

Second public meeting on 8th May

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

Dear representatives, Dear colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure and honour to open this second and final public meeting on the Post-Fukushima - Stress Tests Peer Review. Today's meeting is again commonly organized by the European Nuclear Safety Regulators Group (ENSREG), the European Commission and the Stress Test Peer Review Board.

Permit me to present me briefly to those of you who have not met me during the first public meeting that was held on 17th January. My name is Patrick Majerus from the Ministry of Health, Luxembourg.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Over the last months a peer review was organised with the participation of more than 80 experts coming from 24 various countries as well as by the European Commission. At the end of this exercise, the ENSREG report, to which the specific reports on all 17 participating countries were annexed, was drawn up and published on 26 April.

This report responds to the mandate delivered by the European Council on 25 March 2011.

During our first public meeting, I registered high expectations towards the outcome of the peer review. Today, we have the opportunity to discuss together whether your expectations are reflected in the reports. For stimulating today's discussion, you had the additional opportunity to submit beforehand written comments to the ENSREG website. We registered up to yesterday evening 59 written comment.

One of the big principles of nuclear safety, Ladies and Gentlemen, consists in continuously improving. As such, a stress test, or the safety track of a stress test, can never be an isolated undertaking with a defined beginning and a defined end. Although, we approach today the end of the safety track, follow-up initiatives are already in preparation. Efforts have to continue and will be continued. My understanding is, that your input today can help with this respect.

Our feeling about the first public meeting was rather positive. This confirmed the organizers to structure the agenda in a similar way, with some small, but relevant adjustments, basically for accommodating suggestions from you.

The morning sessions are intended to provide a broad overview of the stress tests, with a particular focus on the results from the peer review. The morning program also includes a large questions and answer session, that will be moderated by the chairman of the peer review board, M. Philippe Jamet. We have also arranged for the presence of high-level representatives of the national competent regulatory authorities, who would be able to answer questions on a particular installation.

In the afternoon we have arranged for other members of society that play a role in nuclear safety to provide their perspectives. This includes organizations representing the reactor operators, information councils, NGOs and an international organisation. We have left plenty of time at the end for a large moderated question and answer session.

Our task today 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, Mr Stritar, chairman of ENSREG and myself will be taking notes and looking for overall conclusions. We will try to wrap-up and summarize the main conclusions and present them after the question and answer session in the afternoon. Those conclusions will be put on the ENSREG public website in a few days.

At the end of the day, we will have the honour to welcome the Commissioner for Energy, Mr Günther Oettinger, for sharing with us his visions and for a final address. At 17:30, following our meeting Mr Oettinger invites to a short press conference.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I do remember a very constructive and highly useful debate from the first meeting. I would like to invite you to remain focussed on the topics to be discussed today. I am optimistic that today's meeting will allow us again to exchange our views, to have controversial discussions and to hear meaningful statements. I look forward to an open, lively and most importantly respectful dialogue today.

It is also worth noting the wide diversity of the people present today in the audience. The European Commission went to the extraordinary step of reimbursing the travel costs of several non-governmental organizations from various member states. The views of the NGOs from various countries are important and this should improve the quality of the discussions here today.

From a logistical standpoint, there will be two coffee breaks and a sandwich lunch provided. There will be a short opportunity for video and photographs at the beginning. In order to prevent disruptions to the speakers, photographs and video are not permitted once the first power point presentation begins. Today's proceedings are being provided in three languages, English, French and German.

With these short opening remarks, I would invite Mr. Schmidt, Minister Counsellor at the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs to present us briefly the views from the Presidency of the Council.