

**INTEGRATED REGULATORY REVIEW SERVICE (IRRS) FOLLOW  
UP MISSION TO THE SPANISH NUCLEAR SAFETY COUNCIL**

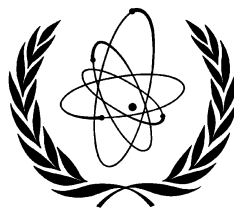
**Madrid, Spain**

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**DEPARTMENT OF NUCLEAR SAFETY AND SECURITY**



**INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY**

SenoraPresidenta, Commissioners, ladies and gentlemen, my dear colleagues, buenos dias.

It is already 5 months since I took office at the International Atomic Energy Agency, but closing the follow-up Integrated Regulatory Review Service mission to Spain will certainly be one of the important times of my DDG's life in the IAEA, in a similar way as going through my first General Conference, for the substantive lessons I am learning here and now.

**Substance is certainly the key word** as concerns the work performed by the Consejo de Seguridad Nuclear and by the IRRS team in preparing and performing this review.

This is a review where the IAEA team has discussed and concluded with CSN counterparts the outcomes of applying the recommendations and suggestions from the 2008 IRRS mission in Spain. This mission represents the conclusion of a dedicated IRRS preparation launched in Spain since 2006 by Presidenta Carmen Martinez Ten. It means 5 years of intensive work by CSN, supporting the IAEA IRRS programme, starting with the preparatory meetings, self-assessment, the IRRS mission and today the follow-up.

**Substance is also the essence** of new Good Practices and Lessons Learnt identified, to be shared with other Member States.

We are grateful for this commitment and support, to Presidenta Carmen Martinez Ten, to Commissioner Antoni Gurgui and the two Technical Directors, Ms. Isabel Mellado and Mr. Juan Carlos Lentijo and to all staff involved in the IRRS program.

I am pleased to stress and recall that Spain has provided experts for many of the IAEA's review missions and I would like to thank the Consejo for this valuable contribution, and to encourage the continuation of our cooperation in this area.

It is a privilege for me to see at work a distinguished peer review team of 5 senior experts from 4 nations, under the expert guidance of Luis Reyes and John Loy. I want to give special thanks to Luis Reyes for taking the challenge, and accepting leading this team in replacement of Uelli Schmoker, team leader in the 2008 IRRS mission.

Through this mission, you have generously contributed your valuable time and talents, in a strong spirit of helping and learning from each other. In the name of the IAEA, I address you my sincere thanks.

The message carried over to IAEA Member States by this IRRS follow up mission is full of significance. It gives a prominent visibility to the work accomplished by Spain to address in a very professional and systematic way all recommendations and suggestions made in 2008 to enhance its regulatory effectiveness.

The example given today by the Spanish CSN in strengthening the effectiveness of the regulatory framework as well as recently in 2010 by China and the United States and before by 12 countries with established nuclear power programmes, strengthens the message about the necessary dedication to a responsible, safe and secure approach to the development of a nuclear power program. This message is highly significant today, considering that many countries have decided to develop or expand a nuclear power programme, and are in the process of setting up or strengthening their regulatory framework. In this sense and in order to provide specific guidance for building the governmental and regulatory framework for safety, the IAEA developed a safety guide on “the establishment of a national nuclear safety infrastructure for a nuclear power program” approved by the Commission of Safety Standards last year. It considers having an independent and effective regulatory body that fully applies the IAEA safety standards in the different stages of the nuclear development. IRRS missions, carried out at the appropriate time in the development of the nuclear power program, provide valuable insights into how best to reach that goal.

The IRRS has become an internationally accepted tool in strengthening regulatory activities and along the years it gained a prominent recognition worldwide.

Member States, in calling for an IRRS mission, demonstrate their openness and transparency to the nuclear community. They recognise the importance of subjecting their activities to an external peer review, identifying areas for further improvements, and in addition, through disseminating and sharing good practices and lessons learnt, they contribute to the strengthening of the global nuclear safety framework. In addition, the recent European Directive on nuclear safety calls for peer reviews of a country's nuclear regulatory bodies. In recognition of the value of the IRRS program, this will be achieved through cooperation with the IAEA and a programme of IRRS missions will fulfil this objective. The IAEA will coordinate this programme within its broader global IRRS programme so that learning continues to be shared to the maximum extent possible.

In requesting an IRRS Follow-up mission, following good former practices, Spain demonstrated the strong commitment of the Consejo de Seguridad Nuclear to continuous improvement and to applying the IAEA safety standards. This is a further

I shall conclude by again congratulating the CSN staff, the experts and the IAEA team for their dedication and professionalism. I am convinced that this mission has provided valuable insights that CSN can use in pursuing its drive for regulatory excellence. I am also convinced that other countries will benefit the good practices identified and from the way the CSN implemented the recommendations and suggestions.

Thank you.