



Minutes of the 51st meeting of ENSREG
24 November 2022
Albert Borschette Conference Centre, Brussels

Participants

ENSREG members representing 22 EU Member States and the European Commission (EC) participated in the meeting which took place physically in Brussels. Bulgaria and Hungary were represented by officials nominated by an ENSREG member. Estonia, Latvia, Malta and Romania were not represented.

Observers from Norway, OECD NEA, Switzerland, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Kingdom, and WENRA also participated.

Two members (Croatia, Portugal) and two observers (Ukraine, OECD-NEA) were exceptionally connected to the meeting online via Webex.

The list of participants of the meeting is attached as Annex III.

1. Opening of the meeting, adoption of the agenda

HLG-r(2022-50)_651 Draft Agenda of the 51st ENSREG Meeting

The ENSREG chairperson, Ms Marta Žiaková, opened the 51st ENSREG meeting.

Ms Žiaková welcomed one new ENSREG member, Ms Teresa Vazquez, representing the Spanish Nuclear Safety Council. The list of members and observers at the time of the meeting is attached as Annex II.

The chair introduced the main topics to be discussed. The proposed agenda was adopted without modifications and is attached as Annex I.

ENSREG took the decision to:

- **adopt the agenda without modifications (Annex I).**

2. Chairperson's introduction

HLG-r(2022-51)_652 Draft Minutes of the 49th ENSREG Meeting

The draft minutes of the 49th ENSREG meeting were circulated on Circa. Members were invited to send their comments to the secretariat by 8 December 2022. In case substantial comments are received, a written procedure for their approval will be launched afterwards.

The chair reported on the main ENSREG activities since the 49th plenary of 24 March 2022.

A fourth extraordinary meeting this year took place on 4 October 2022 at short notice online to assess the nuclear safety implications of Russia's attempted annexation of four Ukrainian regions, including Zaporizhzhia where the nuclear power plant of the same name is located. Following the meeting ENSREG issued a statement where they reiterated that Energoatom is

the only legitimate licensee of the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant (NPP) and that the plant has to be operated as per licence conditions and in accordance with Ukrainian legal and regulatory requirements, under the supervision of the State Nuclear Regulatory Inspectorate of Ukraine (SNRIU).

The Board for Stress Tests in Third Countries met once in November, to review the progress with the ongoing ENSREG peer review of the Akkuyu nuclear power plant in Türkiye, as well as to look into the future towards other possible peer review exercises.

The three ENSREG working groups met once and the Board supervising the preparations of the second topical peer review (TPR-II) met several times.

ENSREG took the decision to:

- **request comments on the minutes of the 49th ENSREG meeting by 8 December 2022.**

3. Administrative matters

Election of the chair and vice-chairs. ENSREG WG1 and WG3 chairs nominations

The ENSREG chair reminded that the 48th ENSREG meeting decided to extend the mandates of the ENSREG chair until the end of 2023, and of both vice-chairs until the end of 2022. The ENSREG Rules of Procedure allow a maximum of two terms for the positions of chair and vice-chair. Both current vice-chairs Mr Thomas Elsner and Mr Patrick Majerus have accomplished their second term as vice-chairs.

The Rules of Procedure require at least one vice-chair. However, the chair reminded of the usual practice to have two vice-chairs representing nuclear and non-nuclear countries. Ms Žiaková invited the members to propose candidates for one or both positions.

Mr João Oliveira Martins, Director for emergencies and radiation protection at the Portuguese Environment Agency, proposed his candidature as vice-chair of ENSREG, representing a non-nuclear country. He also proposed to take over the position of the chair of ENSREG WG3 in charge of transparency arrangements, as the current chair Mr Majerus announced his decision to step-down due to other professional commitments.

Regarding the chair of the WG1, Ms Žiaková reminded that at the 49th ENSREG plenary, Mr Mikuláš Turner, Nuclear Regulatory Authority of the Slovak Republic, kindly agreed to act as interim chair. As so far no candidate for the replacement in the position has been received, the chair encouraged nominations, preferably before the next WG1 meeting taking place at the beginning of the next year to start the discussions on the next ENSREG Work Programme. Ms Žiaková reminded that, in accordance with the ENSREG Rules of Procedure, chairs of the working groups shall be nominated from ENSREG members.

ENSREG took the decision to:

- **appoint Mr João Oliveira Martins, Director for emergencies and radiation protection at the Portuguese Environment Agency, as vice-chair of ENSREG,**

- representing non-nuclear countries, and chair of ENSREG WG3 in charge of transparency arrangements, as from 1 January 2023;
- invite members to nominate candidates representing a nuclear country for the second vice-chair position by the end of January, 2023;
- invite members to propose nominations for WG1 chair replacement.

4. Review of WG1, WG2 and WG3 activities since the 48th ENSREG plenary (24 March 2022)

WG1 regular report

HLG-r(2022-51)_655 WG1 Report to 51 Plenary Rev2

Mr Mikuláš Turner, chair of WG1, reported on the main activities of the working group: follow-up of the implementation of the post-Fukushima stress test national action plans, the status of IRRS/ARTEMIS missions, the involvement of WG1 in TPR-II, and the preparation of the ENSREG Work Programme for 2024-2026.

