

Carmen Martínez Ten chairs in Brussels the First Regulatory Conference on Nuclear Safety in Europe organised by ENSREG

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ENSREG's First Regulatory Conference on Nuclear Safety in Europe will deal in Brussels June 28 and 29 on improving the common approach towards nuclear safety. At the opening session today, chair of this conference and President of the Spanish Consejo de Seguridad Nuclear (CSN), Carmen Martínez Ten, stated that the European Group of Nuclear Regulators (ENSREG) undertook this project a year ago, before the serious accident at the Fukushima Dai-ichi Nuclear Power Plants in Japan set back nuclear safety at the core of global issues.

This First Regulatory Conference gathers some 400 representatives from civil society, EU and international top regulators, non-governmental and international organisations, and associations from the nuclear field.

European Commissioner in charge of Energy, Günther Oettinger; Member of the European Parliament and of the "Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE)" Committee, Miloslav Ransdorf, as well as Pál Kovács, Hungarian Deputy-Minister of State for Energy Affairs participated in the opening session, which was devoted to the collective dimension to nuclear safety of benefits to all citizens.

Mrs. Martínez Ten thanked the European Commission for its support and its offering the "Charlemagne" building to hold this conference, and highlighted the institution's commitment towards nuclear safety. She also summarised three milestones derived from ENSREG works to this respect: harmonisation and legal framework development, both in the nuclear safety and the waste management fields; the exchange of national experiences, and the enhancement of public communication and transparency.

EU Commissioner G. Oettinger added that maintaining all levels of responsibility is required to ensure the safe operation of nuclear plants and preserve social trust. He also emphasized the need for operators, regulatory authorities and, from now on, peer reviews of European experts to maintain a nuclear safety culture with the highest possible standards.

Furthermore, Commissioner Oettinger explained that during the next decade the European Union will move towards a common energy policy, where nuclear energy could still play a

significant role to ensure energy supply and in accordance with diversity of Member States decisions regarding their energy mix.

Mr. André-Claude Lacoste, vice-president of the conference and Chairperson of the French Autorité de Sûreté Nucléaire wished that the project of this conference will become a regular event. One of the core messages of his statement pointed out that robustness of the "European methodology" in this field, initiated in 1999 with the creation of the Western European Nuclear Regulators Association (WENRA), where stress tests for nuclear plants, which were subsequently agreed by the EU Members and the EC, were first defined.

Following the programme, Denis Flory, Deputy Director General of Nuclear Safety and Security at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA); Luis Echávarri, Director General at the OECD Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA); Andreij Stritar, President of ENSREG and Director of the Slovenian Nuclear Safety Administration (SNSA), and Jukka Laaksonen, President of WENRA and Director General of the Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority (STUK) of Finland participated also in the opening session, highlighting the works of the organisations they represented to enhance nuclear safety in Europe.

The session entitled "Achievement and assessment" permitted vice-president of the Conference, Ann Mc Garry, who is also Chief Executive of the Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland (RPII), to value positively the role of non-nuclear countries in the regulatory field, as well as the balanced weight these have within ENSREG and the support of this Group to transparency and exchange of information.

The second day of the conference is devoted, first, to "challenges and perspectives". This session is chaired by Mike Weightman, United Kingdom's Head of the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR). It includes a set of presentations on safety objectives for new reactors, safety of research reactors, experience from the construction of the Olkiluoto EPR, long-term operation, experience operating feed-back of NPPs and decommissioning.

Before closure by Vice-President of the Conference, Mr. Lacoste, a panel session is foreseen to foster discussion with stakeholders on the Fukushima consequence of EU stress-tests.

The press conference and the full conference were web streamed live. This service was also made available through the [ENSREG website](#).