

ENSREG 2017 – opening speech (Petteri Tiippana)

Dear Commission Vice President Maroš Šefčovič

Dear Director General Ristori

Dear Deputy Director General Lentijo,

Dear ENSREG President Chevet,

Dear Mr. Minière,

Dear Speakers and Panelists of this ENSREG Conference 2017,

Dear Participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning. It is a great pleasure and honor for me to welcome all of you, and to chair the 2017 ENSREG conference and its Opening Ceremony.

We have X participants attending this conference, representing several kinds of stakeholders. To me this demonstrates first the importance of nuclear safety, and secondly need for, and interest in, constructive dialogue in this sector.

Implementation of the principle of continuous improvement of safety is a key success factor for the nuclear industry, its credibility, and the rigour of its regulators. The ENSREG conference aims to support this goal by providing a forum for us to learn from each other,

to build trust among the stakeholders, and to seek safety enhancements including on the existing fleet with the ultimate goal of preventing nuclear accidents.

This ENSREG conference comprises 4 sessions which will allow us to debate important and timely issues related to Waste Management, Licensing of NPPs, Long Term Operation and Supply Chain Control, and the relation of these topics to the recently revised European nuclear safety and waste directives.

The first session is about Waste Management - a timely topic, since countries are currently implementing the Waste Directive. We expect the session to address the status of implementation of national waste management programs and plans - highlighting both challenges and successes - and provide a forum to exchange experience between

stakeholders, in particular on the licensing of deep geological repositories for high level waste and related stakeholder engagement processes. Discussions here should help EU countries take a leading role in this area in the Convention on Radioactive Waste and Spent Fuel, particularly in the Convention's 6th Review meeting in 2018.

The second session discusses licensing activities and processes. We all understand that licensing processes in different steps are crucial for the licensees to demonstrate that the nuclear facility complies with safety requirements and for regulators to independently ensure the adequacy of a licensee's safety demonstration. We know that these processes and related requirements vary between different countries of the EU. The question for us here is: what are the needs and possibilities to harmonize regulatory processes and requirements among EU countries while ensuring the highest levels of nuclear safety? I expect the discussions during this session to provide guidance to the regulators and to the

industry in terms of in which areas harmonization would be most beneficial. Is it in the licensing processes, in regulatory requirements for safety, or in the codes and standards used in the nuclear sector? Therefore, highest levels of safety can reasonably be achieved in the design phase, among others, through this licensing process controlled by the regulatory bodies and including a cooperation between vendors.

The third session is dedicated to Long Term Operation (LTO), which is already underway in many EU countries. The aim of the discussions is to address major regulatory and industry challenges related to the LTO phase. This theme is again very topical, since we have just initiated the first Topical Peer Review on Ageing Management as required under the EU nuclear safety directive. The TPR will focus mostly on procedural aspects, but the exercise is supported by examples of ageing management of safety significant structures and

components at NPPs such as containment, reactor pressure vessels, buried pipes and electrical cables. Its results will also be an important input to LTO Policy and the related action taken by the Regulatory Bodies.

The nuclear safety directive sets also a requirement for timely implementation of reasonably practicable safety improvements, which to my mind has a clear nexus to licensing and entering the LTO phase. The principles of the Vienna Declaration on Nuclear Safety address the same expectation, and – as we know - implementation of the VDNS was debated in depth at the 7th Convention on Nuclear Safety review meeting in Vienna a few months ago. I expect that we here in the conference, and more generally in the EU, can and should provide more concrete and practical guidance on what "timely implementation of reasonably practicable safety improvements" means in practice and in particular for existing NPPs. As you know, WENRA took an important action in writing a

paper which has been endorsed in its last Plenary session and discussed yesterday during the plenary of ENSREG. Now we need to define additional technical goals to be reached in order to quantify the enhancement of Nuclear safety on the existing fleet.

In the fourth and last session, we will discuss a new challenge we have faced with forged products used especially in nuclear pressurized equipment. Many of us are familiar with the recent events in France, which are two-fold – on one hand, the safety significance and management of carbon segregation phenomena in heavy forgings, and on the other hand falsified manufacturing documentation identified during the investigation of the carbon segregation issue. Regulators and industry have reacted, but I believe we need to think more proactively for the future: What do we need to do with manufacturing codes and standards to address carbon segregation? What about regulatory requirements and

supply chain oversight by both licensees and regulators to address issues of Counterfeit, Fraudulent, and Suspect Items? I am very pleased that we can benefit from the strong expertise of the French and US regulators on these issues, as well as from interesting and valuable benchmarking of aerospace, an industrial sector which had to face the CSFI issue a few years ago.

Colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

My wish is to have a very constructive and fruitful debate on all these issues with the aim on ensuring and improving nuclear safety. I am sure the topics to be discussed during these 2 days will also be valuable inputs for the workprogram of ENSREG as well as for the European Commission.

I want to take the opportunity to thank in advance the Commission for its support in organizing this conference, as well as a special thanks to the main speakers and panelists of each session who accepted to give their time and expertise for all of us.

A special thanks also goes to Ann MacLachlan for helping guide the conference during these two days and particularly to the members of the Steering Committee who have worked hard to make this conference possible.

Once again I welcome you all and wish you interesting discussions and debates. I am very happy to give the floor to the Commission, the ENSREG President, the IAEA Deputy director General, and the French Licensee. Thank you.