

**ENSREG – INSC
Position Paper**

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ENSREG position paper on the Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation (INSC)

Final

The Convention on Nuclear Safety and the Joint Convention underpinned in Europe by the safety directives¹, provide the framework for international nuclear safety. The Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation (INSC) implements Europe's goal to support this framework and to achieve and maintain a high level of nuclear safety worldwide.

ENSREG continues to play an important role in the development and/or implementation of those instruments; and to develop perspectives and actions to ensure the continuous improvements of nuclear safety worldwide.

ENSREG welcomes the invitation from the Commission to provide advice on the INSC strategic documents for the implementation of the INSC.

Having considered the INSC for 2014-2020, together with the associated strategy paper and Multi-annual programme for 2014-2017 and after extensive consultations with the Commission services, ENSREG:

- Recognises the INSC as the Euratom external nuclear safety promotion tool and its central role to enhance safety to third countries and promote European best practises.
- Considers that the INSC should as a priority support third countries to:
 - Develop a strong and independent safety authority with a clear allocation of responsibilities for nuclear safety,
 - Adopt periodic safety reviews mechanism and benchmarking of their practises against the WENRA reference levels and WENRA safety objectives and positions for new reactors, as appropriate,
 - Harmonise nuclear safety approaches and translate them into their national legal framework,
 - Invite international peer reviews to promote exchange of experiences and common understanding regarding what constitutes a high level of nuclear safety,
 - Promote transparency by making available information to the public.
 - Actively participate in international cooperation programmes.
- Notes the drastic reduction in the available INSC budget and urges the Commission to concentrate resources on realistic projects enhancing nuclear safety, and avoid participating too widely thereby jeopardizing the effectiveness of the INSC. In particular, priority should be given to Accession Countries and countries in the European Neighbourhood area.
- Has established a working group to respond to the invitation of the Commission to provide advice by:

¹ Council Directive 2009/71/EURATOM

Council Directive 2011/70/EURATOM

Council Directive 2013/59/EURATOM

- Delivering in-depth comments on the INSC strategy paper and Multi-annual programme. Those comments will be of strategic nature and will not address precise budget allocation nor planning or project operation details that are dealt with in the committee of the INSC.
- Indicating, when appropriate, nuclear safety subjects that should be further analysed based e.g. on international trends, operating experience feed-back, European benchmarks, etc.
- Reviewing annual and mid-term reports provided by the Commission.
- Making proposals for promoting ENSREG activities in important fora (e.g. IAEA, ENSREG conference).
- Proposing and, when appropriate, organizing bilateral meetings with other regional associations of nuclear safety regulators.
- Participating on an ad-hoc basis, within the available resources, to exploratory missions dedicated to the definition of the needs of third countries and the feasibility of useful projects.