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The 24th meeting of HERCA, the Association of European Regulatory Authorities in the field of radiation protection, began today in Rome. Established in 2007 on the initiative of the French Nuclear Safety Authority (ASN), the HERCA brings together 56 radiation protection authorities from 32 European countries. The last HERCA meeting took place in Liverpool (UK) in 2018.

After the inaugural greetings by the director of ISIN, Maurizio Pernice, and the President of HERCA, Karla Petrová, the representatives of the Working Groups will present the results of the activities carried out over the past year. During the two days of work, various issues of common interest related to radiation protection will therefore be addressed: from medical applications to emergency response, from veterinary applications to the use of sources in research and industry, from exposure to natural sources to training for those who work in the sector.

HERCA's activities are aimed at achieving the highest level of radiological protection possible in Europe. This, thanks to the construction of a network consisting of the main regulatory authorities in the field of radiation protection and the promotion of the exchange of ideas and experiences.

"We believe in the importance of HERCA's objectives," said Pernice during his introductory speech, clarifying: "Thanks to scientific and technological development, much can still be done in the field of radiological protection. The development of a common approach to radiation protection and the way in which it is incorporated into national legislation, represents an indispensable tool to achieve these objectives".

HERCA's work will continue tomorrow and will conclude with the planning of upcoming meetings and activities to be carried out within the Working Groups.

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