



Exploratory workshop

"Ageing of nuclear power plants: a threat to nuclear safety?"

19th March 2014 from 9:00 to 14:00

Brussels, European Parliament, room ASP 5E1.

Context

Around one third of the European nuclear reactors are today over 30 years old. All European nuclear regulators and utilities are facing problems linked to this ageing of the fleet, which should be broadly understood as the physical degradation of structures, system and components (SSC) as well as the obsolescence of technologies, design, and losses in the transmission of human know-how.

Ageing directly impacts the possibilities of lifetime extension of nuclear facilities, one of the two key challenges (with nuclear waste) identified by the European Commission in its Strategic Energy Technology Plan. In this framework, the Commission proposed to add new Community safety objectives to the existing safety directive¹ so that plant life-time extension "does not expose the workers and the public to additional risks". The importance of ageing has also been directly acknowledged by the European Nuclear Energy Forum and more specifically by its Working Group on risks, which is drafting a proposal for a Commission recommendation on "harmonized conditions for the safe long-term operation of Nuclear Power Plants (LTO) in the European Union"². This proposal defines among others the responsibilities of license holders as well as of regulatory authorities in charge of implementing harmonised safety LTO conditions.

For their part civil society organizations have taken the topic of ageing and its impacts on safety in hand but with few possibilities of expression. In this context, Michèle Rivasi (vice president of the Greens-EFA group), chair of Nuclear Transparency Watch, is organizing an open discussion with MEPs, representatives of the European institutions, regulators, operators and members of the civil society, in order to increase the transparency of the reflections already taking place and to investigate the possibilities of public participation in policies aimed to tackle NPP ageing.

Objectives of this exploratory workshop

- To give participants a scientific background on ageing processes and their impact on nuclear safety
- To review the different practices in EU MS for ageing control and their resulting policies
- To evoke the stakes and possibilities of an EU common policy/position on ageing
- To assess the possibilities for public participation regarding policies responding to NPP ageing

¹ Directive 2009/71/Euratom establishing a Community framework for the nuclear safety, in revision. See (27) p17 of the Council proposal.

² On the basis of Directive 2009/71/EURATOM

Agenda

- 8:30** **Registration**
- 9:00-9:05** **Introduction (Michèle Rivasi, MEP, NTW Chair)**
- Session I:** **Ageing processes (moderator: Paul Rübiger MEP)**
- 9:05-9:25 1. Technical characteristics of ageing processes and their impacts on nuclear safety
 Speaker: Simone Mohr, Senior Researcher, Ökoinstitut
- 9:25-9:40 2. Safety assessment of nuclear reactors ageing
 Speaker: Frédéric Ménage, Assistant to the safety expertise director, IRSN (French Institute for Radiological Protection and Nuclear Safety)
- 9:40-9:55 3. Related issues: ageing of human know-how, design and technology
 Speaker: Peter Haehner, Head of Unit, Nuclear Reactor Integrity Assessment and Knowledge Management, JRC
- 9:55-10:20 4. Q&A
- Session II:** **Measuring the risk (moderator: Jo Leinen MEP)**
- 10:20-10:35 1. Control methods across Europe and recent developments
 Speaker: Pierre Doumont, Group Senior Vice President, Nuclear Safety & Radiation Protection, GDF Suez.
- 10:35-10:50 2. Control methods across Europe and recent developments
 Speaker: Noël Camarcat, Special Advisor for Nuclear R&D and International Issues, EDF
- 10:50-11:05 3. Regulation and supervision of aging management in Swedish NPP
 Speaker: Lars Skanberg, head of the Section for Reactor Technology and Structural Integrity, Swedish radiation safety agency.
- 11:05-11:20 4. The role of regulatory agencies in ageing monitoring
 Speaker: Philippe Jamet, Commissioner, French Nuclear Safety Agency
- 11:20-11:45 5. Q&A

