

08 July 2009

## **Statement from Andrej Stritar, Chair of ENSREG, following the 9<sup>th</sup> Group's meeting on 2 July 2009**

**ENSREG agreed on its first report to the EU Institutions that provides with the Group's main activities since its establishment. The meeting follows shortly the adoption by the Council of a Directive on Nuclear Safety few days earlier, to which the Group strongly contributed.**

In July 2007, following a strong demand from the EU Institutions, the Commission has established a European High Level Group on nuclear safety and waste management (lately renamed as ENSREG, European Nuclear Safety Regulators' Group). The Group has had for purpose to further development of common nuclear safety approaches that would lead to a Community framework and strengthen public confidence on the safe use of nuclear energy within the EU. In accordance with the Commission's decision, the Group is committed to issue a report every second year on its activities to the attention of the EU Institutions.

ENSREG meeting on 2 July had a double significance: agreement on the first Group's report to the EU Institutions and information by the Council on the adoption of a Directive on nuclear safety<sup>1</sup> to which preparation the Group had strongly contributed.

A Swedish Presidency representative presented main lines of the adopted Directive, which lays down national obligations of the EU Member States within the IAEA Safety Fundamentals and the Convention on Nuclear Safety. This is a considerable 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. The Commission thanked ENSREG Members who have contributed to the elaboration of the text of the Directive by providing concrete suggestions. The Directive reflects many of their proposals, *inter alia* the right of Member States on whether to use nuclear energy or not, the possibility to adopt more stringent safety rules and the commitment to submit national regulatory authorities to periodic international peer reviews.

Another essential point of the meeting was the finalisation of the ENSREG report, based on the contributions of its three working groups in nuclear safety, waste management and transparency. The agreed report will now go to editorial revision, before being transmitted by the Commission to the EU Institutions.

Finalisation of the report appeared also as an opportunity to start considerations on further activities of the Group and reflect on its new objectives. In this context, Members agreed that it would be useful to revise the ENSREG work programme and find indicators to be able to monitor its implementation.

Next ENSREG meeting is planned at the end of October 2009.

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<sup>1</sup> 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