Mr Turner pointed out that currently, six countries still have open actions to be implemented within their stress test national action plans. Most of the open measures should be finalised by the end of 2022. However, a few actions will be implemented until the end of 2024. The countries should report to WG1 by the end of 2023. WG1 expects to prepare the final summary report on the implementation of the national action plans to be presented in the ENSREG plenary of spring 2024.

The WG1 chair reported that the countries within the group are exchanging experiences of IRRS/ARTEMIS missions. Belgium is coordinating the relevant activities within WG1 and is in contact with IAEA. Mr Turner recalled that in 2022 the first 10-year cycle of IRRS missions was closed and the second cycle began. He reported that the list of experts is being continuously updated.

Mr Turner reported that in 2023 both ENSREG and IAEA are planning workshops on lessons learnt from the IRRS missions. Therefore, he asked for guidance from ENSREG whether to continue with the preparation of a specific ENSREG workshop, or to coordinate with IAEA in including ENSREG's expectations in their workshop. WG1 will contact the IAEA to find out the differences and the similarities between the two workshops.

Mr Turner expressed the readiness of WG1 to discuss with the TPR-II Board the organisation of the site visits during the TPR-II process. WG1 is also thinking about follow-up activities (lessons learnt and reporting) after the TPR-II will be completed, as it was done after the TPR-I.

Mr Turner informed ENSREG that during the October meeting WG1 started a preliminary discussion on the ENSREG Work Programme for 2024-2026.

EC representative Mr Garribba reminded of the importance of the completion of the post-Fukushima improvements. He encouraged WG1 to collaborate with WG3 to make sure the public is informed on the work done regarding the implementation of stress test national

action plans, once the report is prepared. Mr Garribba expressed EC support to WG1 in coordinating with IAEA its activities related to IRRS peer reviews. He encouraged Mr Turner to support the future WG1 chair in the preparations of the next Work Programme in order to ensure the work continuity.

The representative from Cyprus suggested to expand the actual expert pool used for IRRS and ARTEMIS missions.

Regarding the IRRS workshop in 2023, Spanish and Finnish representatives expressed their support to a specific event dedicated to European Union related matters only. The ENSREG chair stressed the importance of adding a European vision to the discussion on IRRS missions for a better worldwide benchmarking.

The Ukrainian observer suggested to reassess the initial Fukushima stress tests which could lead to additional recommendations to Member States. However, the chair of ENSREG recalled that the initial stress tests were followed by the periodic safety reviews of the facilities. She pointed out that regulators are using both IAEA safety standards, as well as WENRA safety reference levels. Therefore, currently there is no need to re-evaluate the safety of the NPPs.

The UK observer invited to review the work carried out on nuclear safety in the current circumstances of the economic, political and energy crisis. The ENSREG chair stressed the importance for the regulators to be prepared for unexpected situations and for the countries to protect the nuclear power plants during military times.

ENSREG took note of:

- **the report of the chair of WG1.**

ENSREG took the decision to:

- **invite WG1 representatives together with Commission, to contact IAEA about the organisation of the IRRS workshop in 2023.**

WG2 regular report

HLG-r(2022-51)_658 WG2 report ENSREG 51 21 nov

Mr Stefano Laporta, the chair of WG2, presented the main activities of WG2 since the 48th ENSREG plenary. He informed that the 43rd meeting of the group took place in October 2022 in Rome. It was the first meeting in person after two years of pandemic, welcoming 17 participants in person and 9 online. The next meeting is foreseen in Brussels at the beginning of March 2023.

Mr Laporta reminded of WG2 involvement in TPR-II: Mr Lamberto Matteocci, Italy, was nominated as vice-chair of the TPR-II Board and Mr Bengt Hedberg, Sweden, was nominated to WG1 TPR subgroup, which developed the TPR-II technical specifications together with WENRA.

Mr Laporta informed that WG2 will revise the Interim Technical Position “Progress towards implementation of national programmes and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)”, based on the EC study on KPIs published in July 2022, and will present it to ENSREG at the next plenary.

WG2 chair presented the schedule for the ARTEMIS missions that already took place and the programme of next ARTEMIS missions, some being back-to-back to IRRS missions. He reminded that the IAEA Task Force is working on the guidance for back-to-back missions. WG1 and WG2 have sent feedback to IAEA and are waiting for a reply.

- **Sub-group on Medical Waste – update on the completed actions and next steps**
- **Preliminary report – definition of start/end-point of decommissioning**

HLG-r(2022-51)_656 Survey on Decommissioning in the EU_ENSREG WG2 Draft 11 november 2022

Mr Matteocci presented two surveys that WG2 has been tasked to conduct by ENSREG.

