

■ Press Release

FORATOM welcomes definition of stringent stress tests for Europe's nuclear power plants

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The European nuclear industry welcomes the agreement that has been reached between the European regulators and the European Commission on the criteria underpinning the stress tests that will be carried out at all of Europe's nuclear power plants under the supervision of national regulatory authorities.

From the outset the European nuclear industry has supported a common EU-level approach to analysing the consequences of the Fukushima accident and to developing a common framework for reassessing the safety of its nuclear power plants. Furthermore, it has restated its commitment to ensuring that its facilities continue to offer optimal safety at all times - even under the most extreme of circumstances. Indeed, in some countries operators have already begun a process of re-assessing safety at their facilities, as part of a broader approach of permanent safety assessment and enhancement.

Commenting on today's announcement by the EU Energy Commissioner, Günther Oettinger, FORATOM's Director General, Santiago San Antonio, said: "Safety has always been, and will always remain, the top priority of the European nuclear industry, and we will continue to work closely with national regulatory authorities. I also welcome the agreement to consider terrorist threats as part of a separate process. It is important too that the results of the stress tests are communicated in an open and transparent way, so that the public can rest assured that Europe's nuclear power plants are safe."

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