

ENSREG work on improving the safety of spent fuel and radioactive waste management

Jean-Paul Minon (Belgium)

Chairperson of the ENSREG Working Group
on improving radioactive waste, spent fuel
and decommissioning arrangements (WGRWMD)

Outline

- First activities
- Contribution to development of EU legislation on the management of RW and SF
- Recent and future activities

First activities (1/2)

- 2009 ENSREG Report:
 - content and objectives of **national programmes** for SF and RW management
 - international **peer reviews, regulatory effectiveness and best practices**
 - better use of the **Joint Convention** process in the EU
 - **challenges** for progress in SF and HLW management
 - **waste safety**
- Council Resolution/ Conclusions

First activities (2/2)

Council Resolution of 16 December 2008

stresses the fact that the safe management of radioactive waste and spent fuel is an important issue **requiring the full attention of the High-level Group.**

Council Conclusions of 10 November 2009

Further invites the Commission **to make full use of ENSREG expertise in the case of proposals for legally binding instruments** in the field of safe management of spent fuel and radioactive waste being considered.

Eurobarometer 2010



Special Eurobarometer 324



Europeans and Nuclear Safety

Report

Fieldwork: September – October 2009

Publication: March 2010

This survey was requested by the Directorate-General for Energy and Transport and coordinated by the Directorate-General for Communication (Research and Political Analysis Unit)

This document does not represent the point of view of the European Commission. The interpretations and opinions contained in it are solely those of the authors.

For example:

“The highest risks to nuclear safety are considered to be lack of security in NPPs against terrorist attacks, the misuse of radioactive materials and the disposal of radioactive waste.”

49 % of Europeans do not consider that the disposal of radioactive waste can be carried out safely”

Contribution to development of EU legislation on the management of RW and SF (1/4)

- ENSREG's suggestion for the content of a Directive on Sustainable Management of RW and SF (Endorsed by ENSREG on June, 4, 2010)
- Commission proposal for a Council Directive on the management of SF and RW (November, 3, 2010)
- ENSREG Statement on the Commission proposal for a Council Directive on the management of spent fuel and radioactive waste (Endorsed by ENSREG on February, 1, 2011)

Contribution to development of EU legislation on the management of RW and SF (2/4)

Suggestion for the content of a Directive on Sustainable Management of RW and SF

Preamble

1. Objectives
2. Scope
3. Definitions
4. General principles governing management of radioactive waste and spent fuel

Obligations

1. Framework for radioactive waste and spent fuel **management policy**
2. Framework for the **safety** of radioactive waste or spent fuel management facilities
3. Information to **public**
4. **Reporting**

National progress and experience

Finland Olkiluoto site



Sweden Östhammar site « 2023 »



France, Switzerland, ...

Contribution to development of EU legislation on the management of RW and SF (3/4)

Commission proposal for a Council Directive on the management of SF and RW

A detailed contribution from the European Nuclear Safety Regulators Group (ENSREG) was taken into account.

This was of key importance given the specific competence of ENSREG, which represents national nuclear regulatory or safety authorities in all Member States, nuclear and non-nuclear alike.

COM(2010) 618 final, Brussels 3 November 2010

Contribution to development of EU legislation on the management of RW and SF (4/4)

ENSREG Statement on the Commission proposal

- Welcomes the Proposal - will improve and harmonize the safe and responsible management of SF and RW in the EU
- Acknowledges that the ENSREG contribution has largely been incorporated
- Does not identify any significant issue that needs to be covered by the Directive and that would be missing in the proposal
- Identifies areas be further examined and clarified - to avoid difficulties at the time of transposition in national legislative system and at the time of implementation

Recent and future activities (1/6)

- **Contributions** to the **implementation** of the Council Directive
 - Methodology and way forward developing **format of and Guidance for Reports** under the future Directive on the management of SF and RW
 - Methodology and way forward developing **self-assessment and peer-review guidance**
- Seminar on **better use of the Joint Convention process**
- Exchange of information and discussions on **waste safety implementation issues**

Recent and future activities (2/6)

Methodology and way forward developing format of and Guidance for Reports

- The approved Council Directive will constitute the basis for defining the **general structure** and the **main required elements of contents** of the MS reports.
- Provision in respect of the **National Framework and Programmes** of the proposed Directive determine the main elements that have to be addressed.
- The **Joint Convention Guidelines** regarding the Form and Structure of **National Reports** (NR) under the Joint Convention (JC) and the NR themselves will be duly considered.
- A **time schedule** will be defined, with a clear endpoint, to come to final guidance for MS reports sufficiently well in advance of the time that MS will start the preparations of the first MS report under the Directive.
- A first step of the methodology is to identify all **common points to be dealt with in the JC NR and in the MS reports**, and to identify those points specific to the MS reports.
- On the basis of this analysis a **proposed structure for MS reports** will be put forward.

Recent and future activities (3/6)

Methodology and way forward developing self-assessment and peer-review guidance

- Proposed Directive requires MS to arrange periodically, and at least every 10 years, for **self-assessments** of their national framework, and to invite **international peer review** of their national framework, authority and/or programmes.
- Aspects of self-assessment and peer review:
 - the steps to **implement a comprehensive management system**, including all steps of long-term management for all SF and RW;
 - the **safety of the national management system**, with all operational and planned facilities for the successive steps of SF and RW management
- For international peer review an **integrative approach** should be followed, integrating both safety-related and policy and management related aspects
- First step is to **clarify the scope of peer review**
- Then **organizational aspects** of the reviews will be tackled, including the interactions and collaborations with IAEA and NEA/OECD for conducting the reviews.

Recent and future activities (4/6)

Seminar on a better use of the Joint Convention in the EU

The process of the Joint Convention could be made **more efficient and effective** at EU level by ensuring that each EU participating party:

- demonstrates an attitude of openness, **constructive challenge and a genuine commitment to make improvements** as recommended by peers;
- **better prioritises issues** in its national report with, for instance, **clear identification in the report of the main changes** since the previous review meeting;
- shares all the written questions and answers received with EU counterparts;
- **promotes waste safety peer reviews** in the EU and **identifies best waste safety practices and weaknesses** that are common for the EU Member States.

ENSREG Report, July 2009

Recent and future activities (5/6)

Seminar on a better use of the Joint Convention in the EU

Objective:

The reports of the JC could provide an added value in the EU

on the one hand by **optimizing** as far as possible the proposed **reporting in the frame of the Council Directive** on the management of spent fuel and radioactive waste and,

on other hand, to identify and select those **unresolved issues which may need some further consideration at the level of the EU**, with a view either to sharing experiences among MS or to undertake joint analysis for developing possible common approaches.

Recent and future activities (6/6)

Seminar on a better use of the Joint Convention in the EU

- 3-4 November 2011, Tech Gate Vienna, Vienna
- Four sessions:
 - Experiences of the application of the JC in MS of the EU: main results and consequences, stressing the positive and negative aspects
 - Use of JC reports to identify unresolved issues which might need further consideration at the level of EU
 - Use of the JC reports to elaborate the Council Directive reports
 - Transparency and visibility of JC review process and reports to various national stakeholders
- Panel - Summary of main conclusions and proposal of follow up actions

Thanks for your attention