Minutes of the 49th meeting of ENSREG
21 June 2022
Charlemagne Building, Brussels

Participants
ENSREG Members representing 23 EU Member States and the European Commission (EC) participated in the meeting. Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Greece were not represented.
Observers from Switzerland, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Kingdom, the Council of the EU, and WENRA also participated.

1. Opening of the meeting, adoption of the agenda

In the absence of ENSREG Chairperson, Ms Marta Žiaková, who sent her apologies, Patrick Majerus chaired the 49th ENSREG meeting. The meeting took place in a physical format, but without interpretation, due to the constraints imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The president of the 6th ENSREG Conference, Mr Gerrit Nieuhaus (Germany), presented the conclusions of the event. He pointed out that the discussions were balanced, the organisation excellent and thanked particularly the moderator Ms Ann MacLachlan and also Mr Sebastian Kuhn and the steering committee he chaired.

Two new members were appointed representing Croatia and Cyprus; none of them were able to be present at the meeting.

The draft agenda was circulated on CIRCABC. The main topics were the TPR II process, the presentation of a report on the implementation of the Nuclear Safety Directive and the EU SMR Partnership.

It was agreed to change the order under point 3 (TPR II) to start with the WG3 contribution on public consultation outcomes and then continue with the progress report by the chair of the board and the presentation by WENRA of the technical specifications.

The draft minutes circulated on CIRCA, incorporating comments received from France and Germany, were approved.

The list of members and observers at the time of the meeting is attached as Annex II.

ENSREG took the decision to:
    adopt the agenda reflecting the change in the order of the agenda point on TPR-II;
    approve the record of the 48th meeting.
2. Chairperson's introduction

The Chair briefly recalled ENSREG’s principal activities since the 48th ENSREG meeting, held on 24 March 2022.

All three ENSREG Working Groups had met once virtually in the preceding months, with a considerable focus on issues related to the second topical peer review. The Board supervising the preparations of the second TPR had met on a number of occasions. The main part of the TPT-II Terms of Reference was finalised, WENRA have advanced the Technical Specifications and the TPR-II public consultation was completed.

The Chair thanked participants for their involvement in, and support to, the standing technical group, coordinated by ASN, and composed of experts from WENRA, HERCA and the Commission which had been tasked by ENSREG, to refine risk assessments and to assess any new information on the situation in Ukraine. The Chair recalled that ENSREG had adopted three public statements on Ukraine during the three extraordinary plenary meetings held in February and March of 2022.

The ENSREG Board for Stress Tests in Third Countries met twice, mainly to discuss the progress with the Akkuyu peer review. The Stress-Test Board has held two meetings since the March ENSREG plenary, discussing the progress of the Akkuyu peer review, the site visit and several other issues.

Mr Tiippana, the Team Leader of the Akkuyu peer review reported that originally, the site visit had been planned to take place in May 2022, but as construction was delayed it was not meaningful to visit the site then and thus the site visit was postponed to June 2023. Instead, the team visited Ankara for preparatory meetings addressing the three stress test topical areas. The meetings had been very productive, constructive and open. The discussions focussed more on the areas of extreme initiating events, and loss of safety functions than on the area of severe accident management, which is not yet mature and will be fully addressed during the June 2023 site visit.

The Akkuyu design is somewhat different to that of the Astravets NPP in Belarus, so the Belarus findings may not be applicable to Akkuyu. The peer review team is drafting preliminary findings on the three topic areas, which will be shared soon with the Akkuyu regulator, NDK, in view of receiving their responses in October 2022, following which the team will start drafting the final report. The team leader thanked the team for its strong commitment.

The representative of Türkiye thanked ENSREG for organising the peer review. Türkiye had found the May visit to be very useful, and appreciated ENSREG’s expertise. Most of NDK’s own findings match those of the peer-review team.

The Chair thanked both the steering committee for the ENSREG conference as well as the steering committee of the EU SMR Pre-Partnership for their work.

