

EU Nuclear Energy Policy Developments Expected in 2013

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In 2013, safety will remain at the top of the EU's nuclear energy policy agenda. Member States will have to continue implementing the recommendations of the safety reassessment process carried out following the Fukushima accident. The European Commission (EC) plans to revise the 2009 Safety Directive. Other developments are in the pipeline like the publication of a Proposal on nuclear insurance and liability and the adoption of *Horizon 2020*, the 8th Framework Programme for Investment in Research and Innovation. Please read what you shouldn't miss in 2013, if you want to keep abreast of EU nuclear policy developments.

EU Energy Policy

ENEF

The European Nuclear Energy Forum ([ENEF](#)), which was created in 2007, brings together stakeholders in the nuclear field and provides advice to European policy-makers on: security of energy supply, incentives for investment, EU legislative issues, public opinion, R&D, knowledge management, safety and waste management. ENEF is divided into three Working Groups (WGs): the Opportunities WG (next meeting: **11 April 2013**), the Risks WG (next meeting: **12 April 2013**) and the Transparency WG (latest meeting: **5 February 2013**). On 19 December 2012, a combined meeting of ENEF's Opportunities, Risks and Transparency WGs took place in Luxembourg to review the progress that has been made since the Forum was established and to consider whether or not procedural changes are needed for the future. During this meeting it was decided that such a meeting should be held every year. Therefore, a joint ENEF meeting will be held in 2013. The next ENEF plenary meeting will be held **in Prague on 30 and 31 May 2013**.

Energy Roadmap 2050

The EC published [the Energy Roadmap 2050](#) in December 2011. The document indicates that nuclear energy makes "a significant contribution to the energy transformation process" and is "a key source of low-carbon electricity generation." The European Presidency adopted its [Conclusions](#) on the Roadmap in June 2012 and the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) gave its [Opinion](#) on it in May 2012. On 23 & 24 January 2013, the EP's Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE) endorsed Rapporteur Niki Tzavela's (Europe of Freedom and Democracy Group, Greece) [draft Report](#) on the *Energy Roadmap 2050*. The EP should adopt the aforementioned report in Plenary **in the week of 11-14 March 2013**.

Low-carbon Roadmap 2050

The EC published in March 2011 a Communication entitled: [A roadmap for moving to a low-carbon economy by 2050](#). It sets out the strategy required to promote Europe's transition to a low-carbon economy by 2050 and recognizes the contribution that

nuclear can make as a low-carbon technology. In June 2011, the European Council, under the Hungarian Presidency, endorsed the Roadmap objectives. The European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) also adopted its [Opinion](#) on the Roadmap in September 2011. To give its Opinion on the Roadmap, the European Parliament (EP) drafted an own initiative Report, for which the Rapporteur is Chris Davies (Liberals and Democrats, UK). The [non-binding Report](#) was adopted by the EP in March 2012. This year, the EC will continue to produce policy documents in order to implement the objectives of the Roadmap, including a climate and energy framework.

Climate and Energy framework 2030

According to the [Work Programme](#) of the EC, it will put forward [a climate and energy framework up to 2030](#). The framework is intended to reach the target of 80-95% greenhouse gas emission reduction in 2050 compared to 1990, to foster long-term competitiveness, security of supply and sustainability, and to provide a long-term perspective for investments until 2030. A green paper is expected to be published **by March 2013** and it should be followed by policy communications later this year.

Safety regulation

BSS

The 1996 Basic Safety Standards Directive fixes the basic standards for radioprotection within the EU. The EC revised the 1996 BSS Directive and published in May 2012 a Proposal for a Council Directive laying down basic safety standards for protection against the dangers arising from exposure to ionising radiation. The European Parliament (EP)'s Opinion is being delivered by the Environment (ENVI) Committee and its rapporteur is Thomas Ulmer (EPP, Germany). The ENVI Committee is scheduled to vote on the text in April 2013 and the EP should vote in plenary in May/June 2013. The Directive should be adopted by the Council during the Irish Presidency, which lasts until June 2013.

