

## **Comments on HLEG Draft Report**

SCK-CEN, Belgium

Dear Madam, dear Sir,

You will find hereunder the comment of the radiobiology group from SCK-CEN (Belgian Nuclear Research Centre) concerning the draft of the HLEG. We feel that the hereditary effects are almost not pointed out within the report and would like to add the following sentences, in the non-cancer part (pages 19 and 20) :

"Recent animal studies have pointed to the role of genetic factors in the susceptibility to radiation-induction of developmental effects. Such studies should be pursued, with particular emphasis on the induction of congenital anomalies. Transgenerational effects after irradiation of very early embryos are an other matter of concern, as recent data suggested that gene expression and viability could be significantly altered in embryos issued from mouse females irradiated with moderate dosis of x-rays soon after fertilization. Moreover, the use of higher doses of radiation during that period of high sensitivity was shown to be able to result into a chromosomal instability and an increase of the frequency of congenital anomalies in the exposed generation as well as in the next generation".

Thank you very much for the HLEG initiative and for letting the scientists react to the report.

Regards,

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