There had been a call for candidates to replace Kirsi Alm-Lytz as Chair of WG1 following her departure, but even with an extension to the deadline no candidates had come forward. Mr Turner kindly offered to chair WG1 temporarily while the search for a replacement for Ms Alm-Lytz continues. (Reminder: in accordance with the ENSREG Working Group Rules of Procedure, the Chairs of ENSREG Working Groups must be Members of the plenary).
The Commission representative thanked Ms Alm-Lytz for her excellent work on behalf of ENSREG and thanked Mr Turner for supporting WG1, pending appointment of a permanent chair.

**ENSREG took the decision to:**
- appoint Mikulas Turner as the interim chair of WG1.

### 3. Second Topical Peer Review (TPR II)

#### WG3 contribution to TPR-II

WG3 chair Mr Majerus delivered some general remarks on the outcomes of the public consultation. Three main documents of the TPR had been developed for TPR II (Technical Specifications, Terms of Reference and Stakeholder Engagement Plan) and they were posted on the ENSREG website from mid-April until 27 May 2022 for public consultation. Four stakeholder organisations responded with comments (ENISS, IAEA, ZZW Switzerland, Nuclear Risk Austria): four comments addressed the Technical Specifications, one addressed the Stakeholders Engagement Plan whilst none addressed the Terms of Reference.

Two comments addressed transparency issues. One comment suggested creating a focus group, but this is already clearly mentioned in the Stakeholder Engagement Plan. The second comment asked for an additional (third) public consultation to be organised. However, WG3’s view is that two public consultations will be sufficient. Accordingly, no changes will be made to the TPR documentation, although the stakeholders will receive clarifications regarding their contributions. (Secretary’s note: the Stakeholder Engagement Plan was approved by the 44th ENSREG).

#### Progress Report by Chair of TPR-II Board

Ms Cadet-Mercier reported that the TPR-II Board had met four times since the 48th ENSREG meeting. The main activity had been progressing the review of the installations by the Board and the Team Leaders, as requested by the 48th ENSREG meeting. However, ultimately the final selection of installations is a national decision.

The Board’s/Team Leaders’ review covered the starting list of all installations falling within the scope of the Nuclear Safety Directive, the list of installations excluded from the TPR reporting on the basis of low radiological risk, and the list of candidate installations for reporting on under the TPR. The Board has established guidance to have a consistent and transparent review. Each Team leader is responsible for some countries reviews.

The initial comments from the Team Leaders indicate that two countries had yet to prepare their installation list, and that there was often a lack of justification for excluding installations. Questionnaires have been sent to the national contact points to fill in gaps in information.

The review had also brought to light differing national positions on potential radiological risk for the same type of installations and differing national positions regarding similar candidate/represented installations. The Board Chair also presented some slides summarising the number of installations by installation type and by country.

Team Leaders and rapporteurs have been appointed for each thematic area (fire safety analysis; active fire protection; fire prevention and passive fire protection) as well as for the
two country groups, with a total of 36 experts available for the review, which equates to around ten installations per expert. Ms Cadet-Mercier noted, however, that currently there were insufficient experts covering fuel fabrication plants.

The Team Leaders’ review will be completed by mid-July 2022, the conclusions will sent to the national regulators and the overall report will be sent to ENSREG. The Board asks to receive the final national selections of installations by December 2022 in order to organize the TPR experts’ work, although earlier provision of national selections would be most welcome.

Regarding site visits, when the national selections of research reactors are complete, complementary guidance will be discussed within WG1 and will be presented to ENSREG.

The Board had agreed with WENRA’s ad hoc TPR group that the national reporting template (Annex 2 of the Technical Specifications) should provide for reporting per category of installation.

**ENSREG took note:**

- of the progress on the review of selection of national installations,
  - 1 – end of the review in July and the sending of the conclusions,
  - 2 – the Board’s need to receive the final national selection by December 2022 in view of the organization of the future work;
- of the TPR team organisation (by thematics and country);
- that the guidance for site visits will be drafted later, discussed with WG1 and presented to ENSREG;
- of the completion of the Terms of Reference;
- of the proposal to modify the NAR template for effective review.