Safety Directive

The objective of the [Council Directive](#) adopted in June 2009 *establishing a Community framework for the nuclear safety of nuclear installations* is "to achieve, maintain and continuously improve nuclear safety and its regulation in the Community and to enhance the role of the regulatory bodies." The EC launched [a consultation](#) period from December 2011 to February 2012 on the need for additional nuclear safety legislative measures at Euratom level. According to the EC's 2013 Work Programme, the Directive should be revised **early 2013** to address technical safety requirements, the role of regulatory authorities, transparency, monitoring and verification and the siting, design, construction and operation of nuclear power plants. The publication of the revised Safety Directive Proposal by the EC is expected **in May 2013**. A draft EC proposal has been discussed by ENSREG on 23 January 2013 and forwarded to the ENEF Working Groups for comment.

Stress tests

Following on from the safety reassessments' process, ENSREG published an Action Plan in August 2012; according to which national regulators were required to prepare their national [action plans](#) by **the end of 2012** in order to implement the recommendations of the safety reassessments. The action plans will be peer-reviewed **during an [ENSREG Workshop in Brussels from 22-26 April 2013](#)**. Fact-finding follow-up site visits will take place in order to better prepare for the peer review workshop. The results of the workshop will be presented during the ENSREG conference **in June 2013**. The EC should publish a report on the implementation of the stress tests' recommendations **in June 2014**. It is important to recall that the assessments were done on a voluntary basis and that all EU Member States agreed to carry them out.

On 24 January 2013, the ITRE committee approved [a Resolution](#) on the safety reassessments, which states that nuclear operators, not taxpayers, should cover the costs of necessary safety upgrades as well as pay for everything they are liable for in the event of a nuclear accident. MEPs will debate nuclear safety in plenary **on 13 March 2013** and they should vote on the Resolution **on 14 March 2013**.

Radioactive Substances in Drinking Water

The EC published its proposal for a Council Directive laying down requirements for the protection of the health of the general public with regard to radioactive substances in water intended for human consumption in June 2011. The text was examined by the Atomic Questions' Group and the COREPER in 2011. The European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) adopted [its Opinion](#) on the text in October 2011. The EP ENVI Committee's rapporteur is Michèle Rivasi (Green, FR). The ITRE Committee is also expected to provide an opinion on the Proposal. The EP is not expected to adopt its Opinion until **March 2013** and the adoption by the Council should follow shortly afterwards.

Third party nuclear liability

As indicated in its Work Programme 2013, The EC should also put forward a Proposal for new legislation on nuclear insurance and liability **during the third quarter of 2013**. The aim of this new piece of legislation is to improve victim compensation in the event of a nuclear accident and to avoid market distortions owing to different Member State approaches.

Communication on nuclear off-site emergency preparedness and response

The Communication aims to insure increased protection of the population from accidental risks of operating nuclear power plants in Europe. The EC's Work Programme indicates that it should be published during the 3rd quarter of 2013.

Harmonisation of design licensing

In 2012, the Core Group of ENEF called the European Reactor Design Approval Group (ERDA) continued to work on the possible harmonisation of the "approval of reactor designs" within the EU. ERDA presented a report during the ENEF plenary meeting in May 2012. The report was endorsed by the Risks WG in September 2012

and by the Opportunities WG in October 2012. It was then sent to ENSREG, which will present it to its members during a meeting in **March 2013**.

Waste

Waste Directive

In July 2011, the European Council adopted the [Directive](#) *establishing a Community framework for the responsible and safe management of spent fuel and radioactive waste*, which was proposed by the EC in November 2010. The Directive entered into force in August 2011 and the Directive should be transposed into national law **by August 2013**. Member States are required to submit their first national programmes in 2015. A Core Group, called NAPRO (NAtional PROgrammes) has been created within ENEF in order to develop guidelines for the establishment of the national programmes. The guidelines were endorsed by the European Nuclear Forum's Risks WG **in January 2013**. They should be finalized **in March 2013** and presented during the ENEF plenary meeting in Prague on **30 & 31 May 2013**.

