



**COUNCIL OF
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INFORMATION NOTE

from: General Secretariat of the Council

to: Delegations

Subject: A comprehensive risk and safety assessment (stress tests) of nuclear plants
- State of play

Delegations will find attached an information note on the above subject with a view to the corresponding AOB item on the agenda of the TTE Council on 15 June.

A comprehensive risk and safety assessment (stress tests) of nuclear plants
State of play

Following the Fukushima accident in March 2011 the European Council on 24-25 March decided that the safety of all EU nuclear plants should be reviewed, on the basis of a comprehensive and transparent risk and safety assessment ("stress tests") and invited the European Nuclear Safety Regulatory Group (ENSREG) and the Commission to develop the scope and modalities of these tests. In May ENSREG and the Commission acknowledged that there was also a security dimension to address (malevolent acts, such as intentional aircraft crashes against nuclear plants) for which ENSREG was not competent and agreed on a two-track (safety and security) process for the stress tests. A dedicated Council working party (Ad Hoc Group on Nuclear Security: AHGNS) was thus established in July 2011.

Both the Commission, (in the form of a Communication identifying possible areas for safety improvements and based on national progress reports) and AHGNS delivered their interim reports to the December European Council which reflected this in its conclusions (doc. EUCO 139/1/11 para.8 & 9).

Following a peer-review (Spring 2012) of the national reports produced in 2011, ENSREG's peer review board report was agreed and publicly released on 26 April 2012. The report highlights four main areas for improvement: assessment of natural hazards, periodic safety review, implementation of measures to protect containment integrity, management of accidents resulting from natural hazards. The report is accompanied by a Joint Commission-ENSREG statement which foresees:

- An action plan comprising the implementation of the recommendations of ENSREG's report, the implementation of the IAEA (2011) action plan on nuclear safety, the outcomes of the extraordinary meeting (August 2012) of the Convention on Nuclear Safety (to which Euratom and the EU Member States are parties) and additional nuclear plant site visits.
- ENSREG's peer review report together with the Joint statement will be sent to the June European Council for information under an information note from President Barroso to President Van Rompuy
- A final Commission Communication, based on the report and the action plan, will be presented to the European Council.

The AHGNS delivered its consensus, final report (doc. 10616/12, accessible to the public) on 24 May, noted by Coreper on 6 June. Besides 32 good practices in the field of nuclear security this report proposed recommendations concerning the ratification of the amended Convention on Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials, the use of IAEA's services and guidance, cooperation with neighbouring countries and modalities and fora for the continuation of EU work on nuclear security.

All along both the safety and the security tracks neighbouring countries, notably Switzerland and Ukraine, were involved.
