



## **Minutes of the 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of ENSREG 11 October 2011, Brussels**

### **GENERAL ENSREG MATTERS**

#### **REPLACEMENTS IN THE ENSREG MEMBERSHIP**

The Chairman Mr. Stritar welcomed the new Members to the Group - for HU: Mr. Gyula FICHTINGER (replacing Mr Ivan Lux), for FR: Mr. Charles-Antoine LOUET (replacing Mr Thomas Branche).

The Draft Agenda was adopted without comments.

### **EU STRESS TESTS**

#### **National reports**

The European Commission representative, Mr. Faross, thanked the regulators for the timely submission of the national progress reports. He remarked that some Member States went beyond the minimum requirements set in the ENSREG specifications and provided additional information. The Communication from the Commission to the European Council on the progress of the comprehensive risk and safety assessments of nuclear power plants will present the main preliminary findings on the technical aspects as well as initial reflections on improving the nuclear safety framework in the EU and at international level. The Communication will be accompanied by a Staff Working Paper. This paper will summarise the national progress reports from a technical point of view.

The representative of the Council Secretariat, Mr. Decastaecker, briefly informed the Group on the progress in the 2<sup>nd</sup> track – the Working Group on Nuclear Security. Based on the Member States replies to a questionnaire, the Group is currently finalising its interim report to be annexed to the Commission Communication. Mr. Stritar suggested to invite the Chairman of the Working Group on Nuclear Security to debrief ENSREG at its next meeting.

#### **Peer reviews**

ENSREG agreed upon the proposed procedure for the peer reviews (HLG\_r(2011-16)\_102), elaborated within the Task Force led by Mr. Laaksonen (STUK), after minor modifications. The main outcome will be the creation of topical and country review teams overseen by a Board which will be headed by Mr. Jamet (ASN) as Chairman of the Board and Mr. Krs (SÚJB) as project manager. Representatives of non nuclear countries as well as the European Commission will also sit on the board.

The nomination of experts from Member States will have to be done by 21 October. After that, combined lists of reviewers for each Topical Review and combined list of experts suggested for Country Reviews will be set up by the Joint Research Centre Secretariat: each

expert listed with a topical area and preferred countries to review. A silence procedure will follow from 28.10. - 7.11.2011.

Peer reviews will be conducted in two phases: In the first, so called horizontal or topical phase, three groups of experts will review the three main topics of national reports: 1) Initiating Events; (2) Loss of safety function; (3) Accident Management - to assess the comparability of the results. In a second phase, so called vertical, country reviews will focus on individual country reports as whole to verify consistency with the methodology. The peer review process is expected to be finalised by the end of April 2012, so that the European Commission can report to the European Council in June. The ENSREG report will serve as input for the Report to the European Council.

Several delegations highlighted the need for a comprehensive communication strategy (and the possible creation of a Task Force like for the Nuclear Safety Conference; agreed as contained in the Working Paper Transparency of "Stress Tests" (HLG\_r(2011-16)\_95) – see item WG3).

## **PROGRESS MADE BY THE ENSREG WORKING GROUPS**

### **WG1 (NUCLEAR SAFETY)**

The Chairperson of WG 1 reported on the progress in the following areas of work:

#### Sub- Group A - Format and Guidance for Member States Reports under Article 9.1 (HLG\_r(2011-16)\_91)

- The draft ENSREG guidelines for Member States Reports under Article 9.1 were agreed upon and have to be applied now in a trial process
- ENSREG welcomed the offers received from UK, Ireland and Germany to volunteer for drawing up example reports by May 2012
- agreed to resume SGA work for completion of the ENSREG Guidelines in mid 2012

A schedule for the periodic peer reviews of the national safety legal framework is about to be finalised between EU Member States and the IAEA, covering the period 2011 – 2021.

#### Sub-Group B – Facilitation of Common Learning

ENSREG agreed to a re-evaluation and a decision on the follow-up of the four issues selected after the Nuclear Safety Convention review meeting of April 2012 (Integrated Emergency Preparedness Planning; conditions for lifetime extensions/ prolonged operation; peer review of safety design by foreign peers; adequacy of resources) after the finalisation of the stress tests process, in the light of its results and lessons learned

- WG 1 should further exchange views on potential areas of reinforcing the CNS
- re-launching of work of SGB needs a volunteer to ensure the chairmanship as well as reinforced membership

#### Sub-Group C - Self-assessments and peer reviews

- ENSREG took note of the progress made by the ENSREG IRRS Coordination Group, in particular the draft schedule for the IRRS mission in the EU Member States which will be finalised by the IAEA and the Member States concerned.

