



**Statement from Mr. Pierre-Franck Chevet,
Chairperson of ENSREG,
following the Group's 36th meeting of the 2nd July 2018**

1st Topical Peer Review (TPR) on "Ageing Management". ENSREG members recognized the very large efforts of all members of the TPR Board, the country experts and the national regulators in reaching this stage of the review. The exercise allowed sharing experience, identifying "Good Practices" but also "expected level of performance" and "Challenges" at EU or country level for each topic. However, the TPR report and its recommendations were not considered to be ready for endorsement by the Board and the ENSREG members. ENSREG decided re-discuss the report at an "extraordinary" ENSREG plenary meeting which will take place the 4th October in Brussels.

ENSREG reviewed the summary report prepared by WG1 to present the status at EU level of Stress Test National Action Plan (NACp) implementation in 2017. According to the commitment taken in 2015, all countries participating to the EU Stress Test NACp peer review in May 2015 were to update their NACPs by the end of 2017. ENSREG Members concluded that this report was not sufficiently mature for endorsement and that "hearings" of the different countries by WG1 have to be completed in order to understand why some countries seem to have experienced further delays in their implementation plan in comparison to 2015.

ENSREG finalised its Work Programme 2018-2020. The European Commission representatives stated that the proposed Work Programme was not ambitious enough and that several items proposed by the Commission as part of the post-Fukushima legislation implementation were not reflected or reflected with too low priorities in this Work Programme. Several ENSREG members argued that until 2020 they were facing a very high workload and that several tasks proposed by the Commission were already covered by other fora (OECD-NEA, IAEA). In the end the WP was adopted with one main additional task on Counterfeit, Fraudulent and Suspect Items (CFSI) issues which is a direct outcome of the ENSREG 2017 conference.

ENSREG discussed the results of the Stress Test peer review process in Belarus which took place from the 12 to 16 March 2018. The PRT (Peer Review Team) Leader highlighted that the stress-test was conducted in a constructive and collaborative atmosphere and fully in line with the specifications for EU stress test, including on transparency. The peer review report highlights various good practices but presents further potential improvements with a view to ensuring continuous safety improvement. The PRT Leader recommends that Gosatomnadzor in accordance with the principle of "intelligent ownership", should identify the necessary safety improvements in response to the recommendations made in this report by the PRT and those by Gosatomnadzor itself, and incorporate them into a National Action Plan containing all relevant safety improvement measures and associated implementation schedules. ENSREG Members endorsed the peer review report with a view to have this report presented to the public during a public event the 3rd July in Brussels. The peer review report was published on the ENSREG website on the 4th July.

ENSREG called on the Belarusian authorities to develop a National Action Plan, to ensure timely implementation of all safety improvement measures in accordance with their safety significance. The Action Plan should be subject to a future independent review. This was done by all EU and non EU countries which voluntarily participated to the stress test process since Fukushima. The Commission representative recalled as well that the EU has been providing the Belarusian nuclear regulatory authority with technical assistance by transferring EU best practices on the regulatory process since 2011 and would consider increasing this technical assistance, especially through the INSC, in the coming years to support the BY National Action Plan as appropriate and ensure that the highest possible safety standards are followed in Belarus.

The last point addressed was the issue of high levels of radioactive isotope Ruthenium-106 which were measured in the air in a number of European countries in autumn 2017. ENSREG Members provided since their last meeting a coordinated response targeting the regulatory authority of the Russian Federation. ENSREG recognizes that cooperative efforts thanks to the Independent International Scientific Commission (IISC) set-up by the Nuclear Safety Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences (IBRAE) presented an opportunity for useful exchanges on this event. However, ENSREG regrets that no joint conclusion was possible and maintains its analysis about the possible source location. ENSREG members recalled the importance of transparency in building trust among the various stakeholders involved in nuclear safety and the safe management of spent fuel and radioactive waste. Based on these considerations ENSREG decided to issue a communication on Ru-106 and to publish this communication and the links to measurement data collected by ENSREG Members on the ENSREG website.

ENSREG decided to organise an "extraordinary" ENSREG meeting the 4 October 2018 in Brussels. This meeting will be mostly devoted to the discussion of the TPR report on "Ageing Management".