

Final minutes of the 12th meeting of ENSREG

4 June 2010, 9:30 – 17:00
Albert Borschette Building, Brussels

Participants

Related document¹:

- List of representatives from the Member States and Observers (HLG_p(2010-12)_48)

All EU Member States, as well as the European Commission, with the exception of Cyprus, Luxembourg, Malta and the Netherlands were represented.

Mr Philippe Jamet (Director of the Division of Nuclear Installation Safety at the IAEA) and **Mr Georg Schwarz** (Deputy Director of the Swiss Federal Nuclear Safety Inspectorate) attended the meeting as observers.

Ms Heather Astwood (Nuclear Safety Attaché at the U.S. Mission to International Organizations in Vienna) attended the meeting as an invitee.

1. Introductory address by the ENSREG Chairperson

Mr Andrej Stritar, Chairperson of ENSREG, welcomed three new ENSREG Members: **Mr Derek Lacey** (Nuclear Installations Inspectorate of the United Kingdom) to replace Mr Peter Addison, **Mr Ugo Bollettini** (Ministry of Economic Development of Italy) to replace Mr Pierluigi Cerretti and **Mr Cristian Macovei** (Nuclear Agency and for Radioactive Waste of Romania) to replace Mr Emil Marian Anghel.

Mr Stritar also announced that **Mr Aleš Škraban** (Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning – Nuclear Safety Administration of Slovenia) will replace Mr Marjan Levstek in the future (subject to formal nomination).

Mr Stritar reviewed the most important events in the nuclear area of the last two months, to which he attended and presented the activity of ENSREG (i.e. the European Nuclear Assembly organised by Foratom²), the European Nuclear Energy Forum (ENEF)³, the meeting with the Energy Commissioner Günther Oettinger in the margin of ENEF, as well as the European Nuclear Conference⁴).

The Commission representative (Mr Ristori) underlined the importance of the recent Global Nuclear Security Summit⁵, highlighting the main trends and results of the event.

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

² 11 – 12 May, Brussels

³ 25 – 26 May, Bratislava

⁴ 30 May – 2 June 2010, Barcelona

⁵ 12 - 13 April 2010, Washington

2. Adoption of the Agenda

Related document:

- Adopted Agenda (HLG_A(2010-12_Final)).

The Agenda of the meeting was adopted without amendments.

3. Adoption of the Work Programme of WG2 (Radioactive Waste Management) for 2010 – 2011

Related document:

- Draft WG2 Work Programme 2010-2011 (HLG_c(2010-12)_38)

The finalisation of the WG2 Work Programme for 2010-2011, in view of its adoption by ENSREG, was one of the actions agreed at the previous 11th ENSREG meeting (see point 5.3. of the Minutes of the 11th ENSREG meeting – reference HLG_M(2010-11)_Final).

Mr Laaksonen (FI) presented the proposed Work Programme of WG2 for 2010-2011, which largely follows the structure of the Work Programme of WG1 (Nuclear Safety).

Main agreements:

- ENSREG endorsed the Work Programme of WG2 for 2010-2011, subject to the following amendments:
 - Task 2 (Format of and Guidance for Member States' Reports): the timeframe for the finalisation of this task to be coordinated with WG1;
 - Task 3 (Self-assessment guidance): finalisation by July 2011 (instead of July 2012);
 - Task 4 (Peer Review Guidance): finalisation by July 2011 (instead of July 2012);
 - Task 5 (Scheduling and resourcing of self-assessments and peer reviews): the timeframe for the finalisation of this task to be coordinated with WG1.
- ENSREG recommended to the WG1 and WG2 to cooperate by regular coordination of their activities.

Information point:

- ENSREG was informed of the departure of Mr Varjoranta (current Chair of WG2 and Vice-Chairperson of ENSREG) from his current position occupied in the Finnish Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority (STUK). This would need to trigger, for the next ENSREG meeting, the election of a replacing WG2 Chair who, consequently, would also be one of the ENSREG Vice-Chairpersons.

4. Adoption of the consolidated Work Programme of ENSREG for 2010 – 2011

Related document:

- Consolidated ENSREG Work Programme 2010-2011 (HLG_p(2010-12)_47)

Main agreement:

- Following the adoption by ENSREG of the WG2 Work Programme (see Section 3), the consolidated Work Programme of ENSREG for 2010-2011 has been endorsed by the Group.

