

Final minutes of the 9th meeting of ENSREG

2 July 2009, 9:30 – 17:00
Albert Borschette, Brussels

Participants

Related document¹: list of representatives from the Member States and Observers (HLG_p(2009-09)_34)

All EU Member States as well as the European Commission, with exception of Estonia, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg and Malta, were represented.

Mr Jamet (Director of the Division of Nuclear Installation Safety, IAEA), Mr Schwarz (Deputy Director of Swiss Federal Nuclear Safety Inspectorate), Mr Reistad (Head of Section at Department for Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety, Norwegian Radiation Protection Authority) and Ms Rasa (Cabinet of the Commissioner for Energy) attended the meeting as observers.

1. Introductory address by Chairperson

Related document: adopted minutes (HLG_M(2009-08)_Final).

Mr Stritar, Chairperson of ENSREG welcomed the new Members:

- **Mr Emil Marian Anghel**, President of the Romanian National Agency for Radioactive Waste, replacing Mr Gheorghe Ionita;
- **Mr Thomas Branche**, Deputy Director at the Ministry for Ecology, Sustainable Development and Spatial Planning (France), replacing Mr Cyrille Vincent.

Mr Stritar congratulated all the Members about a timely preparation of the draft ENSREG report on its activities, and informed about adoption of the Directive on Nuclear Safety by the Council on 25 June 2009.

2. Adoption of the agenda

Related document: adopted agenda (HLG_A(2009-09)_Final).

The agenda was adopted with suggested inclusions by Mr Stritar and FR under "Any Other Business" part: a) chairmanship of working group on waste management; b) organisation of a European Conference on nuclear safety.

¹ Legend: Name of Group_Confidentiality or type of document (Year- Meeting Number)_Document number.version number (if any).

Confidentiality of document:

- **c** for Consultation. Document discussed at HLG meetings and accessible for public
- **p** for Public. It is HLG final document for release to the public
- **r** for Restricted. Document accessible only for Members and Deputy Members of the Group
- **A** for Agenda
- **M** for minutes

3. Report on progress about the Directive on Nuclear Safety

Related document: Directive on Nuclear Safety (HLG_p(2009-09)_33).

Mr Szendro, who is chairing the Council's Atomic Questions Group (AQG) on behalf of the Swedish Presidency, briefed about the Directive that Council adopted by unanimity on 25 June and published on 2 July in the Official Journal². The Directive confirms national obligations of the EU Member States in accordance with the IAEA safety fundamentals and the requirements of the Convention on Nuclear Safety. It requires the Member States to put in place an appropriate legislative framework, establish roles of regulators and responsibilities of licensors. The Directive underlines that regulatory authority has to be a separate body; it also insists on a prime responsibility of the licence holder and establishes periodic self assessments.

The Commission representative (Mr Ristori) pointed out that adoption of the Directive is a fruit of common efforts: ENSREG Group, the Commission and the Council, with large support received by the Parliament and the European Economic and Social Committee. He noted that many suggestions of ENSREG were taken on board in preparation of this Directive. Adoption of the Directive on nuclear safety is a unique step forward establishing, for the first time, in the EU and in the world, a binding legal framework for nuclear safety that goes beyond the national borders. Mr Ristori pointed out that the Directive reinforces independence and role of national regulatory authorities. He underlined a constructive dialogue between ENSREG, EU Institutions and other stakeholders and reminded that the next step is the Directive's implementation. Special thankfulness was given to the former Czech Presidency that permitted its rapid adoption by unanimity.

Mr Jamet, Director at the IAEA expressed IAEA expectations that Europe will play important role in nuclear safety worldwide.

UK, FR, FI thanked also to all involved in preparation and successful adoption of the Directive, noting at the same time that this process has to be accompanied by practical implementation.

4. Review of progress in the work programme

Related document: ENSREG work programme (HLG_p(2008-04)_10.v1).

Chairs of ENSREG working groups (WGs) briefed about progress made since the last plenary meeting in April 2009. WG1 (subgroup on nuclear safety) concentrated mostly its efforts on ENSREG report preparation. WG2 (subgroup on radioactive waste) informed about preparation of follow-up of Joint Convention review meeting. FI Member informed about a peer review on waste safety planned in FI in November 2009, where everybody willing is welcome to attend. Ms McGarry reported about the last WG3 (subgroup on transparency) meeting in May: the group has continued preparation of the content for the website and discussed results of a questionnaire related to the guidance on transparency issues for nuclear regulators. AT informed that the document about international law in transparency was completed, taking into account comments received from DE and including a part about the Directive on nuclear safety.

