

Opening speech - President, P. Majerus, Ministry of Health Luxembourg

Dear representatives, Dear colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to welcome you all to this first public meeting on the Post-Fukushima - Stress Tests Peer Review, commonly organized by the European Nuclear Safety Regulators Group (ENSREG), the European Commission and the Stress Test Peer Review Board.

My name is Patrick Majerus from the Ministry of Health, Luxembourg. It is my pleasure and honour to open the today's meeting.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This is an important meeting. When the specifications of the European Stress Test were organized, one of the primary interests was the involvement of stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations and the public. Today's seminar certainly constitutes a milestone in this regard. The European stress test peer review is truly a first of a kind attempt to globally address an important topic. Today's program was designed to provide a broad range of perspectives regarding the European Stress tests and then leave plenty of time for a lively discussion and questions.

The morning sessions are intended to provide a broad overview of the stress tests and peer reviews. All of the organizations that played a role in developing the stress tests and peer reviews are here to make presentations and answer questions. This includes the European Commission, ENSREG and WENRA. Also in the morning you will have the chance to meet the peer review board chairman and five members of the board responsible for organizing the peer review. There will be an opportunity to pose questions.

In the afternoon we have arranged for other members of society that play a role in nuclear safety to provide their perspectives. Organizations representing the reactor operators, information councils, the trade unions and the NGOs will be providing their perspectives. We have left plenty of time at the end for a large moderated question and answer session. Today we have a rare opportunity to have everyone in one room to discuss the topic.

We are looking forward to hear what you have to say with regard to the today's topic. We are prepared for an animated discussion and expect different views and critics. But we also know that the subject is somehow tempting for broadening the scope and slipping into a debate on the pros and cons of nuclear energy. Let me assure you that there are no taboos, but Stress Tests, Ladies and Gentlemen, are part of nuclear safety. We have world experts on nuclear safety here today to discuss the topic and answer questions. We should try to avoid the temptation to expand the discussion to other matters. The main question today is, how can the ongoing Peer Review Process contribute the most to nuclear safety. I am convinced that this is not a restrictive view but the prerequisite for a constructive debate and a meaningful outcome. Please keep this in mind for your respective interventions.

Our task today, and I am confident that my colleagues from ENSREG and the Peer Review Board will agree with me, is not only to inform, but also to listen to suggestions from everyone that may contribute to the overall process. As the discussions occur today, I will be taking notes and looking for overall conclusions. At the end of the day I will try to wrap-up what has occurred and summarize the main conclusions. My written conclusions will be put on the ENSREG website in a few days. At the next public event scheduled to present the peer review results on 10 May the presenters can explain how they took the conclusions into consideration.

Looking at the agenda, you will see a rather short list of speakers. The intention is that these individuals present, in their respective functions, the various steps of the European Nuclear Stress Test, with focus on the safety track. I may assure you that the organizers have taken due care that the various presentations are complementary in its content in order to avoid repetitions. It was thus possible to organize a single-day event while still allowing for larger time spans of question and answer sessions, including open discussions. We have two scheduled coffee breaks and a lunch. I will ask that each speakers introduce themselves.

With these short opening remarks, I would invite Mr. Philippe Lowe, Director General for Energy at European Commission to provide us with an introduction to the topic.