

7th ENSREG Conference:

**Responding to the growing interest
in nuclear energy**

24-25 June 2024

Summary



- 214 registered participants, diverse profiles
- full in person mode
- all groups of stakeholders
- 31 speakers/panelists
- introductory session followed by 4 topical sessions
- new challenges recognized
- exchange of experience
- intense and fruitful discussions

Introductory Session



- 5 speakers representing distinguished international organizations
- current challenges and priorities of the EC and others
- conference introduced as a whole
- growing interest in nuclear energy
- role and work of ENSREG, WGs (NEA, WENRA, HERCA)
- the importance of having strong and prepared regulators

First Topical Session

Adapting Nuclear Regulation to the New Context

- 8 panelists
- various challenges highlighted, still unfortunately nuclear safety issues in Ukraine and efforts for the security of the supply
- future approach of regulators:
 - adapting to new challenges and developments
 - regulations to be more goal-oriented and less prescriptive
 - cooperation with licensees needed
 - meeting expectations from stakeholders
 - maintaining efficiency, credibility, independence, transparency, trust
 - Nuclear safety and security remain an overriding priorities

Second Topical Session

Capacity and Skills

- 6 panelists
- increasing needs for competent manpower vs. lack of experts
- new methods to attract talented staff, also non-nuclear profiles
- sufficient resources provided to regulators
- knowledge sharing and preservation is one of the key elements
- role of women in nuclear sector: various ongoing support programmes
- important areas of diversity and inclusion

Third Topical Session

Addressing the Challenge of Climate Change

- 4 panelists
- general overview and possible consequences
- impacts on nuclear installations
- challenges for regulators and operators: sufficient resilience (regulators and operators already implemented and plan additional actions), unpredictable risks
- mitigation: how nuclear power can help
- international and interdisciplinary cooperation needed

Fourth Topical Session

Regulatory Approaches for Licensing of SMRs

a) Industrial Organization and Safety Issues:

- 5 panelists
- European SMR Industrial Alliance
- safety and regulatory challenges
- need for convergence with industry
- various SMR concepts/initiatives and experience
- sufficient level of safety, fostering well informed public debate

Fourth Topical Session

Regulatory Approaches for Licensing of SMRs

b) Regulatory collaboration going forward:

- 4 panelists: different experience of regulators
- various proposed designs → different licensing approaches
- need for coordination of approaches
- collaboration between regulators is essential
- streamline the licensing process
- regulators to meet expectations
- role of ENSREG in European SMR Industrial Alliance

Conclusions

- new technologies, global challenges → new methods and approaches
- still and increasing emphasis on
 - nuclear safety during armed conflicts
 - climate change mitigation
- open and transparent communication
 - between regulators
 - between regulators and stakeholders
- intensive international collaboration

Thank you!

8th ENSREG Conference in 2026