

Statement from Mr Hartmut Klonk, President of the ENSREG National Action Plans Workshop of 22-26 April 2013, Brussels

The ENSREG National Action Plans Workshop was held on 22-26 April 2013 in Brussels under the presidency of Mr Hartmut Klonk, Germany, Chairperson of ENSREG Working Group on Nuclear Safety.

The Workshop resulted from the action plan agreed by the European Nuclear Safety Regulators Group (ENSREG) following the European stress test. The stress test was requested by the European Council in the aftermath of the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant accident on 11 March 2011 and consisted of a comprehensive and transparent risk and safety assessment (“stress tests”) conducted in 2011 in light of the Fukushima lessons learned and a peer review in 2012. According to the ENSREG action plan, each participating country was requested to submit a National Action Plan in response to the findings of the stress test.

The ENSREG National Action Plan Workshop was held to peer review the contents and status of implementation of the National Action Plans via a common discussion. Sixty eight experts from 21 European Union member states, European Commission, Switzerland and the Ukraine as well as 11 observers from three additional countries (Armenia, Canada and Taiwan) and the IAEA participated. The discussion took place in a very open and constructive but still challenging atmosphere. The workshop supported the consistency of these plans, as well as promoted sharing of commendable practices, experiences and challenges within European countries.

The National Action Plans describe the actions that were taken, planned or implemented and their schedule to improve the safety of nuclear power plants operated in Europe. The scope of the workshop was focused on the topics of the EU Stress Tests (natural external hazards, loss of safety systems/design issues, and management of severe accidents) thus demonstrating in a transparent way that lessons are learned and the necessary actions are taken on a reasonable and sometimes ambitious time schedule.

The Fukushima Dai-ichi accident highlighted *inter alia* the importance of the Defence-in-Depth principle and the continued need to ensure the design basis adequately addresses external hazards. All countries identified in their action plans analysis needs, hardware improvements, procedural modifications and regulatory actions, and described corresponding implementation schedules. The Workshop recognized the importance of the Periodic Safety Review process as a powerful tool to be used for continuous improvement of nuclear power plants. Maintaining containment integrity under severe accident conditions remains an important issue for accident management. This is well recognized and related activities are included in most national action plans.

All participating countries are strongly committed to the issue of transparency of their work and demonstrated related improvements. The national action plans are available on the internet and will be updated regularly. The regulatory bodies in all countries are committed to follow-up the implementation of identified improvement actions until their finalisation.