

## **ENISS welcomes WENRA action on harmonising safety standards in nuclear industry**

**Brussels, 9 February 2006: ENISS (the European Nuclear Installations Safety Standards Initiative) has welcomed the action that WENRA (the Western European Nuclear Regulators' Association) has taken regarding harmonising regulations governing safety standards at nuclear power plants, waste management facilities and decommissioning operations in Europe. ENISS was launched within FORATOM in May 2005 (the trade association representing the European nuclear industry). It is keen to manage the process of harmonization with the license-holders and will interact with WENRA with a view to identifying reference levels in agreement with the license-holders. ENISS sees WENRA's action as an important step towards finalising, in close collaboration with the nuclear industry, a blueprint for delivering and implementing improved safety standards. It is also consistent with the industry's improved safety culture.**

WENRA's action spotlights the need for harmonized safety standards for the nuclear industry and provides a basis for the new regulations that will be required to implement those standards. They are largely based upon the reference levels outlined in the 3 Harmonisation Reports that WENRA published on 16 January, 2006. These reports focused on reactor safety, the safe management of waste and spent fuel storage facilities and decommissioning operations.

The nuclear industry recognises that the liberalization of the European energy market has led to the deregulation of electricity generation and that diversity of national regulations could distort competition. It acknowledges, therefore, that harmonising regulations to enforce better safety standards is the best way of ensuring that the industry can evolve within a stable legal framework. Consequently, the license-holders support WENRA's work on harmonizing safety standards and regulations and intend to continue collaborating closely with WENRA and other stakeholders to help improved safety standards across the industry become a reality.

ENISS was created to better articulate the views of operators running nuclear installations and to work closely with WENRA and other stakeholders to ensure that greater harmonisation is achieved. ENISS is composed of nuclear utilities and operating companies from 13 European countries producing nuclear energy (operators from 4 more countries are in the process of joining).

Commenting on the WENRA's nuclear safety recommendations and on the importance of operators and regulators working together, ENISS Steering Committee Chairman, Karl-Fredrik Ingemarsson said: "ENISS welcomes the action taken by WENRA and acknowledges its central role in promoting even higher safety standards for our industry. One of our main missions is to help

identify and agree upon the scope and substance of harmonized safety standards. Operators must support regulators to help ensure that once defined the new regulations are properly implemented. As joint stakeholders in the process, license holders and the regulators must play comparably important but different roles in achieving this common goal.”

Dr. Peter Haug, Director General of FORATOM, was keen to stress how consultation and participation are the keys to success: “The work of ENISS is a good example of how dialogue and participation with all stakeholders can help find the best solutions to the challenges facing our industry today. And one of those challenges is to make the industry and all those who work in it even safer than it already is.”

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