

## Opening address by Marta Žiaková, ENSREG Chair

Distinguished guests,  
Ladies and Gentleman,

Good morning. It is a great pleasure and honour for me to join you today and address this gathering as chair of ENSREG.

Our audience demonstrates the shared interest of all of us in nuclear safety as well as our joint commitment to conduct open and transparent dialogue with all relevant stakeholders. Despite nuclear safety being a national responsibility, mutual communication and information sharing with all interested parties is a key element for its continuous improvement. This is where I would like to highlight the role of the ENSREG.

The European Nuclear Safety Regulators Group (ENSREG) is an independent, expert advisory group to the European Commission that was created in 2007. It is composed of senior officials from the national nuclear safety, radioactive waste safety or radiation protection regulatory authorities and senior representatives having competence in these fields from all 27 EU Member States and representatives of the European Commission.

ENSREG's mission is to promote continuous improvements of nuclear safety and to reach a common understanding on the above areas. As an independent body, ENSREG works to:

- facilitate the implementation of the EU Nuclear Safety Directive and the EU Waste Management Directive
- improve the cooperation and openness between the Member States on nuclear safety and radioactive waste issues;
- improve overall transparency on nuclear safety and radioactive and spent fuel management; and
- as appropriate, advise and recommend to the European Commission proposals for additional EU-wide regulations/rules aimed to improve nuclear safety.

During the recent years many activities and events were conducted by ENSREG from which I would like to highlight those of a key importance:

- The first Topical peer review on Ageing management was completed and the final report was published in 2018. In 2020 ENSREG decided that fire protection will be the subject of the second Topical Peer Review and started to work on the implementing documents supported by the western European nuclear Regulator's Association - WENRA.
- The Stress Tests exercise conducted in Belarus is another example where ENSREG played an essential role. Despite the restrictions caused by the COVID pandemic the review of the Action plan for the Ostrovets NPP in Belarus continued.
- ENSREG provided the European Commission with an expert analysis as well as advice on the EU's Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation (INSC). INSC is the main vehicle through which the EU provides support to third countries aimed to improve global nuclear safety in line with EU expectations.

All of the above mentioned examples serve as an important ENSREG performance indicator. I am fully convinced that the Group will continue to play a key role in improving nuclear safety and radioactive waste and spent fuel management worldwide, in close cooperation with all relevant international organisations, particularly the IAEA and OECD/NEA, as well as WENRA and other interested stakeholders.

Ladies and Gentleman,

Ensuring the highest possible safety standards when using nuclear energy is a key priority for ENSREG Members. I am certain that the global nuclear industry and the civil society shares this priority.

Our experience with the EU Stress Test and the EU Topical Peer Review demonstrate that we can gain a lot by knowledge sharing and transparent peer review.

Therefore, I am pleased that the EU has put itself at the forefront when it comes to nuclear safety but there are many challenges ahead of us.

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The completion of the Ostrovets Action plan Peer Review, preparatory work for the 2<sup>nd</sup> TPR are some of near term challenges. With this, I would like to thank you for your attention.