21 EU Member State and United Kingdom have replied to the survey on the definition of the starting point and the end state of decommissioning. The preliminary analysis demonstrated differences in the national policies and strategies for decommissioning as well as legal and regulatory requirements for implementing decommissioning activities. Mr Matteocci pointed out that the transition period may have implications for the final cost. WG2 foresees to reflect on the need of harmonisation of specific issues and to contact EC NuBaFA group (Group of experts on financial aspects of nuclear decommissioning and spent fuel and radioactive waste management) on the issue of effects of uncertainties and delays in decommissioning activities on cost assessments. The final report will be prepared by autumn 2023.

26 EU Member States, and Norway and Switzerland, have replied to the survey on regulation and management of radioactive waste arising from non-energy uses of nuclear and radiation technologies, mainly from medical applications, in their countries. The aim of the survey is to identify best practices and provide recommendations. WG2 is planning to present its preliminary analysis at the next ENSREG plenary in spring 2023, and to produce the final report by the end of 2023.

EC representative Mr Garribba congratulated WG2 for their important work in identifying the starting and end point of the decommissioning process. However, in his opinion, it is too early to consider harmonisation. He proposed to identify the advantages and disadvantages of different approaches, as well as best practices.

Mr Garribba stressed the importance of work done in looking for a common understanding related to KPIs and their usage in supporting the process of arriving to the final disposal of nuclear waste.

ENSREG took note of:

- **the report of the chair of WG2.**

WG3 regular report

HLG-r(2022-51)_662 ENSREG_WG3_November22

- **ENSREG Communication Strategy**

HLG-r(2022-51)_653 ENSREG Communication strategy-draft

Mr Patrick Majerus, the WG3 chair, recalled that in 2014, ENSREG had produced a working paper related to the ENSREG communication strategy, based on a communication policy of ENSREG elaborated and adopted in 2020. As a next step, WG3, under coordination of Mr Sebastian Kuhn, Germany, has developed the ENSREG communication strategy. The draft document was proofread by EC linguists and uploaded on Circa. The document outlines the present practice of ENSREG communication internally and externally, defines the target audience, opportunities and main channels of communication.

The Dutch member suggested to modify the draft communication strategy by limiting it to ENSREG activities only.

- **Concept for a TPR Focus Group**

HLG-r(2022-51)_654 Framework for Focus Group-draft

Mr Majerus recalled that according to the TPR stakeholder engagement plan, WG3 should develop the terms of reference for the standing focus group of stakeholders following the TPR activities and providing input on regular basis. The WG3 chair invited the TPR-II Board, as well as ENSREG members, to send their comments on the concept paper, prepared by WG3 and uploaded on Circa. On the basis of the paper, WG3 will draft the terms of reference. The group will aim to finalise them before the end of TPR-II, so that the focus group could get involved in the process of TPR-III.

The EC representative and several Member States (DE, AT, FIN, ES) expressed support to the idea of creating a TPR focus group with the aim of increasing public confidence in nuclear safety.

The French member expressed reservations regarding the creation of a TPR focus group, questioning the relevance of the input of a group with limited number of stakeholders. He suggested to organise a meeting for sharing national experiences in involving stakeholders.

The WENRA representative expressed his worries that a creation of such group would increase the workload of national regulators.

ENSREG chair acknowledged the increase of workload due to involvement in ENSREG activities, however, stressed the importance of communicating on its activities.

- **TPR-II public consultation**

Mr Majerus reported that WG3 discussed the outcome of the public consultation on the three TPR-II related documents (the technical specifications, the terms of reference and the stakeholder engagement plan). The summary of the comments received during the consultation and their resolutions was published on ENSREG website¹.

¹ <https://www.ensreg.eu/tpr-2-public-engagement>

- **ENSREG website**

Mr Majerus recalled of the ongoing preparation for migrating the ENSREG website.

ENSREG took note of:

- the report of the chair of WG3.

ENSREG took the decision to:

- approve the ENSREG communication strategy, as amended during the meeting, and its publication on the ENSREG website;
- continue with the development of the TPR focus group and invite the members and TPR-II Board to send comments on the concept paper for a TPR focus group.

5. Second Topical Peer Review (TPR-II)

Progress Report by chair of TPR-II Board

Review of installations that were proposed by the participating countries

HLG-r(2022-51)_670 ENSREG TPR II Board's review of national selections Oct 2022

HLG-r(2022-51)_661 TPR II Board_Report to ENSREG Meeting - Nov24th_final

Ms Sylvie Cadet-Mercier, the chair of the TPR-II Board, reported that the Board has reviewed the national selection of installations subject to the peer review. (The report of the Board was uploaded to Circa after the meeting).

The Board's main concern is consistency between the different installations, however the report only provides recommendations, and the final choice of installations rests with the participating countries. Based on its recommendations, the Board invited the concerned countries to review their selections and send a revised list by the end of January 2023. The list will be taken as final and will not be discussed further.

The WENRA representative recommended for Member States to add a justification for their choice, however reiterated that the countries have the final decision on the selection of installations.

EC representative Mr Panek emphasised the importance of maintaining the TPR-II an ambitious exercise in the findings and recommendations.

ENSREG took note of:

- the report of the chair of the TPR-II Board.