**Presentation by WENRA of the TPR-II Technical Specifications**

Following the 47th ENSREG meeting, the draft Technical Specifications were updated in order to address comments received from ENSREG and from the TPR-II Board, in particular by the addition of criteria and recommendations for including installations in national reports, as well by addition of a request for inclusion of information on licensees experience and regulators’ assessments in national reports.

The comments received during the public consultation addressed mainly:

- ensuring consistency between terms used in the Technical Specifications, in the Nuclear Safety Directive and the Terms of Reference;
- clarification about information to include in national reports;
- ensuring the completeness of the Safety Reference Levels used as TPR references.

None of the comments received resulted in significant changes to the text of the draft Technical Specifications.

The Commission representative expressed concern at the limited number of civil society comments raised during the public consultation, with the risk of comments or criticisms being raised later in the exercise. He welcomed the careful scrutiny of the selection of installations, allowing findings that can be shared across similar installations and contribute to a thorough review.
Mr Laporta, the representative of Italy, noted that despite being a non-nuclear country, Italy had identified a disproportionately large number of installations, thereby raising questions as to the degree of harmonisation and balance between countries. It was suggested that the installation lists be reviewed for consistency by the TPR-II Board prior to the next ENSREG plenary.

**ENSREG took the decision to:**
- adopt the updated Technical Specifications;
- publish the Technical Specifications, the Terms of Reference and the Stakeholder Engagement Plan on the ENSREG web-site.


**HLG_r(2022-49)_644 COM NSD 2nd Progress Report 2022 _ ENSREG Plenary June 2022**

Mr Panek of the Commission introduced the agenda point on the second report to the Council and the European Parliament, on the progress made by the EU Member States on the implementation of the amended Nuclear Safety Directive. Reporting on the directive’s implementation is a requirement under the Nuclear Safety Directive. The first such report had been adopted in 2015, while the present report had been adopted by the Commission in April 2022 and transmitted to the Members of ENSREG in May 2022.

The report concludes that there is a good overall level of implementation of the Directive’s obligations, and highlights the significant progress made by Member States in the 10 years since the Fukushima nuclear accident in 2011. However, it also identifies several areas where action at EU level would be beneficial to support implementation of the Nuclear Safety Directive at national level, encouraging EU countries to work together. The Commission will support and facilitate the implementation of the report’s recommendations and stands ready to work closely with EU countries and their regulatory authorities, with the licensees and with other stakeholders, including civil society: the Commission fully recognises ENSREG’s fundamental role in this process.

Mr Jilek of the Commission presented the report in detail, presenting the information sources used to prepare the report, the structure of the report, as well as the findings. Based upon the observations made in the report, the findings address the following domains of the Nuclear Safety Directive:

- independence of competent regulatory authorities;
- capabilities of licence holders;
- nuclear safety culture;
- transparency;
- the Nuclear Safety Objective;
- topical peer reviews.

Follow-up activities to the report feature in the ENSREG Work Programme 2021 – 2023 as task 1 (a). The Commission is ready to support the implementation of this task as necessary, e.g. through the organisation of workshops. The Commission envisages carrying out a single study on addressing the implementation of the recommendations and observations at EU-level, the
intention being to support regulators’ work, not to duplicate or replace it. A workshop to examine the findings of the report will take place at the beginning of November 2022.

5. EU SMR Partnership

Mr Brugmans, ENSREG representative to the European Small Modular Reactor Pre-Partnership Steering Committee, presented a brief status update on its activities relevant to ENSREG. He also outlined the Partnership’s specific objectives:

- developing the necessary industrial supply chain in Europe;
- encouraging the implementation of common (harmonized) licensing process across the EU;
- establishing a strategic research agenda:
  - LWR, as a mature technology;
  - advanced SMR (Gen IV) designs.

