



**COUNCIL OF
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Report of the Ad Hoc Group on Nuclear Security

The Permanent Representatives Committee (Coreper) today took note of the final report of the Ad Hoc Group on Nuclear Security (AHGNS) ([10616/12](#)).

The disaster at the Fukushima power plant in Japan in March 2011 put the issue of nuclear safety and security at the top of the EU's agenda and triggered a series of meetings and events. The European Council on 24-25 March ([10/1/11](#), *paragraph 31*) concluded that the safety of all EU nuclear plants should be reviewed, on the basis of comprehensive and transparent risk and safety assessments.

The European Nuclear Safety Regulators Group (ENSREG) and the Commission reached agreement in May 2011 on the scope and modalities of these assessments, agreeing that a two-track process should be in place to cover safety and security. According to this agreement, the safety assessment of the nuclear plants started on 1 June and covers extraordinary triggering events like earthquakes and flooding and the consequences of any other initiating events potentially leading to a loss of safety functions requiring severe accident management and includes human and organisational factors. The AHGNS was created in July 2011 on the basis of a Coreper decision to deal with the security of nuclear power plants in the EU in relation to theft, sabotage, unauthorised access, unauthorised movement of nuclear material or other malicious acts.

The work of the AHGNS focused solely on methods for evaluating, taking preventive measures and protecting nuclear power plants, with the aim of identifying and sharing good practices and improving general security principles based on the nuclear security recommendations of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

P R E S S

The report identifies 32 good practices, covering the following areas: national legal and regulatory framework, national security framework, design basis threat, nuclear security culture and contingency planning. In addition, the report proposes the following recommendations, drawn up on the basis of its main conclusions, bearing in mind that the security of nuclear power plants is a national responsibility:

- Urge all EU Member States which have not yet done so to complete as soon as possible the internal process that would enable the deposit of their instrument of ratification, acceptance or approval of the 2005 Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM). This will also set a good example for neighbouring countries and bring closer the date for the Amendment to enter into force.
- Encourage the use of the IAEA's services and the use and implementation of IAEA's publications of the Nuclear Security Series in the Member States' national practices.
- Highly encourage the use of the IAEA's International Physical Protection Advisory Service (IPPAS) missions on a regular basis in all EU Member States with nuclear power plants. Security issues relating to cyber threat should be part of the missions. EU Member States hosting an IPPAS mission also send an important message to other countries to do similarly.
- Encourage the IAEA to share, at the international level, best practices identified through the different IPPAS missions, taking due account of confidentiality requirements. The implementation of such best practices should be promoted.
- Encourage regular cooperation among EU Member States and between them and the EU's neighbouring countries. The cross-border nature of any nuclear incident is a strong motivation for close cooperation and exchange of information between countries.
- Continue work on nuclear security among EU Member States, also in line with Action RN. 19 of the EU Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear Action Plan. The AHGNS is convinced that continued cooperation between EU Member States, including appropriate information exchange, on nuclear security is of value, using the framework of existing groups at the EU level. The European Nuclear Security Regulators Association is considered as an important body for enhancing nuclear security. The AHGNS calls upon this association to welcome nuclear security regulators of all EU Member States and those of neighbouring countries.

The report will be brought to the attention of the June European Council.