6. Report from the ENSREG Board for Stress Tests in Third Countries

HLG-r(2022-51)_666 ENSREG ST Board reporting 24 November 2022

Mr Frank Hardeman, the chair of the ENSREG Board for Stress Tests in Third Countries, reported on the 14th meeting of the Board that took place online on 7 November 2022. The Board discussed:

- the ongoing stress test peer review for Akkuyu NPP in Türkiye. The peer review team has submitted the list of preliminary findings to the Turkish nuclear regulator NDK in July 2022 and asked for a response by October 2022. On 7 November there was no feedback was yet received from NDK. Once the reply will be received, the peer review team will start drafting the final report which will be submitted to NDK prior to the visit foreseen in spring 2023.
- Possibility of a stress test peer review for El Dabaa NPP in Egypt, currently under construction. No formal exchanges with Egypt took place. Further possible actions will be discussed in 2023.
- Possibility of a stress test peer review for the Bushehr NPP in Iran. The licensee report has been approved by the Iranian nuclear regulator, INRA, and is expected to be reused as national report without major change. The licensee started implementing the priority safety improvements identified in the report. However, the diplomatic situation remains difficult. Besides, changes in the INRA management took place and they do not consider stress test a priority. No actions foreseen at the time being.
- Follow up of stress test peer review for Astravets NPP in Belarus. An update on the implementation of the stress test national action plan should be issued by the end of 2022.
- Follow up of stress test peer review for Metsamor NPP in Armenia. The Board has requested for more detailed information on the implementation of its stress test national action plan by early 2023. Further actions will be decided afterwards. A visit to Armenia could be foreseen in early 2024 at the earliest.

ENSREG took note of:

- **the report of the chair of the ENSREG Board for Stress Tests in Third Countries.**

7. ENSREG Work Programme 2024-2026

ENSREG chair invited the working groups to review the structure of the current Work Programme in preparation of the next Work Programme and to start considering activities to be proposed for the first discussion of the draft Work Programme in the spring 2023 plenary. The secretariat would then prepare the first draft of the Work programme and circulate it for members' comments during the summer of 2023. The Work Programme would be adopted by the autumn 2023 plenary.

ENSREG took the decision to:

- **to request WG1, WG2 and WG3 to review the structure of the current Work Programme in preparation of the next Work Programme and to start considering activities to be proposed for the first discussion of the draft Work Programme in the spring 2023 plenary.**

8. Nuclear Safety in Ukraine

HLG_p(2022-51)_186 ENSREG_Statement_on_Ukraine_24_November_2022

HLG-r(2022-51)_659 WENRA activity on Ukraine

HLG-r(2022-51)_665 2022.11.24_Ukraine update

Mr Korikov, acting chairman of the State Nuclear Regulation Inspectorate of Ukraine, thanked ENSREG for its continuous support to Ukraine and gave an update on major events increasingly threatening the nuclear safety in the country in the weeks preceding the meeting. Mr Korikov reported that Zaporizhzhia NPP site has turned into a military base and the shelling of the site continues. Russian invaders are infringing the IAEA Safety Standards by changing/removing/damaging essential Zaporizhzhia NPP parts, constructing unknown structures on site. The plant has experienced many loss of the off-site power incidents. IAEA mission presence does not prevent Russian invaders from their illegal actions, SNRIU inspectors have no access to the site. There is no direct communication with the nuclear power plant team, information is received only through the IAEA Incident and Emergency Centre.

Mr Korikov reported on shelling and loss of power issues in other Ukrainian nuclear power plants: South Ukraine, Rivne and Khmelnytskyi.

SNRIU proposed to ENSREG Member States to refrain from purchasing Russian equipment and nuclear fuel, to refuse cooperation with Russian companies, to support the de-occupation and demilitarisation of the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant site as well as the restriction of Russian Federation rights and privileges at IAEA at the highest level.

SNRIU proposed to ENSREG to vote on a statement regarding the situation in Ukraine.

Mr Gupta, the chair of WENRA, presented WENRA's work in relation to the Russian war of aggression in Ukraine. WENRA is regularly issuing statements evaluating the information received from Ukraine. WENRA has set up a standing technical group on accident scenarios in Ukraine war and has identified modelling capabilities among the Member States and EC Joint Research Centre. As a further step, Mr Gupta proposed for radiation protection authorities to coordinate emergency response.

Mr Patrick Majerus, the vice-chair of HERCA, informed on HERCA's work in response to the war in Ukraine. HERCA has issued three statements and created a Task Force on Ukraine conflict support. Mr Majerus recalled of the HERCA/WENRA approach document presenting neighbouring European countries' responses in the event of a nuclear accident in Ukraine. The Task Force has created factsheets on the nuclear power plants and their emergency preparedness in the EU for quick reference in case of an accident. The Task Force has issued a guidance document on actions to be taken in Europe in case of an accident in Ukraine. It has established direct contacts among Ukraine and its neighbouring countries. Mr Majerus complemented Ukraine for its dedicated involvement in the work of the Task Force and European Commission for its support.

