

ENSREG's activities in radioactive waste management

Context of a future directive on radioactive waste and spent fuel management

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Description of ENSREG

- Created in 2007 by the European Commission:
 - Established as the European High Level Group on Nuclear Safety and Waste Management.
 - Later renamed ENSREG for European Nuclear Safety Regulators Group.
- Objectives given to ENSREG:
 - advise and assist the Commission in progressively developing common understanding and eventually additional European rules in the fields of:
 - the safety of nuclear installations,
 - the safety of the management of spent fuel and radioactive waste.
 - facilitate consultations, coordination and cooperation of national regulatory authorities.

Description of ENSREG

- Composition of ENSREG
 - Heads of the 27 EU Member States' national regulatory or safety authorities, competent in the areas of the
 - safety of nuclear installations,
 - management of spent fuel and radioactive waste.
- ENSREG set up 3 working groups to deal with:
 - nuclear safety arrangements,
 - spent fuel, radioactive waste management and decommissioning arrangements,
 - arrangements for transparency.

ENSREG's waste working group

- Main activities
 - National programmes for radioactive waste and spent fuel management,
 - Benchmarking and peer reviews,
 - Better use of the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel and Radioactive Waste Management,
 - Suggestion on the content of a future directive on radioactive waste and spent fuel management.

National programmes for radioactive waste and spent fuel management

- ENSREG promotes the establishment of national programmes for spent fuel and radioactive waste management:
 - Gives clear aims for future actions,
 - At least consistent with IAEA's Safety Fundamentals,
 - Key tool for openness and transparency.
 - Reflects the responsibility of the States and present generations.
- ENSREG's WG issued guidelines for the content and objectives of such national programmes
 - General principles of management, inventory, technical solutions, R&D programme, time schedule, cost assessment, financing system, responsibilities, legal framework, information to the public

Benchmarking and peer reviews

- ENSREG promotes benchmarking and peer reviews:
 - Radwaste management bodies should
 - ensure that the exchange of information is included in their management systems,
 - participate in making better use of each other's best practices.
- ENSREG's work programme includes:
 - Work on peer review guidance.
 - Work on self-assessment guidance.
 - Scheduling and resourcing of self-assessments and peer reviews.

Better use of the Joint Convention

- The process of the Joint Convention could be improved at EU level:
 - Organisation of the reports,
 - sharing all the written questions and answers received with EU counterparts;
 - promoting waste safety peer reviews in the EU and identifying best waste safety practices and weaknesses that are common for the EU Member States.
- Organisation of a seminar for EU Member States

Context of a future directive on RW and SF management

- Reinforcement of the European framework:
 - directive 2009/71/EURATOM of 25 June 2009 establishing a Community framework for the nuclear **safety** of nuclear installations.
 - The European Council also adopted a resolution on Spent Fuel and Radioactive Waste Management
 - Recalls the responsibility of the States
 - Notes, on the basis of the work of ENSREG, that the EU Member States agree on:
 - It is essential to establish national management plans,
 - Transparency and peer review mechanisms.
 - The European Commission planned to propose another directive regarding RW & SF management.

Context of a future directive on RW and SF management

- Contributions to the European Commission for its future proposition of a directive:
 - Suggestion from ENSREG's waste working group,
 - Contribution from ENEF,
 - Public consultation launched by the Commission.
- Directive to be proposed in few months.

ENSREG's contribution for the future directive

- Radioactive waste and spent fuel management policy
 - General principles (IAEA's safety fundamentals)
 - Obligation of national programmes
 - Information to the public
- Safe management
- Plenary ENSREG approved a contribution for the Commission on 4th June.

Conclusions

- ENSREG is a platform of exchange between experts of the EU:
 - Advises the European Commission regarding nuclear safety and RW & SF management.
 - Allows improvements within EU: common understandings, initiatives to improve the use of the Joint convention, the peer reviews, etc.
 - Allows discussions on national organisations.
- Prospect for a future directive on radioactive waste and spent fuel management:
 - Proposition expected in few months,
 - Should set up a common framework on safe management and on management policy.

For more information:

- <http://www.ensreg.eu/>
 - ENSREG's 2009 report:
 - http://ec.europa.eu/energy/nuclear/ensreg/doc/2009_ensreg_report.pdf
- <http://www.euratom.org/>