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PRESS RELEASE

Regulators Work With Medical Industry on Radiation Protection

BRUSSELS – 09 January 2012 – Putting patient safety first is a priority for both HERCA, the association of the Heads of European Radiological Protection Competent Authorities and, COCIR, the European trade association representing the medical imaging, electromedical and healthcare IT industry, who are working together to address concerns related to radiation exposure in computed tomography (CT). At the initiative of HERCA, COCIR CT manufacturers have developed voluntary commitments contributing to the reduction of CT dose which have been welcomed by HERCA.

With more than 60 million CT scans performed in Europe annually, CT is a pivotal technology in healthcare which has proven for almost 40 years its great benefit in diagnosis and treatment of an increasingly wide range of diseases. However, the growing use of this technology has contributed to a significant increase in the average medical radiation exposure to the population, which raises radiation protection concerns.

Over the years, manufacturers of CT equipment have introduced new products and system innovations that have the potential of reducing radiation doses from many procedures by up to 75 percent, while maintaining diagnostic image quality. Nevertheless, CT manufacturers are willing to work through continuous improvement, and together with Authorities and other stakeholders to optimize the use of this technology.

Nicole Denjoy, COCIR Secretary General, and Ole Harbitz, Chairman of HERCA, both want to underline the importance of the voluntary commitment of the CT Manufacturers as a promising step towards furthering our common goal of CT patient dose optimization. The aim is to offer patients maximal benefits from the industry's cutting-edge medical technologies, whilst minimizing their radiation exposure.

For more information, contact:

Nicole Denjoy
COCIR Secretary General
Tel: +32 (0)2 706 8961
denjoy@cocir.org

Kathryn Sheridan
COCIR Communications Advisor
Tel: +32 (0)496 116198
press@cocir.org

Olvido Guzmán
HERCA Secretariat
Tel: + 33 (0)140198764
olvido.guzman@asn.fr