After an extensive discussion on the nuclear safety situation, ENSREG adopted a Statement on the safety of the Ukrainian nuclear power plants following intentional large-scale attacks against Ukrainian energy infrastructure². Following the Statement:

- the European Commission will accelerate the process for Ukraine's integration in European crisis response mechanisms for nuclear emergency, especially European Community Urgent Radiological Information Exchange (ECURIE);
- ENSREG representatives committed to cooperate closely, including with their respective national governments, in view of the preparation for the upcoming review meeting of the Convention on Nuclear Safety in March 2023.

² [ensreg_statement_on_ukraine_24_november_2022.pdf](#)

ENSREG took note of:

- the presentation of the Acting Chairman of the State Nuclear Regulation Inspectorate of Ukraine (SNRIU) on the nuclear safety situation in Ukraine.

ENSREG took the decision to:

- issue a Statement on the safety of the Ukrainian nuclear power plants following intentional large-scale attacks against Ukrainian energy infrastructure.

9. Progress Report: European SMR Pre-Partnership and WS2 on Licensing

HLG-r(2022-51)_658 WG2 report ENSREG 51 21 nov

Due to time constraints in the afternoon meeting agenda, Mr Brugmans, the ENSREG representative to the European Small Modular Reactor (SMR) Pre-Partnership Steering Committee, informed of the presentation on the current status of the Pre-Partnership uploaded on Circa. He informed that a presentation given in the 14 October 2022 in Brussels at the SMR workshop with the industry has been uploaded on Circa as well. Mr Brugmans invited to address any comments or questions directly to him or Ms Cadet-Mercier, the chair of the Work Stream 2 on Licensing (WS2).

EC representative Mr Panek praised the regulators' participation in the preparatory work of the EU SMR Pre-Partnership and especially their active involvement in the WS2. He welcomed the initiatives among members, e.g. among France, Finland and Czechia aiming to look at the safety features of one particular European design, and encouraged other members to organise similar activities.

Mr Panek informed that USA was organising an event in December 2022 in Brussels where the related activities in the USA and the EU could be compared.

Mr Panek informed about the new IAEA Nuclear Harmonisation and Standardisation Initiative, aiming to facilitate the safe and secure deployment of SMRs and other advanced nuclear technologies, which does not, however, duplicate the EU SMR Pre-Partnership initiative.

WENRA's representative encouraged more active regulatory participation in the initiative.

ENSREG took note of:

- the presentation of the ENSREG representative to European Small Modular Reactor Pre-Partnership Steering Committee.

10. Stress Corrosion Cracking in France

HLG-r(2022-51)_663 Presentation_ENSREG_vf

Mr Flavien Simon, French Nuclear Safety Authority (ASN), presented the interim results of the investigation of the stress corrosion issues affecting the piping systems of the French nuclear fleet and the follow up actions to be taken. He reported that the stress corrosion cracking was detected in several nuclear power plants during the execution of the standard 10-yearly inspection programme by French electric utility company EDF. As a consequence, it was

decided to shut down and repair all N4 reactors immediately and examine the P4 reactors by mid-2023. Checks of other reactors would follow from 2023 to 2025. The investigation is being carried out by EDF with the supervision and main decisions being taken by ASN. EDF together with ASN are working on identifying the causes of such corrosion to prevent any further appearances.

Ms Cadet-Mercier, ASN, complemented that corrosion has affected the youngest reactors and that the causes were at the current moment not clear. She reminded of the need to have more modern non-destructive test examination, which was recommended by the TPR-I review on 'ageing management'. The European Commission agreed to see internally how research on more modern non-destructive test examination is covered through the Euratom Research Programme. The ENSREG chair informed that she will consult with relevant experts and encouraged ASN to share any information on the further investigation.

EC representative Mr Garribba congratulated ASN for the impressive work, and noted that 'ageing management' is of importance to all reactors.

ENSREG took note of:

- **the presentation of the French Nuclear Safety Authority on the interim results from the investigations into the stress corrosion issues.**

11. Debrief of November 08/09 Workshop on Nuclear Safety Directive Implementation

HLG-r(2022-51)_669 ENSREG Plenary - 24-11-2022 J JILEK presentation

Mr Jan Jilek, European Commission, debriefed on the workshop on Nuclear Safety Directive (NSD) implementation that took place on 8-9 November 2022. He explained that the objective of the workshop was an open and comprehensive exchange of views on the findings of the EC's 2nd progress report on the NSD implementation³ and possible selection of those safety topics that should be addressed as a priority by regulatory cooperation at EU level.

Mr Jilek recalled that the report, adopted in April 2022, acknowledged significant progress made with the implementation of NSD over past 10 years but also identified key areas for improvement where action by national authorities working together to explore scope for synergies and best practice sharing would be beneficial.