5. Progress made by the ENSREG Working Groups

5.1. WG1

Related documents:

- Notes of WG1 Meeting, 16 March 2010 (HLG_c(2010-12_41)
- WG1 progress report (HLG_c(2010-12_52)

Mr Weightman (UK) reported on the activity of WG1's three thematic Sub-groups related to the implementation of the Nuclear Safety Directive⁶. The main items being developed are:

- the recommended options for the elaboration of the Nuclear Safety Directive implementation Reports by the Member States;
- the proposal of a template for common learning from the Convention on Nuclear Safety review meetings and from the IAEA Integrated Regulatory Review Service (IRRS) missions to other Member States and
- the elaboration of a Memorandum of Understanding between ENSREG and the IAEA on the practicalities of an European programme of IRRS missions.

On timetable, WG1 envisages to finalise (June 2010) its proposals for the Member States' implementation Reports as well as for the proposed Memorandum of Understanding between ENSREG and IAEA, for submission and endorsement at the next ENSREG meeting.

Following the presentation, an exchange of views was held. The **Commission representative (Mr Ristori)** expressed support for the WG1 ongoing activities. Mr Ristori announced the Commission is working towards supporting the implementation of the European IRRS programme and is in contact with IAEA in this regard. **Mr Pouleur (BE)** re-emphasized the need for coordination with the work of WG2. As regards the reporting options for the Member States' implementation reports, **Mr Stritar** expressed his preference to an approach that makes use of existing material.

Main agreements:

- ENSREG endorsed the Progress Report of WG1.

Action:

- ENSREG Members that have not responded so far to provide input to the Coordination Group on the actions agreed at the previous 11th ENSREG meeting (see point 5.2. – Decision 9 of the Minutes of the 11th ENSREG meeting – reference HLG_M(2010-11)_Final).

5.2. WG2

Related documents:

- WG2 proposal for the content of a Directive on the Sustainable Management of Radioactive Waste and Spent Fuel (HLG_c(2010-12)_39)
- SE comments on the WG2 proposal for content of a Waste Directive (HLG_c(2010-12)_42)
- Summary of SE comments on the WG2 proposal for content of a Waste Directive (HLG_c(2010-12)_43)
- BG comments on the WG2 proposal for content of a Waste Directive (HLG_c(2010-12)_47)

The finalisation of the WG2 proposal for elements and contents in support of a Community legislative instrument in the area of radioactive waste and spent fuel management, in view of its discussion by the ENSREG plenary, was one of the actions agreed at the previous 11th ENSREG meeting (see point 4.2. of the Minutes of the 11th ENSREG meeting – reference HLG_M(2010-11)_Final).

Before the current 12th ENSREG meeting, WG2 made available its proposal dated 16 March 2010 (reference HLG_c(2010-12)_39), followed by written comments formulated by two ENSREG member countries - SE (references HLG_c(2010-12)_42) and (HLG_c(2010-12)_43)), as well as BG (HLG_c(2010-12)_47).

During the ENSREG meeting, **Mr Laaksonen** presented the paper prepared by WG2, reviewing also the comments received from SE (reproduced in Annex 1 to the present Minutes) and BG (reproduced in Annex 2 to the present Minutes).

These documents represented the basis for an open discussion in the Group (the detailed presentation of the views expressed by the ENSREG Members is included in Annex 3 to the present Minutes). The opinions expressed covered mainly the following items:

⁶ Council Directive 2009/71/EURATOM of 25 June 2009 establishing a Community framework for the nuclear safety of nuclear installations: OJ L 172/18 of 02.07.2009

- **Article 1 (Objectives)** – the link between safety and the management of radioactive waste and spent fuel;
- **Article 2 (Scope)** – the exclusion of waste arising from military programmes;
- **Article 3 (Definitions)** – the definition of the term "radioactive waste";
- **Article 4 (General principles governing the management of radioactive waste and spent fuel)** – the inclusion of funding requirements based on the polluter-pays principle;
- **Article 5 (Framework for radioactive waste and spent fuel policy)** – the correct terminology used "national plan"/"national programme";
- **Article 6 (Framework for the safety of radioactive waste and spent fuel management)** – the link with the principles of the Nuclear Safety Directive;
- **Article 7 (Information to the public)** – the extent of the public involvement in the decision-making process;
- **Article 8 (Reporting)** – the public availability of the implementation Reports.

Following the opinions expressed by the members of the Group, the **Commission representative (Mr Ristori)** thanked ENSREG for the input provided, stressing the importance for the Commission to receive from regulators key principles and guiding lines before starting the formal legislative process. He highlighted the need to ensure full compatibility with the Nuclear Safety Directive, as well as to leave the necessary room for manoeuvre for implementation at national level.