He also outlined the partnership’s priorities for the second half of 2022, including selection of three to five SMR designs on which the European SMR partnership should focus its activities from 2023.

The partnership has five work-streams, including Work Stream 2 on licensing. Work Stream 2’s main objective is to identify the elements for establishing a European pre-licensing process based on commonly accepted safety assessments from different ENSREG members interested in the licensing of the same SMR design.

Ms Cadet-Mercier, the Chair of Work Stream 2 (on licensing) briefly presented the Work Stream’s activities. She recalled the 14 December 2021 information session with ENSREG Members and the Work Stream’s kick-off meeting, held on 3 March 2022. The Work Stream’s main focus during 2022 is on establishing an inventory of existing initiatives in this area, and to gain an understanding of commonalities and differences between Member States’ licensing processes.

Mr Panek for the Commission noted that although the Partnership was initiated by industry it is important for ENSREG and regulators to be actively involved and drive the work of Work Stream 2, in order to coordinate the licensing processes and avoid duplication of efforts across jurisdictions. He stressed the need to monitor ongoing developments within ENSREG members and beyond, such as the ASN-STUK-SUJB initiative for NUWARD, and IAEA’s activities in the regulatory field.

Mr Tiippana, the representative of Finland asked in respect of Work Stream 2 whether it would be better to go beyond licensing to see how joint safety assessment could be arrived at – as is being done for NUWARD. Ms Cadet-Mercier replied that the aim was to establish to what degree cooperation would be possible or be limited by countries’ licensing processes.

The representative of France asked how the partnership could be articulated with IAEA’s activities in the area. Mr Panek replied that it was too early to draw conclusions from IAEA efforts, although it was likely that the EU’s common legislative framework would allow deeper cooperation than would be possible under an IAEA approach.

ENSREG took note of:
- ENSREG took note of the recent developments related to the European SMR pre-partnership Steering Committee and its WS2.
6. AOB

Wenra activities related to Ukraine

WENRA Chair Mr Gupta delivered a brief overview of WENRA’s activities in relation to Ukraine. The ad hoc technical working group was still active and stood ready to address any specific requests for advice from the Ukrainian regulator, although no such request had been received to date.

The ongoing activity of comparison of modelling has begun with the gathering of information on modelling capabilities, and with an experts meeting planned to be held during July or August to discuss hypotheses and models. The outputs from the modelling work will be shared with HERCA.

Mr Majerus intervened as vice-Chair of HERCA. A HERCA task force had been established immediately after the war started, with a mandate to examine the consequences of a release of radioactivity caused by military action, and in particular the application of the HERCA-WENRA Approach to facilitating cross-border information exchange and coordination of response measures. The task force had set up regional meetings with Ukraine’s neighbours.

Mr Korikov acting Chair of the Ukrainian regulator SNRIU expressed gratitude for the high priority being afforded to nuclear safety in Ukraine.

Corrosion

Slovakia’s Member, Mr Turner, presented the outcomes of an investigation into corrosion which had been found in the reactor pit of Unit 3 of Mochovce NPP. An increase in the iron concentration of the primary circuit water had been detected in August 2021 during commissioning testing. The reactor’s protective cover was dismantled to permit an internal inspection, during which it was found that corrosion of several components had taken place.

The operator had fully informed ÚJD of its investigations and requested that the Failure Committee of units 1 and 2 should further investigate the causes, following which ÚJD ordered a number of corrective actions and identified the following shortcomings:

- deficiencies in communication between the supplier’s specialists and the licensee (information on the materials used and its evaluation);
- the cleanliness of the internal surfaces was not performed and evaluated in accordance with the procedure.

Mr Dorozcuk reported that investigations were continuing into the cases of stress corrosion cracking detected in the primary circuits of a number of NPP in France, and it was expected that conclusions could be drawn by late summer, permitting presentation to ENSREG’s autumn meeting.