The workshop was widely attended by representatives from 23 Member States, Czech Presidency, ENSREG (represented by its chairperson), NGOs (Greenpeace/Nuclear Transparency Watch), international organisations (IAEA, OECD-NEA), licensee associations (WANO, ENISS), and technical support organisation ETSON. The closing session of the workshop explored participant views on priority actions to be pursued at EU level and three topics came out more prominently:

1. The need to have a **strong and independent competent regulatory authority**;
2. The need to support further the implementation of the **nuclear safety objective**;

³ [Commission publishes its second report assessing implementation of Nuclear Safety Directive \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/energy/en/press-room/2022-04-20-commission-publishes-its-second-report-assessing-implementation-of-nuclear-safety-directive)

3. The need to strengthen **nuclear safety culture in some specific aspects.**

Mr Jilek recalled (ENSREG members had already been informed through an information note as well as at the ENSREG Plenary in June 2022) the call for tenders launched by EC on “Support to EU Member States in the continued implementation of the Nuclear Safety Directive” aiming to find a contractor to assist the EC and the ENSREG members in carrying out the activities related to the implementation of the NSD report’s findings. The EC is also committed to assist through the organisational support of the ENSREG secretariat and the technical expertise of EC Joint Research Centre.

ENSREG work programme 2021-2023, in anticipation of the EC’s report on implementation of the NSD, includes a dedicated placeholder for the implementation of the findings of the report. The topics selected should be also taken into account in the work programme 2024-2026. The Commission will discuss further actions with WG1 at the beginning of 2023.

Several ENSREG members expressed their concerns about the extra workload that could be caused by the suggested actions, in addition to the already very large burden to regulators in 2023, including the TPR-II and many other international missions and peer reviews like the CNS.

ENSREG chair requested to propose more concrete ideas on how to proceed further on the priority actions. No decision was taken on the suggested actions.

ENSREG took note of:

- **the European Commission’s presentation of the workshop on Nuclear Safety Directive (NSD) implementation that took place on 8-9 November 2022 and the suggested actions to address the findings of the 2nd progress report on the NSD implementation.**

12. Presentation of ETSON's activities

[HLG-r\(2022-51\)_664 ETSON PRESENTATION JCN-ENSREG_V22](#)

Mr Jean Christophe Niel, ETSON (European Technical Safety Organisations Network) Secretary, gave a presentation on their activities. Mr Niel proposed to ENSREG to cooperate on security of supply of VVER fuels, research on pending safety challenges regarding small modular reactors, monitoring and evaluation of the safety situation in Ukraine.

EC representative Mr Garribba encouraged technical support organisations to work together with national nuclear regulators.

[ENSREG took note of:](#)

- the presentation on ETSON's activities.

Ongoing and planned studies by the European Commission

[HLG_r\(2022-51\)_668 Commission Studies](#)

Mr Hans Rhein, European Commission, presented the published, ongoing and planned studies contracted by the EC.

Studies published:

- Study on Key Performance Indicators for monitoring implementation of national programmes on safe and long-term management of spent fuel and radioactive waste⁴;
- Resilience of the Nuclear Sector in Europe in the Face of Pandemic Risks⁵.

Studies to be published soon:

- Self-assessment on safety culture maturity of the nuclear decommissioning assistance programme operations.

Studies ongoing:

- Study to support the ex-post evaluation of the nuclear decommissioning assistance programme 2014-2020 (publication foreseen in 2023);
- Study on radioactive waste classification schemes in the EU (publication foreseen for December 2022);
- Implementation of Nuclear and Radiological Emergency Preparedness and Response Requirements in EU Member States and Neighbouring Countries (publication foreseen for February 2023);
- Safe, sustainable operation of research reactor facilities in the EU (publication foreseen for June 2023);
- Study on monitoring of radioactive discharges from nuclear facilities in the EU (final workshop 1 March 2023);
- Study on the European nuclear energy ecosystem: is it fit for EU's climate objectives (publication foreseen for 2024).

⁴ [Study on key performance indicators for monitoring implementation of national programmes on safe and long-term management of spent fuel and radioactive waste - Publications Office of the EU \(europa.eu\)](#)

⁵ [Resilience of the nuclear sector in Europe in the face of pandemic risks - Publications Office of the EU \(europa.eu\)](#)

Studies in preparation:

- Activities to follow up on the Commission report on the implementation of the NSD;
- Benchmarking of the nuclear safety regulatory framework and regulatory practices for SMRs in different European countries.

Mr Michal Merxbauer, Czechia, was nominated as an ENSREG representative in the stakeholder group which will be advising the contractor performing the study on “Study on the European nuclear energy ecosystem: is it fit for EU's climate objectives”. The group has two meetings planned in January and July 2023.

ENSREG took note of:

- the EC presentation on ongoing and planned studies.

ENSREG took the decision to:

- nominate Mr Michal Merxbauer, State Office for Nuclear Safety of the Czech Republic, as ENSREG representative in the Stakeholders’ Group following and advising the contractor performing the study on “the European nuclear energy ecosystem: is it fit for EU's climate objectives”.