Mr Stritar pointed that it is time for ENSREG to review goals of its work programme and find new challenges. He noted some delay of ENSREG projects and invited working groups to review carefully their work programmes. Mr Stritar suggested that indicators that would permit to observe progress of the Group's work should be established. This suggestion was supported by the Members. It was followed by an initial exchange of views on possible new actions, in particular:

- Preparation of a Directive on radioactive waste management;
- Re-evaluation of objectives of subgroups in relation with the Directive on nuclear safety;
- Preparation of a template for a report on implementation of the Directive on nuclear safety.

² OJ L 172/18 of 2 July 2009

Main agreements:

- ENSREG subgroups are requested to:
 - Review their work programmes and objectives
 - Establish indicators for each objective and timetable
 - Develop new objectives, as appropriate

Work programmes of each subgroup will be discussed at the next ENSREG meeting.

- ENSREG Members are requested to reflect on high level objectives of ENSREG (what it wants to achieve, what it should focus on, etc.) and to send their suggestions to Mr Stritar by mid-September.
- ENSREG Chairperson will compile mentioned suggestions of the Members by the end of September.

5. Presentation and agreement on the draft ENSREG report

Related documents: adopted ENSREG report (HLG_p(2009-09)_35)

The Group had an extensive discussion on the draft report to the EU Institutions and how to improve the text. Written suggestions were received at earlier stage from FR, BE, DE, DK and ES. At the end of the meeting, a revised text was distributed to the Members, including their modifications, for approval.

Main agreements:

- ENSREG adopted its first report to the EU Institutions.

Actions:

- The Commission was kindly asked to provide with editorial service to polish language of the report. Following this, Members would be given couple of days to react to the suggestions made by the editorial service.
- Once the report is officially submitted by the Chairperson of ENSREG to the Commission, the Commission will transmit it to the European Parliament and to the Council.

6. Any other business

a. Chairmanship of ENSREG and its working groups

Mr Stritar reminded that his leadership period as well as the one of Vice-chairs is expiring in January 2010. He also suggested a temporary nomination of an acting chair for the WG2, due to change of job of Mr Cyrille Vincent who chaired this subgroup.

Main agreement: Members agreed that FI representative (Mr Tero Varjoranta, current vice-chair of WG2) will temporarily take over leadership of WG2 until January 2010.

Actions: at the request of Mr Stritar, Members should send him their proposals for a new Chairperson and Vice-chairs (or their re-nomination) before the next meeting in October, when these candidatures will be discussed.

b. ENSREG report presentation to the Council

Mr Stritar informed that he was invited by the Council's Atomic Questions Group to present ENSREG report in September.

c. ENSREG website preparation

The Secretariat informed the Group about progress for establishment of ENSREG website through the Commission's framework contract. It informed that in order to make a whole website functional by the end of this year, the contractor needs to get full documentation by end of August 2009.

Mr Stritar urged everybody involved in preparation of the content of the website to make sure the documents are finalised timely.

Ms McGarry also suggested that the website in its final version of content could be presented to ENSREG Members before making it available to the public. The Secretariat intends to transmit this request to the contractor.

d. Organisation of a European conference on nuclear safety

Related documents: ASN suggested initiative of the European Conference (HLG_c(2009-09)_15)

FR presented a proposal to organise a European Conference on Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection supervision of nuclear installations. The event would be addressed to various stakeholders (national nuclear safety authorities, operators, experts, NGOs etc.) and would take place every two years. The Commission was invited to be associated to the project. FR suggested that the first meeting takes place in the 2nd semester of 2011, in Brussels, for duration of 2-3 days.

Many Members were supportive to this idea. UK Member offered to host the first event in UK already next year, which would correspond to the 50 years of UK nuclear safety regulation, and then organising this Conference in various EU countries. However, some Members considered that it is too short time to prepare everything for the next year.

Reflections were made about financing the event, participation and main topic of the first Conference. FR suggested that practical organisation should be delegated to the organising company (-ies) and that work needs be done for the selection of topics. It also advised that each presentation should be made by at least 2 countries or two companies. A steering committee should be set up rapidly and ENSREG would be kept informed on the progress of its work.

Main agreements:

- ENSREG endorsed FR proposal for a Conference on nuclear safety and radiation protection.
- Discussion on the preparation of this conference to be included to the agenda of the next meeting.

Actions:

- Members to send their comments / proposals about the mentioned initiative of the Conference to the ENSREG secretariat, with a copy to Mr Lacoste and Mr Weightman before the end of September 2009. Following their comments, a new version of the proposal will be prepared for a discussion in October 2009 ENSREG meeting.

e. Information from IAEA

Mr Jamet informed that Mr Yukiya Amano (Japan) was nominated on 2 July as a new Director General of the IAEA.

Members congratulated Mr Stritar for the way he made the Group agree on the first ENSREG report.

7. Information about the next meeting

Main agreements: next meeting will take place on 28 October 2009, with an alternative date of 27 October 2009. On the agenda: revision of ENSREG work programme, new objectives and indicators as well as organisation of the European Conference on nuclear safety and radiation protection.