



**Statement by Mr Juan Carlos Lentijo,  
Chair of ENSREG,  
following the Group's 54<sup>th</sup> meeting on 20 March 2024**

The 54<sup>th</sup> meeting of European Nuclear Safety Regulators Group (ENSREG) took place on 20 March 2024 in Brussels. ENSREG welcomed new members representing Italy and Sweden and new observers representing WENRA and the General Secretariat of the Council of the EU. ENSREG re-elected its two vice-chairs for a second term and elected the new chair of the ENSREG Board for Stress Tests in Third Countries.

ENSREG issued a statement (annexed hereto) reiterating the overriding priority of nuclear safety in the context of a renewed interest in nuclear energy in some EU Member States as a means to reach decarbonisation goals, security of supply considerations related to the war in Ukraine and industrial policy objectives.

ENSREG adopted its work programme for 2024-2026. The draft 8<sup>th</sup> ENSREG report covering years 2022-2023 was discussed and will be adopted through written procedure in view of its transmission to the Council of the EU and the European Parliament. ENSREG approved the structure of the programme of the 7<sup>th</sup> ENSREG Conference with additional suggestions for the attention of the Steering Committee. ENSREG took note of the information from the Commission on the need to align its Rules of Procedure with the Commission horizontal rules on the creation and operation of Commission expert groups and the new template.

ENSREG took note of the reports of the working groups on their activities and received an update on ongoing and planned stress test peer reviews in third countries. The possibility of carrying out such stress tests in newly build nuclear power plants in the EU Member States was discussed. The Group was also informed about the state of the ongoing desktop review phase of the second topical peer review on fire protection and the upcoming site visits and thematic workshops. ENSREG and WENRA chair exchanged on possibility of closer cooperation in the future, notably on definition of advanced technology fuels, such as accident tolerant fuels.

In the context of the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine, the Head of the State Nuclear Regulation Inspectorate of Ukraine (SNRIU) provided an update on the situation at the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant (ZNPP). He referred to the adoption of a new resolution on the situation in Ukraine by the IAEA Board of Governors and presented preparatory work towards regaining nuclear safety control at ZNPP. ENSREG reiterated its concern about the safety of nuclear power plants in Ukraine and its full support for its regulator.

ENSREG appointed an observer to the Governing Board of the European Industrial Alliance on Small Modular Reactors (SMR) and agreed the principles of the organisation of future work on SMRs within ENSREG.

At the end of the meeting, ENSREG welcomed the Commissioner for Energy Kadri Simson who in her intervention emphasised the importance of ENSREG's work for ensuring highest nuclear safety standards in the context of the growing interest in nuclear energy in the EU and globally. She congratulated Ukrainian SNRIU for its continued commitment to nuclear safety and underlined the cooperation with EU counterparts. She thanked EU Member States regulators involved in the European SMR pre-partnership and encouraged the Group to interact with the newly established European Industrial Alliance on SMRs. Commissioner Simson also stressed the key role of nuclear safety regulators in diversification of nuclear

supply chains and safe deployment of SMRs, and underlined her support to strong and independent regulators as they acquire new roles and perform key functions.

The next ENSREG plenary will be held on 28 November 2024.