Report from WENRA

[HLG-r\(2022-51\)_660 Update WENRA 2022-11.pdf](#)

WENRA’s chair Mr Gupta presented an update on WENRA’s activities since the last written report issued two years ago. Mr Gupta underlined that with the post-Fukushima decade being over, the focus is more on electricity supply than on safety. Thus, the governments are expected to establish long term objectives to guarantee predictability and stability in nuclear sector. He emphasised the responsibility of licensees as well as the independency of regulators in ensuring nuclear safety. Mr Gupta informed that in 2023 WENRA plans to reflect on its new strategy. WENRA has decided to give top priority to the study on the implementation of the most relevant safety levels of the nuclear power plants through the work of the Reactor Harmonisation Group.

ENSREG took note of:

- the presentation on WENRA’s activities.

Letter from EEB and NTW proposing new nuclear stress tests

[HLG_r\(2022-49\)_643 Letter post-Ukraine nuclear stress tests NTW EEB](#)

[HLG r\(2022-51\)_667 Comments on EEB NTW letter](#)

At the end of May 2022, the European Environmental Bureau (EEB) and Nuclear Transparency Watch (NTW) had addressed a letter to the European Commission and to the ENSREG chair concerning the implications of acts of war for nuclear safety and for nuclear regulation. The ENSREG chair replied in July 2022 with a holding letter stating that the matter would be discussed in ENSREG after the summer break. During the June 2022 plenary, members were

invited to submit their observations to the secretariat and to the chair by the end of October 2022.

6 member countries (FR, ES, LU, BG, SE and CZ) and WENRA have sent their comments. The main arguments were enhanced robustness that was achieved from the Fukushima stress test, nuclear security being beyond the ENSREG's mandate, and the sensitivity of information on security issues. It was reiterated that there is a need to improve existing international instruments to protect nuclear sites in the context of war, and to reflect whether new specific instruments might be necessary. ENSREG committed to analyse in due time the experience from the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine and its implications on nuclear safety.

ENSREG secretariat was asked to draft a reply letter based on WENRA's proposal, Member States' comments and reflecting the discussion in the plenary.

ENSREG took the decision to:

- **request the ENSREG secretariat to draft a reply letter from the ENSREG Chair to EEB and NTW, based on WENRA's proposal, Member States' comments and reflecting the discussion in the plenary.**

13. Next meeting

ENSREG's next regular plenary meeting is planned to be held physically in Brussels on 24 April 2023.

Annex I

Agenda

51st meeting of ENSREG

24th November 2022 (09:00 – 17:15 Brussels time)

Room A.B - 2A, Albert Borschette Conference Centre

Rue Froissart 36, 1049 Brussels, Belgium

- 1. Opening of the meeting, adoption of the agenda (09:00-09:10)**
- 2. Chairperson's introduction (09:10-09:20)**
- 3. Administrative Matters (09:20-09:40)**
 - Election of the chair and vice-chairs
 - ENSREG WG chair nominations (WG3 and WG1)
- 4. Review of WG1, WG2 and WG3 activities since the 48th ENSREG plenary (24 March 2022) (09:40 – 10:25)**
 - 4.1 WG1: (M. Turner)**
 - Regular report
 - 4.2 WG2: (S. Laporta)**
 - Regular report
 - Sub-group on Medical Waste – update on the completed actions and next steps
 - Preliminary report – definition of start/end-point of decommissioning
 - 4.3 WG3: (P. Majerus)**
 - Regular report
 - Approval of Communication Strategy
 - Concept for a TPR Focus Group – for discussion and comments
- 5. Second Topical Peer Review (TPR-II) (10:25 – 10:55)**
 - Progress Report by chair of TPR-II Board
 - Review of installations that were proposed by the participating countries
- 6. Report from the ENSREG Board for Stress Tests in Third Countries (10:55 – 11:15)**
- 7. ENSREG Work Programme 2024-2026 (11:15 – 11:30)**
- 8. Nuclear Safety in Ukraine (11:30 – 12:00)**
 - Update from SNRIU
 - WENRA report on standing technical group: accident scenarios in Ukraine war

9. **Progress Report: European SMR Pre-Partnership and WS2 on Licensing (12:00 – 12:30)**
10. **Stress Corrosion Cracking in France (14:30 – 15:15)**
11. **Debrief of November 08/09 Workshop on NSD Implementation (15:15 – 15:50)**
12. **Presentation of ETSON's activities (15:50 – 16:25)**
13. **A.O.B (16:25 – 17:10)**
 - Ongoing and Planned studies by the Commission
 - Report from WENRA
 - Letter from EEB and NTW proposing new nuclear stress tests
14. **Next Meeting (17:15)**

Annex II

List of Members and Observers

(Status 21 October 2022)

Members:

Austria:	Dr V. Ehold, Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology Mag. T. 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.Bachiyski, 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:	Ms Z. Tečić, Ministry of the Interior
Cyprus:	Mr D. Sakkas, Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance Mr M.Tzortzis, Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance
Czechia:	Ms D. Drabova, State Office for Nuclear Safety Mr M. Merxbauer, State Office for Nuclear Safety
Denmark:	Ms M. Øhlenschläger, 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
France:	Mr B. Doroszczuk, 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 Ł. 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 T. Vázquez, 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 Türkiye (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 IIIENSREG 51st meeting presence list**Members and experts**