Letter from NTW and EEB

At the end of May 2022, the European Environmental Bureau (EEB) and Nuclear Transparency Watch (NTW) had addressed the above letter to the Commission and to the ENSREG Chair asking for the initiation of steps towards a European, post-Ukraine, nuclear stress test process.
for all European nuclear power stations, that implements lessons learned for nuclear safety and regulatory oversight from the ongoing war crisis in Ukraine. It was agreed to postpone review of the letter until the autumn meeting and Members were invited to send their observations on the letter to the Chair and the Secretariat by the end of October 2022.

**WG2 survey on non-energy waste**

Mr Matteucci reminded Members of WG2’s current survey on non-energy waste, to which not all countries had replied.

**7. Next meeting**

ENSREG’s next regular plenary meeting is planned to be held physically in Brussels on 24 November 2022.
Annex I

Agenda

49th meeting of ENSREG

21 June 2022

14:15 – 17:15 Brussels time

SICCO MANSHOLT Room, Charlemagne building
Rue de la Loi 170, 1000 Brussels, Belgium
and by Webex conference call

1. Opening of the meeting, adoption of the agenda (14:15-14:25)

2. Chairperson's introduction (14:25-14:35)

   - Progress Report by Chair of TPR-II Board
   - Presentation by WENRA of the TPR-II Technical Specifications
   - WG3 contribution to TPR-II


5. EU SMR Partnership (16:00-16:30)

6. A.O.B (16:30-17:10)
   - WENRA report on standing technical group: accident scenarios in Ukraine war
   - Corrosion
   - Letter from NTW and EEB

7. Next Meeting (17:10-17:15)
Annex II

List of Members and Observers
(Status 2 June 2022)

Members:

Austria: Dr V. Ehold, Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology
Mag. Th. Augustin, Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology

Belgium: Mr F. Hardeman, Federal Agency for Nuclear Control
Mr M. Demarche, ONDRAF-NIRAS

Bulgaria: Mr T. Bachyiski, Nuclear Regulatory Agency of the Republic of Bulgaria
Mr B. Stanimirov, Nuclear Regulatory Agency of the Republic of Bulgaria

Commission: Mr M. Garribba, Deputy Director-General, DG ENER
Mr J. Panek, Director for Nuclear Energy, Safety and ITER, DG ENER

Croatia: Mr T. Žic, Ministry of the Interior
Ms Z. Tečić, Ministry of the Interior

Cyprus: Mr D. Sakkas, Ministry of Labour, Welfare and Social Insurance

Czechia: Ms D. Drabova, State Office for Nuclear Safety
Mr. M. Merxbauer, State Office for Nuclear Safety

Denmark: Ms M. Øhlenschlæger, National Institute of Radiation Protection
Mr J. Thomsen, Danish Emergency Management Agency

Estonia: Ms K. Muru, Estonian Environmental Board
Mr I. Puskar, Estonian Environmental Board

Finland: Mr P. Tiippana, Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority
Ms K. Alm-Lytz, Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority

France: Mr B. Dorosczuk, Nuclear Safety Authority (ASN)
Mr G. Bouyt, Ministry for the Ecological Transition

Germany: Mr T. Elsner, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU)
Mr G. Niehaus, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU)

Greece: Dr Ch. Housiadas, Greek Atomic Energy Commission (EEAE)
Ms E. Carinou, Greek Atomic Energy Commission (EEAE)

Hungary: Ms A. B. Kádár, Hungarian Atomic Energy Authority (HAEA)
Mr L. Juhász, Hungarian Atomic Energy Authority (HAEA)

Ireland: Dr. M. Lehane, Environmental Protection Agency

Italy: Mr S. Laporta, National Inspectorate for Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection (ISIN)

Latvia: Ms D. Šatrovska, Ministry of Environment Protection and Regional Development
Ms M. Vanaga, Ministry of Environment Protection and Regional Development

Lithuania: Mr M. Demčenko, State Nuclear Power Safety Inspectorate (VATESI)
Mr S. Šlepavičius, State Nuclear Power Safety Inspectorate (VATESI)
Luxembourg: Mr P. Majerus, Ministry of Health

