites.

The model response, as a NFLA Radioactive Waste Policy Briefing, can be found on the NFLA website.
NFLA Welsh seminar in Cardiff and UK Government changes

The NFLA Welsh Forum is holding its autumn seminar in Cardiff on the 24th October.

Confirmed speakers for the seminar include Rhodri Glyn Thomas AM, Carl Clowes from PAWB, the NFLA Secretary and Dr Kelvin Mason from Cardiff University.

The NFLA Secretary will also include in his presentation a useful overview of the NFLA nuclear emergency planning briefing.

In the recent UK Government Cabinet reshuffle the new Welsh Secretary David Jones has made development of a new nuclear reactor at Wylfa one of his key priorities.

The new Environment Minister Owen Paterson & the new junior Energy Minister John Hayes have both given public local opposition to wind farms. Energy Secretary Ed Davey is now in overall responsibility of renewable energy.

Hiroshima publish 5 articles to strengthen Mayors for Peace

The Mayors for Peace International Secretariat based in Hiroshima has contacted all Executive cities to provide a 5 point plan to strengthen and improve the rapidly growing organization.

As of September 1st 2012 there are now 5,400 members of Mayors for Peace in 154 countries, representing a worldwide population of around 1 billion people.

The Hiroshima proposal suggests the creation of national chapters and ways to improve the financial underpinning of Mayors for Peace.

The Mayors for Peace will not make final decisions on this plan until full discussion has taken place and it is approved at its four-yearly Conference in Hiroshima in August 2013.

For details on the Mayors for Peace and its varied ‘2020 Vision Campaign’ go to the websites noted on page 1 of this newsletter.

Forthcoming meetings of interest to NFLA members

- **NFLA All Ireland Forum, Down Civic Centre, Downpatrick, 12th October.**

- **NFLA Welsh Forum, Cardiff County Hall, 24th October.**

- **NFLA Scotland Forum, Manchester Town Hall, 7th December.**

- **NFLA Steering Committee and AGM, Manchester Town Hall, 7th December.**

- **NFLA 2012 Annual Policy Seminar, hosted by the NFLA English Forum, Manchester Town Hall, 7th December.**