

14 January 2009

**Statement from
Andrej Stritar, Chair of ENSREG,
following the 7th Group's meeting on 14 January 2009**

On 14 January 2009, the European Nuclear Safety Regulators Group (ENSREG) held its 7th meeting. The Group's work was focused on three main items:

- 1) Discussion on the proposal of the Nuclear Safety Directive
- 2) Follow-up of work programme of ENSREG
- 3) Disclosure of ENSREG documents to the public

During the meeting the Group reached consensus on the following matters:

- ENSREG was informed by the Czech Presidency of the European Union about their ideas on how to go forward with the nuclear safety directive. Their proposal was explained in details and was concentrated around five main issues:
 - structure of the directive,
 - definition of safety objective,
 - requirements regarding international peer reviews,
 - consideration of the inclusion of "new reactors" and
 - referencing of IAEA and WENRA documents.

Most ENSREG representatives have supported the idea behind this proposal to be put forward to the Council's Atomic Questions Group. ENSREG is looking forward to receiving feedback from the Atomic Questions Group. ENSREG would welcome the opportunity to comment in detail on the text.

- Members followed up the progress of work of the three subgroups established by ENSREG in January 2008 on nuclear safety, radioactive waste management and transparency issues. In particular:
 - Development of the process to agree on common lessons learned that will bring together all EU Member States after each cycle (three years) of existing international conventions on nuclear safety and waste and spent fuel management.
 - The process for systematic international peer reviewing of the nuclear safety arrangement systems.
 - Further evaluation of pros and cons of different nuclear safety arrangements in EU.
 - Arrangements for recommending use of best practices in the area of radioactive waste management.
 - Preparation of guidelines for better transparency of regulatory bodies and establishment of the ENSREG home page.

Based on the results of three subgroups, a report for transmission to the European Parliament and the Council will be prepared by July 2009.

- The Group agreed that in order to promote transparency of its work, each ENSREG meeting will be followed shortly by a statement from the Chair to the public.
- ENSREG Members also agreed on a faster procedure to publish its minutes. The agreed minutes will be published in the public part of the CIRCA website (http://circa.europa.eu/Public/irc/tren/nuclear_safety_and_waste/home) within one month after each meeting, should there be no substantial comments from the Members.
- Next ENSREG meetings will be held on 15 April and 2 July 2009, in Brussels. Work will concentrate on the preparation of the report to the European Parliament and the Council.