Research

Communication on energy technologies and innovation

An EC Communication on energy technologies and innovation is expected to be published during **the 2nd quarter of 2013**. It aims at fostering the development of energy technologies in line with the Energy Roadmap 2050 and the 2007 Strategic Energy Technology Plan (SET-Plan), promoting energy research, demonstration and market deployment actions at EU level and removing market, regulatory and behavioural barriers to the market deployment of energy innovation (via the IEE III programme). [A consultation](#) on the Communication was launched on 20 December 2012 and will continue until **15 March 2013**.

Horizon 2020

[Horizon 2020](#), an €80 billion programme for investment in research and innovation, was published by the EC in November 2011. It is a new name for the 8th Framework Programme for Research and Innovation that should run from 2014 until 2020. It includes a EURATOM and Joint Research Centre (JRC) section that will only cover the period from 2014 to 2018. The EURATOM projects, including nuclear fusion, will be allocated around €1.8 billion, of which the JRC will receive €724 million. In November 2012, the ITRE Committee voted on the report of the MEP, Peter Skinner (UK, S & D), on *Horizon 2020 Euratom Research Programme*. All the amendments of the Greens were rejected; an amendment to increase the budget for indirect fission actions to €500 million (from €355 million) was adopted (the European Sustainable Nuclear Industry Initiative- [ESNII](#) is specifically mentioned as a justification for this increase); a similar one to increase the Indirect Fusion budget from €710 million to €750 million was approved. The Proposal is currently being discussed by the Council and the EP and it should be adopted **by the end of 2013**.

SNETP

The Sustainable Nuclear Energy Technology Platform ([SNETP](#)); which was created in 2007, aims to facilitate closer integration between researchers and industry, to enable the definition and implementation of a Strategic Research Agenda (SRA) and corresponding Deployment Strategy (DS), as well as to maintain Europe's R&D leadership in the nuclear research sector. The SRA was published in 2009 and is regularly revised. **SNETP carried out a public consultation on the revision of its Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda ([SRIA](#)) (former SRA) from 17 December 2012 to 10 January 2013.** The revised SRIA is expected to be adopted by the **end of February 2013 before the DG Research Symposium that took place on 26 and 27 February 2013.** The next general Assembly of SNETP will be held in Lithuania, in **October 2013.**

Financing

Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation

The Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation is an EC funded programme (Regulation), which aims at financing measures to support a higher level of nuclear safety, radiation protection and the application of efficient and effective safeguards of nuclear materials in third countries. It has a global budget of €631 million for 2014-2020 and is a continuation of the previous 2007-2013 programme. The programme is currently being discussed in the EP (ITRE and Budgets Committees) and at the Council of the EU and should be adopted this year.

Management of decommissioning funds

In 2006, the EC published a [Recommendation](#) on the management of financial resources for the decommissioning of nuclear installations, spent fuel and radioactive waste. In 2007, the EC adopted its second Report (the first was published in 2001) to the EP and the Council. The Report assessed Member States' practices in the implementation of the Recommendation and evaluated also whether the accumulated funding had been adequately used. Given the difficulties experienced by Member States to comply with the recommendation, the EC released, in 2010, a guide to help Member States interpret it correctly. The EC then sent, as a follow-up to the 2nd report, a questionnaire to Member States on the way funds earmarked for decommissioning of NPPs have been "put aside". Member States' responses have been received by the EC up until late 2011. The EC has been drafting its third Report since the beginning of 2012 and it is expected to be published in **the first quarter of 2013.**

Decommissioning funds for SK/BG/LT

In November 2011, the EC published [a Proposal for a Council Regulation](#) on *Union support for the nuclear decommissioning assistance programmes in Bulgaria, Lithuania and Slovakia.* The Proposal provides for an extension of financial support

(an extra €500 million) for the aforementioned countries in order to complete the decommissioning of Kozloduy units 1 to 4, Ignalina units 1 and 2 and Bohunice V1 units 1 and 2. The Proposal doesn't fall under the co-decision procedure and, therefore, the EP is only consulted. MEP Giles Chichester (ECR, UK), the EP's ITRE Committee's Rapporteur for the Proposal, drafted [a Report](#) published in July 2012 that was discussed in Committee in October 2012. The Report should be adopted in Plenary **in 2013**, after receiving the opinion of the Budgetary Control Committee. The ITRE Committee is the lead Committee on this matter.