Country	Organisation	Surname	Name
AUSTRIA	Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology	AUGUSTIN	Thomas
BELGIUM	Federal Agency for Nuclear Control	HARDEMAN	Frank
BULGARIA	Nuclear Regulatory Agency	KATZARSKA	Lidia
CROATIA	Ministry of the Interior	TEČIĆ	Zdravka
CYPRUS	Ministry of Labour, Welfare and Social Insurance	SAKKAS	Demetris
CZECHIA	State Office for Nuclear Safety	MERXBAUER	Michael
CZECHIA	State Office for Nuclear Safety	CHÁRA	Jan
FINLAND	Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority (STUK)	TIIPPANA	Petteri
FRANCE	Nuclear Safety Authority (ASN)	DOROSZCZUK	Bernard
FRANCE	Ministry for the Ecological Transition	BOUYT	Guillaume
FRANCE	Nuclear Safety Authority (ASN)	CADET-MERCIER	Sylvie
FRANCE	Nuclear Safety Authority (ASN)	SIMON	Flavien
FRANCE	Institute of Radioprotection and Nuclear Safety (IRSN)	GOLDSCHMIDT	Frederic
FRANCE	Institute of Radioprotection and Nuclear Safety (IRSN)	PINEL	Cyril
FRANCE	Permanent Representation of France to the EU	MONTARNAL	Philippe
FRANCE	Permanent Representation of France to the EU	COUFFON	Eloïse

Country	Organisation	Surname	Name
GERMANY	Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU)	ELSNER	Thomas
GERMANY	Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU)	KUHN	Sebastian
GREECE	Greek Atomic Energy Commission	HOUSIADAS	Christos
HUNGARY	Hungarian Atomic Energy Authority (HAEA)	BALCZÓ	Belá András
IRELAND	Environmental Protection Agency	KELLEHER	Kevin
ITALY	National Inspectorate for Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection (ISIN)	LAPORTA	Stefano
ITALY	National Inspectorate for Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection (ISIN)	MATTEOCCI	Lamberto
LITHUANIA	State Nuclear Power Safety Inspectorate (Vatesi)	ŠLEPAVIČIUS	Sigitas
LUXEMBOURG	Ministry of Health - Directorate of Health - Department of radiation protection	MAJERUS	Patrick
THE NETHERLANDS	Authority for Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection (ANVS)	BRUGMANS	Marco
THE NETHERLANDS	National Contact Point for the Netherlands	VAN RIXEL	Vincent
POLAND	National Atomic Energy Agency	MŁYNARKIEWICZ	Łukasz
PORTUGAL	Portuguese Environment Agency	OLIVEIRA MARTINS	João
PORTUGAL	Portuguese Environment Agency	ROSÁRIO	Pedro
SLOVAK REPUBLIC	Nuclear Regulatory Authority of the Slovak Republic	ŽIAKOVA	Marta
SLOVAK REPUBLIC	Nuclear Regulatory Authority of the Slovak Republic	TURNER	Mikuláš
SLOVENIA	Slovenian Nuclear Safety Administration	SIRC	Igor
SLOVENIA	Slovenian Nuclear Safety Administration	PODJAČORŠEK	Matjaž

Country	Organisation	Surname	Name
SPAIN	Spanish Nuclear Safety Council	LENTIJO	Juan Carlos
SPAIN	Spanish Nuclear Safety Council	VÁZQUEZ	Teresa
SPAIN	Spanish Nuclear Safety Council	DE LOS REYES	Alfredo
SWEDEN	Ministry of the Environment	SZENDRÖ	Gabor
SWEDEN	Swedish Radiation Safety Authority	HEDBERG	Bengt

Observers

Organisation	Surname	Name
Norwegian Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority	MATTSSON	Håkkan
OECD-NEA	RANGUELOVA	Vesselina
Office for Nuclear Regulation, United Kingdom	FOY	Mark
State Nuclear Regulatory Inspectorate of Ukraine (SNRIU)	KORIKOV	Oleh
State Nuclear Regulatory Inspectorate of Ukraine (SNRIU)	GOROSHANSKYI	Andrii
Swiss Federal Nuclear Safety Inspectorate (ENSI)	KENZELMAN	Marc
WENRA	GUPTA	Olivier
WENRA	CHANIAL	Luc

European Commission

Surname	Name	Directorate General
Garribba	Massimo	Deputy Director General – DG ENER
Panek	Jan	Director for Nuclear Energy, Safety and ITER – DG ENER
Rhein	Hans	Head of Unit/D1 – DG ENER
Krembel	David	Policy Officer/D1 – DG ENER
Kumžaitė	Eglė	Policy Assistant/D1 – DG ENER
Jilek	Jan	Deputy Head of Unit D3 – DG ENER
Martin Ramos	Manuel	Deputy Head of Unit A.7 - JRC

Other

Organisation	Surname	Name
ETSON	VAN HAESSENDONCK	Michel
ETSON	NIEL	Jean Christophe
