

TPR – Video Pierre-Franck CHEVET

Dear colleagues,

Dear representatives of industry,

Dear representatives of associations,

Ladies and gentlemen the representatives of the European Commission,

Ladies and gentlemen,

I would first ask you to excuse me for not being physically present with you at this event.

Imperatives associated with ASN's oversight duties prevent me from participating in person.

This video message nevertheless gives me the opportunity, as Chairman of ENSREG, to

emphasise the importance of this first topical peer review focusing on the management of reactor ageing. For me, this exercise is **novel, demanding and federating**

First and foremost **the exercise is novel**. It is in effect the first topical peer review that we have organised in application of the 2014 safety directive.

This peer review process is considered a major instrument for fostering the sharing of continuous improvements in safety: a peer review of the nuclear facilities of each member country must be carried out every 6 years, in application of the 2014 directive.

This in-depth topical review process is inspired directly from the process implemented for the nuclear facility stress tests in the wake of the Fukushima accident.

As of 2015, the intensive work carried out first by WENRA and then by ENSREG led to a convergence on the choice of a topic that concerns us all, namely the ageing of power and research reactors.

Within ENSREG we were able to draw up all the documents governing such an exercise (terms of reference, technical specifications and communication with the stakeholders) as of January 2017. Altogether, 19 countries, some of which are outside the European Union and which I also commend for their the commitment, accepted to take part in this large-scale innovative exercise of comparing the ageing management programmes of their facilities, by focusing on equipment that is difficult or impossible to replace: reactor pressure vessel, reactor containment, buried pipes and electric cables.

This exercise is also demanding. A Board has been set up especially for this topical peer review. I salute its action through its Chair, Petteri Tiippana, and its Vice-Chair, Sylvie Cadet-Mercier. This Board is assisted by nearly 60 experts from the participating countries who have accepted the arduous task of not only analysing the national reports but also comparing the ageing management programmes and their application in each technical domain. The demanding nature is also reflected in the first work phase which last year consisted, for each participating country, in drawing up - in collaboration with the licensees of course - and submitting a

national report providing a complete overview of the situation. These reports today provide a sound basis for work which has already allowed the initiation of a peer-to-peer questions and answers process.

Demanding at all times, because as Chairman of ENSREG, I attach the utmost importance to consultation and transparency: the stakeholders have been involved in all the phases of this process and your presence here today, representing a diversity of horizons, bears witness to this constant concern to establish a constructive dialogue, respecting each person's opinions and duties, with the aim of jointly improving nuclear safety.

Lastly, the exercise is Federating. Because finally this highly ambitious exercise must allow us collectively to draw the lessons from the ageing management practices applied by the various participants. Do we comply with the baseline requirements? Do we have technical difficulties in certain areas? Conversely, do we either individually or collectively have good practices that would merit wider dissemination? This will be the whole point of the analysis that we have to

carry out now, in mid-May, then in June, so that we can collectively develop recommendations on which we must all base our safety initiatives in the future.

In my opinion we have all the ingredients needed for this high calibre exercise to take place under optimum conditions, driven by a common goal, namely to constantly improve safety and radiation protection in order to protect people and the environment.

I would like to thank the Commission which assisted us very capably in the preparation of this exercise, and I also thank all the technical players who are the guarantors of its success.

I wish you all fruitful work sessions and exchanges which will enable us to progress together towards greater safety.

Thank you for your attention.