On 21 January 2013, the Budgetary Control Committee adopted MEP Marian-Jean Marinescu's (EPP, RO) [Report](#) [opinion] on *EU Financial assistance for the decommissioning of nuclear plants in Bulgaria, Lithuania and Slovakia*. The Report points out defects in the EU's nuclear decommissioning programmes, including cost overruns, delays, lack of coordination and supervision, diffused responsibilities, too much money going to unrelated energy projects and ill-informed priority setting. The Budgetary Control Committee's Report follows on from a [Special Report of the Court of Auditors](#) published in 2011 and entitled: *EU Financial assistance for the decommissioning of nuclear plants in Bulgaria, Lithuania and Slovakia: Achievements and future challenges*. In this report, the EU Court of Auditors has estimated the funding gap for decommissioning in Bulgaria, Lithuania and Slovakia at €2.5 billion.

PINC

The Community Nuclear Illustrative Programme (PINC) is a report made by the EC providing information on the current status of nuclear energy in the EU and giving recommendations to Member States on nuclear investments. An updated version was scheduled to be published at the end of 2012, but it has been delayed and is not sure to be released **in 2013**. The ENEF Competitiveness Sub-Working Group (SWG) intends to complete a "PINC" type paper in 2013. A first draft was discussed during its meeting on 14 January 2013. The issues that should be covered in this document are capacity projections, investments and financing.

EIB Energy Lending Policy

The European Investment Bank's ([EIB](#)) lending Policy is set out in three documents: *Clean Energy for Europe, EIB Energy Review, and EIB and Financing of Nuclear Energy*. The EIB is currently in the process of reviewing its Energy Sector Lending Policy in the light of market and EU policy developments. The EIB carried out a public consultation on its Energy Sector Lending Policy from October until December 2012. The Policy should be revised **in spring 2013** taking into account stakeholder views and contributions. The draft revised Policy, the draft Consultation Report and the Bank's comments are expected to be published **in May/June 2013** and they should be adopted **in summer 2013**.

Public acceptance

Eurobarometer on Radioactive Waste and nuclear Safety

The *Eurobarometer* (a European-wide opinion poll commissioned by the EC) on *Radioactive Waste* was due to be published in 2011 since Special Eurobarometers are released every 3 years, but due to the Fukushima accident its publication was postponed. The EC decided instead to prepare a combined Eurobarometer survey including questions regarding nuclear power, radioactive waste and nuclear safety. This Eurobarometer survey should be published **in 2013**.

Environment Impact Assessment (EIA)

On 26 October 2012, the EC proposed a Directive amending Directive 2011/92/EU on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment. The dossier was transmitted to the EP (under co-decision) where the ENVI Committee will draft the EP's report, Mr Andrea Zanoni (ALDE, IT) is rapporteur.

Transport

Regulation on radioactive materials carriers

In August 2011, the EC published a proposal for a Council regulation establishing a Community system for the registration of carriers of radioactive materials. This regulation aims at replacing the reporting and authorization systems in the Member States by a single registration. It has been discussed at the EP **since January 2013** and should be adopted by the Council **in 2013**.

Education and training

Situation report on education and training in the nuclear energy field

The Communication from the EC to the EP and the Council of [1st situation report on education and training in the nuclear energy field in the European Union](#) was published on 16 September 2011. This Communication proposes a number of training avenues designed to strengthen the competence of staff in the nuclear sector. The 2nd EC communication on nuclear education and training is expected to be published **in late 2013**.

Competition

Internal Market Communication

In November 2012, the EC published a Communication assessing the state of play of the EU's internal energy market, which is to be completed by 2014. The Communication encouraged Member States to step up their efforts to promote the internal energy market highlighting the benefits that a truly integrated European market will bring to citizens and business. In the context of the Communication, the EC carried out **from 5 December 2012 to 7 February 2013** a public consultation on generation adequacy, capacity mechanisms and the internal market in electricity.