Malta: Mr P. Brejza, Commission for the Protection from Ionising and Non-Ionising Radiation
Mr J. Cremona, Commission for the Protection from Ionising and Non-Ionising Radiation

The Netherlands: Mr M. Brugmans, Authority for Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection
Ms A. van Bolhuis, Authority for Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection

Poland: Mr L. Młynarkiewicz, National Atomic Energy Agency
Mr M. Koc, National Atomic Energy Agency

Portugal: Mr J. Oliveira Martins, Portuguese Environment Agency
Mr P. Rosário, Portuguese Environment Agency

Romania: Mr C. Ciurea Ercau, National Commission for Nuclear Activities
Mr M. Gaina, Nuclear & Radioactive Waste Agency

Slovakia: Eng. M. Žiaková, Nuclear Regulatory Authority of the Slovak Republic
Mr M. Turner, Nuclear Regulatory Authority of the Slovak Republic

Slovenia: Mr I. Sirc, Slovenian Nuclear Safety Administration
Mr I. Grlicarev, Slovenian Nuclear Safety Administration

Spain: Mr J.-C. Lentijo, Spanish Nuclear Safety Council
Ms M. Carrasco, Spanish Nuclear Safety Council

Sweden: Ms N. Cromnier, Swedish Radiation Safety Authority
Mr G. Szendrő, Ministry of the Environment

Observers:

European Council: Mr J. Bielecki, Division for Energy and Atomic Questions

IAEA: Ms A. Bradford, Department of Nuclear Safety and Security

Norway: Mr H. Mattsson, Norwegian Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority

OECD NEA: Ms R. Tadesse, OECD Nuclear Energy Agency

Switzerland: Mr M. Kenzelmann, Swiss Federal Nuclear Safety Inspectorate (ENSI)

Türkiye: Mr. Dr. Z. Demircan, Nuclear Regulatory Authority of Republic of Turkey (NDK)

Ukraine: Mr O. Korikov, State Nuclear Regulation Inspectorate of Ukraine (SNRIU)

United Kingdom: Mr M. Foy, Office for Nuclear Regulation of United Kingdom (ONR)

WENRA: Mr O. Gupta
# Annex III

ENSREG 49<sup>th</sup> meeting presence list

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Organisation</th>
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<tr>
<td>AUSTRIA</td>
<td>Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology</td>
<td>EHOLD</td>
<td>Verena</td>
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<td>AUGUSTIN</td>
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<td>BELGIUM</td>
<td>Federal Agency for Nuclear Control</td>
<td>HARDEMAN</td>
<td>Frank</td>
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<td>Lucie</td>
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<td>Permanent Representation of France to the EU</td>
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<td>LUXEMBOURG</td>
<td>Ministry of Health - Directorate of Health - Department of radiation protection</td>
<td>MAJERUS</td>
<td>Patrick</td>
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<td>THE NETHERLANDS</td>
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<td>VAN RIXEL</td>
<td>Vincent</td>
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<td>MŁYNARKIEWICZ</td>
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### Observers

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)</td>
<td>BRADFORD</td>
<td>Anna</td>
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<td>Norwegian Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority</td>
<td>MATTSSON</td>
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<td>Nuclear Regulatory Authority of Republic of Türkiye (NDK)</td>
<td>ÖZDERE GÜLOL</td>
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<td>Office for Nuclear Regulation, United Kingdom</td>
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<td>Mark</td>
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### European Commission

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<tr>
<td>Garribba</td>
<td>Massimo</td>
<td>Deputy Director General – DG ENER</td>
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<tr>
<td>Panek</td>
<td>Jan</td>
<td>Director for Nuclear Energy, Safety and ITER – DG ENER</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rhein</td>
<td>Hans</td>
<td>Head of Unit/D1 – DG ENER</td>
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<td>MacLean</td>
<td>Finlay</td>
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<td>Pascal</td>
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