Main agreement:

- ENSREG submitted to the European Commission the initial WG2 document, together with the comments raised by the ENSREG members (in writing beforehand as well as orally during the meeting) as expert advice to be further used when proposing Community legislation in the area of radioactive waste and spent fuel management.

5.3. WG3

Related documents:

- Notes of the WG3 meeting of 23 February 2010 (HLG_c(2010-12)_46)
- WG3 progress report ((HLG_c(2010-12)_53)

Ms McGarry (IE) presented the activities of the WG3, highlighting in particular the progress towards fulfilling its tasks related to the development of the dedicated ENSREG Website⁷ and to the elaboration of key principles for national regulators to improve transparency. **Ms Mc Garry** and **Mr Molin (AT)** also informed the Group on the initiative of conducting case-studies, describing the existing situation in specific Member States; volunteering candidatures are encouraged when this process will be launched at WG3 level.

On the future programming, the next WG3 meeting will be held on 16 June 2010.

The Commission representative (Mr Ristori) expressed support for the WG3 activities, and highlighted the need to ensure a link with the corresponding ENEF Working Group on transparency. **Mrs Martinez-Ten (ES)** presented the idea of establishing a national programme aiming to promote the ENSREG website (involving the press).

Main agreement:

- ENSREG endorsed the Progress Report of WG3.

Actions:

- Due to the envisaged existence of separate sections dealing with nuclear safety and radioactive waste, ENSREG Members to update their corresponding country profiles (upon future request of WG3 Chair).

⁷ www.ensreg.eu

- All ENSREG Members to contribute to the promotion of the ENSREG Website (e.g. by including a link from their national Website to the ENSREG one).
- WG3 efforts for finalising and uploading the Section on Radioactive Waste on the ENSREG Website to be pursued.
- The "News" Section of the ENSREG Website to be regularly updated.
- The second ENSREG Report should be submitted to the Council and to the European Parliament in July 2011. In this context, similarly to the first 2009 Report, WG3 was requested to prepare the template of the structure of the upcoming second ENSREG Report.

6. European Conference on Nuclear Safety

Related documents:

- Main conclusions on the Steering Group meetings of 23 March and 14 April 2010 on the European Nuclear Safety Conference (HLG_c(2010-12)_48)
- Possible "in-kind" contribution from the European Commission for the Conference (HLG_c(2010-12)_49)
- Estimation of the contributions' weights for the Conference (HLG_c(2010-12)_50)
- Retro-planning for the Conference (HLG_c(2010-12)_51)
- European Nuclear Safety Conference progress and decisions (HLG_c(2010-12)_54)

Mr Yvan Pouleur (BE) presented the work of the Steering Committee and submitted to ENSREG several decisions related to the Conference's practical arrangements (listed in HLG_c(2010-12)_54).

Main agreements:

- ENSREG endorsed (with several comments) all the decisions proposed by the Steering Committee related to the date and venue of the Conference, the structure and organisation of the sessions, the main themes and messages, the speakers, practicalities, the contacts with the press, the budgeting option (the detailed decisions and the related comments of the ENSREG Members are reproduced in detail in Annex 4 of the present Minutes).
- Out of the above-mentioned decisions, the main ones were related with:
 - the date and venue of the Conference: 28/29 June 2011 in Brussels (Commission premises);
 - the financing arrangements: each Member State ensures its financial participation (limited amounts corresponding to each MS were proposed) with flexibility (upon request).
- **Mr Lacoste (FR)** and **Ms Mc Garry (IE)**⁸ were elected Vice-Chairpersons of the Conference.
- IT and HU volunteered to nominate additional members in the Steering Committee for the Conference.

7. Any other business

7.1. World Nuclear Association (WNA) proposal on International standardization of nuclear reactor designs (activity of the Working Group on Cooperation in Reactor Design Evaluation and Licensing (CORDEL))

Related documents:

- CORDEL initiative letter (HLG_c(2010-12)_44)
- CORDEL Report on the Standardisation of Reactor Design (HLG_c(2010-12)_45)

The CORDEL initiative was discussed in the Group.

⁸ Subsequent to the meeting, Mrs Mc Garry has confirmed her availability to accept the proposed nomination.

Main agreements/Actions:

- The ENSREG Chairperson to reply to the WNA, following the agreement on the content of the proposed letter from the Chairs of the three ENSREG Working Groups.

8. Information on the next ENSREG meeting

The next ENSREG meeting is planned on 7 October 2010 in Brussels.