

29 October 2009

Statement from Andrej Stritar, Chair of ENSREG, following the 10th Group's meeting on 28 October 2009

ENSREG Chairperson re-elected for another two years term. New challenges for 2010-2011 were discussed. A revised work programme of ENSREG is under preparation for its planned adoption in January 2010.

ENSREG focussed its discussions about progress made by its subgroups and proposals for new objectives. It was noted that ENSREG's subgroup on waste management had fully completed its work programme. For subgroups on nuclear safety and transparency, work is continuing, having for the most visible concrete results adoption by the Council of a Directive on nuclear safety of nuclear installations¹ to which ENSREG Members have contributed, an analysis report on international peer review missions conducted in the EU providing with recommendations to its Member States (adopted by the Group during this meeting), and ENSREG's website preparation that is expected to go live by the end of this year. Many Members considered that certain activities met delays due to the Group's given priority to contribute with its ideas and suggestions to the Commission's proposal establishing a binding Community framework in nuclear safety.

It was, however, noted that in order to get more visibility of its achievements, the Group should establish few major objectives that would lead to concrete results. This should be accompanied by a better communication on ENSREG's activities and realizations. Some ideas were put forward, in particular, ENSREG's involvement in facilitating implementation of the Directive on nuclear safety; preparatory work for ENSREG's position for a possible proposal from the Commission of a Directive on radioactive waste and spent fuel management; organisation of a European Conference on nuclear safety and radiation protection. These proposals are in line with draft Council's recommendations to ENSREG as presented by the Swedish Presidency representative. The Commission representatives have expressed a strong support to these initiatives as well.

ENSREG Members entrusted the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairs to prepare a document on the Group's main goals for adoption in January 2010. The Group also endorsed the work programme main directions proposed by its three working groups, noting, however, that specific projects should be compiled into a single work programme, once ENSREG adopts its main goals.

ENSREG Members set up a task force that will draft a comprehensive proposal on a possible European Conference on nuclear safety, presenting its purpose, objectives, addressees, topics for discussion, potential costs and financing sources, among several other issues. This proposal will be tabled for discussion and adoption at the next ENSREG meeting.

At the end of the meeting, Mr Stritar was confirmed as a Chairperson of the Group for its second two years term of Presidency starting in January 2010 by acclamation. Decisions on Vice-Chairpersons positions and chairing of ENSREG subgroups will be taken at the next ENSREG meeting in mid-January 2010.

¹ 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