



**Statement from Mr. Pierre-Franck Chevet,
Chairperson of ENSREG,
following the Group's 35th meeting of the 20th December 2017**

During this meeting ENSREG Members were informed that Mr Richard Savage, Vice Chairperson of ENSREG since June 2017, has left its position as Chief Inspector of ONR at the end of October 2017. Mr Mark Foy has been nominated as new ONR Chief Inspector on 1 November 2017. ENSREG members unanimously agreed to appoint Mr Mark Foy as the new Vice Chairperson of ENSREG in replacement of Mr Richard Savage.

A key point of discussions during this meeting was the issue of high levels of radioactive isotope Ruthenium-106 which were measured in the air in a number of European countries during the period from the end of September to the beginning of October 2017.

ENSREG Members recognized the urgency to undertake an investigation and acknowledged the invitation recently made by the Nuclear Safety Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences (IBRAE) to several European regulators and TSO's regarding the constitution of an Independent International Scientific Commission (IISC) on this issue.

Representatives from French IRSN and German BfS presented their institutions' calculations about the possible localisation of the source of RU-106 releases, using real meteorological data and measurements of Ru-106 made throughout Europe between the end of September-beginning of October.

ENSREG agreed to a coordinated response targeting the regulatory authorities of the Russian Federation responsible for nuclear safety and radiological protection as the appropriate partner for this exercise regarding EU participation in any international scientific commission on this issue. A letter was sent on 22 December 2017 by the ENSREG chairman to the Russian regulatory authorities seeking clarifications of the scope of the IISC, asking whether it will include an assessment of the safety and health risk to the local population, the mandate to undertake in-situ investigations and public disclosure of the findings of the IISC.

Mr Petteri Tiippana from STUK (Fi), Chairman of the Topical Peer Review (TPR) Board, informed about the progress of the 1st TPR exercise. ENSREG members confirmed the main decisions taken by the Board since it has been established in June 2017. These are:

- Confirmation that the 1st public event to present the TPR process will take place the 3 May 2018 in Brussels;
- Confirmation of the date and place of the peer review workshop: 14 to 18 May 2018 in Luxembourg;
- Decision to decouple the 2 last days of the workshop from the first week in May 2018 and postpone these two days to 6-7 June 2018 to allow finalisation of the work and workshop report;
- Confirmation that the Workshop report will be generic and that country specific recommendation will be presented in a workshop presentation. All documents produced during the workshop will be published on the ENSREG Website.

- Decision to invite observers to the workshop to provide opportunities to learn and to disseminate information (IAEA, OECD-NEA and WANO and non EU countries with NPPs);

ENSREG members supported the request of the TPR Board regarding the need for nomination of additional experts and the call for the nominated Project Managers, rapporteurs and experts.

ENSREG discussed the proposed draft revision of its Work Programme 2017-2019. ENSREG Members did not reach a consensus on the different tasks and different priorities for this Work Programme and decided to continue refining the document with a target of approving it at the next plenary meeting.

ENSREG reviewed the work performed within its different Working Groups since the last meeting. Key points reported were linked to the planning of the IRRS missions in Europe, the expected update in 2017 by Member States of their Stress Tests National Action Plan and the update of the ENSREG Guidelines for reporting under the Waste Directive. The importance of scheduling all ARTEMIS peer review, to take place in all EU countries before 2023, was again highlighted.

ENSREG discussed progress in the Stress Tests process in Belarus. Following the establishment of the Belarus Stress Test Board during the last plenary meeting, the work performed so far by the Board was reported by the Board Vice Chairperson. During the summer ENSREG Members nominated 17 experts to participate to the Peer Review Team. ENSREG welcomed the fact that the peer review process had effectively started with the publication of the Belarus Stress Test national report on the ENSREG Website on 13 November 2017. The ENSREG Members were informed that the dates of the Peer Review Team mission in Belarus had been agreed with Belarus counterpart. This mission will take place from the 12 to 16 March 2018. ENSREG acknowledged the decision taken by the Belarus Stress Test Board to present the final version of the peer review report to Belarus during a Board visit scheduled between the 12 and 14 June 2018.

ENSREG Members were informed about the preparation of the ENSREG report 2017 to the Council and the European Parliament. ENSREG took the decision circulate again to its Members the last version of the report for a final review by 9th of January 2018 before considering it as final version.

The next ENSREG Plenary is planned to take place on the 2 July 2018 in Brussels.