



**Press release – Stress tests
8 May 2012**

The European nuclear safety regulators group (ENSREG) and the European Commission have adopted on 26 April 2012 a report on the results of the stress tests on European nuclear power plants.

The report concludes that all countries have taken significant steps to improve the safety of their plants. Compliance with the ENSREG specification is good with regard to design basis for earthquake and flooding. Significant measures to increase robustness of plants have already been decided or are considered. Such measures include provisions of additional mobile equipment to prevent or mitigate severe accidents, installation of hardened fixed equipment, and the improvement of severe accident management, together with appropriate staff training measures. The report also identifies other areas for improvement and formulates recommendations.

In a joint declaration adopted in conjunction with the report, ENSREG and the Commission welcome the quality of the accomplished work and the efforts demonstrated by all European actors so as to carry out this unprecedented work in the best possible conditions. ENSREG and the European Commission also stressed the valuable improvements that the stress tests report will help achieve in the field of nuclear safety.

ENSREG and the European Commission now intend to set up an Action plan which would include a follow-up process to the recommendations expressed in the ENSREG and in the country reports. They also share the view that the setting up of work in areas such as emergency preparedness and response would be useful.

This exercise, which was launched in March 2011, mobilised thousands of various actors including operators of European nuclear power plants, national safety authorities and their technical support organisations (TSO) and the European Commission. For the peer review phase alone, which was organised in the period between January and April 2012, the reports established by the 17 participating states and dealing with more than 140 nuclear power plants built in Europe were assessed by more than 80 experts coming from 24 various countries as well as by the European Commission.

Besides, the stress test exercise has been carried out in fully transparent and open spirit. Several public events were organised in order to present the stress test process. The reports drafted by the national regulatory authorities, the endorsed final report and its annex consisting of the 17 country reports are available on the ENSREG website (www.ensreg.com). The aim of the second public event on 8 May in Brussels is to present the result of the stress tests to the public.

This report responds to the mandate delivered by the European Council on 25 March 2011, asking for the launch of stress tests on the European nuclear power plants in the light of the Fukushima events. It will be sent for information to EU Heads of States and Governments on the occasion of the European Council scheduled on 28 and 29 June 2012.

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