- agreed that the ENSREG IRRS Coordination Group proceeds with the implementation of the MoU as reported re-launching of work of SGB needs a volunteer to ensure the chairmanship as well as reinforced membership
- asked WG 1 to report on progress of ENSREG IRRS Coordination Group at the next ENSREG meeting

#### ENSREG technical opinion on safety improvements in Ukraine

- ENSREG agreed on the proposed programme of work
- took note that after the WG1 meeting on 17 November a report on achievements will be circulated for comments
- asked WG 1 to report on progress at the next ENSREG meeting
- asked WG 1 to consider if future activities shall be treated by a new ENSREG Working Group on international cooperation and assistance

#### **WG2 (RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT)**

The Chairman of the Working Group on Waste Management reported on progress made since the last meeting and asked inter alia for developing follow-up activities to the seminar "Better use of the Joint Convention in the EU" on 2-4 November 2011, endorsed by ENSREG.

Further it was reported on the format of and guidance for Member States Reports under Article 14 of Directive 2011/70/Euratom. Another issue discussed was "Implementing Integrated Management Systems" (wording will be further elaborated) under Directive 2011/70/Euratom. An exchange of information and discussions on waste safety implementation issues was requested as another task from WG2.

#### **WG3 (TRANSPARENCY)**

The Chairperson of the Working Group on Transparency reported on the restructuring of the ENSREG Website and the creation of a sub-site dedicated to Stress tests, as well as on future work on transparency for the handling of final national reports. A communication plan to accompany the performance of the peer reviews of the stress tests is another proposal from the Working Group, the elaboration of which has been accepted by agreeing on the Working Paper Transparency of "Stress Tests" (HLG\_r(2011-16)\_95).

Future work from the Working Group on Transparency to be considered are to develop guidance on the implementation of article 10 Waste Directive, prepare a paper on the right balance between transparency and security and contribute to the preparation of a 2nd edition of the ENSREG Conference.

- ENSREG took note of the development of the ENSREG website
- agreed on the Working Paper Transparency of "Stress Tests" (HLG\_r(2011-16)\_95)
- agreed upon guidance on art 8 Nuclear Safety Directive (HLG\_r(2011-16)\_94)
- endorsed in principle Draft Work Programme for 2012/2013 (HLG\_r(2011-16)\_97).

#### **EUROPEAN NUCLEAR SAFETY CONFERENCE – FOLLOW UP**

Mr. Pouleur thanked the European Commission for the engagement in organising this Conference. The Conference was a success as it highlighted the issue of nuclear safety in a broad international context. Mr. Pouleur underlined that one year time for preparation of such

an event is sufficient. The costs for having the Conference in Brussels are lower than organising it in another city, because the Commission can offer its premises, interpretation and ancillary services both in Brussels and Luxembourg.

### **EXTERNAL DIMENSION OF NUCLEAR SAFETY – ENSREG INVOLVEMENT IN THE STRATEGIC ORIENTATIONS OF THE INSTRUMENT FOR NUCLEAR SAFETY COOPERATION**

Representatives of DG Development and Cooperation, the Commission service responsible for the implementation of the Instrument for Nuclear Safety, discussed the involvement of ENSREG in giving strategic direction to the programme.

The specific input requested from ENSREG concerned

- Assessment of needs in third countries and potential effectiveness and opportunity of cooperation involving their regulatory bodies,
- Prioritisation of needs and definition of strategic objectives of cooperation involving regulatory bodies in third countries
- Preliminary definition of high-level programming instruments (Strategy Papers and Multi-annual Indicative Programmes), with respect to the envisaged activities of cooperation involving the regulatory bodies in third countries
- Availability of resources in the EU Member States to implement the proposed strategy for cooperation directed towards regulatory bodies in third countries,
- Policy for the promotion of international cooperation in nuclear safety, including through relevant international organisations (mainly IAEA)
  
- ENSREG considered the creation of a new Working Group on international cooperation and assistance
- asked WG 1 to draft a first proposal for a mandate / Terms of Reference for the separate Working Group
- shall continue exchange with DG DEVCO on an appropriate scope and timing of advice as needed from the ENSREG perspective for the INSC programme cycle.

### **ELECTION OF NEW CHAIRPERSON**

The Chairman, Mr. Stritar, was unanimously asked to exceptionally agree upon extension of his mandate as Chairperson of ENSREG until the completion of the stress tests exercise in June 2012. The Secretariat remarked that while this was not in line with the Rules of Procedure, it is an exceptional measure suited for the specific circumstances following the Fukushima accident and should not constitute a precedent.

### **AOB**

#### **RUSSIAN REQUEST OF PARTICIPATION AS OBSERVER IN ENSREG**

Mr. Stritar informed the group about the request received from the Russian Federation to participate in ENSREG as observer. It was unanimously agreed upon that only representatives of the regulatory authority (Rostechndzor) are eligible to participate.

### **IAEA Action Plan**

Mr. Caruso (IAEA) informed about the Action Plan on Nuclear Safety, endorsed by the Board of Governors and by the General Conference. The Action Plan implementation will be followed by a dedicated team in the IAEA and requires the full commitment of IAEA Member States.

*The next ENSREG meetings will take place on 24 February 2012 and 25 April 2012.*