ASN actions

Chapter 6

Public information and transparency

The TSN Act of 13th June 2006 on transparency and security in the nuclear field, constituted a significant innovation in that it defined transparency and the right to information in the nuclear field: *"Transparency in the nuclear field consists in the set of provisions adopted to ensure the public's right to reliable and accessible information on nuclear security"* (Article L. 125-12 of the Environment Code, previously Article 1 of the TSN Act). ASN is responsible for the correct implementation of the requirements of the TSN Act, particularly those concerning transparency.

ASN is intensifying its own actions with regard to transparency, through active communication with the general public, the media, the institutional public and professionals.

ASN ensures that the TSN Act is implemented by the stakeholders. It supports the measures taken by the Local Information Committees (CLIs) and the High Committee for Transparency and Information on Nuclear Security (HCTISN) to promote transparency.

Through its regulation and inspection of the nuclear licensees, ASN is developing their compliance with their transparency obligations. The licensees are now required to release to anyone who so requests the information in their possession concerning the risks involved in their activities and the safety or radiation protection measures taken by them to prevent or mitigate these risks.

Each year ASN presents its *report on the state of nuclear safety and radiation protection in France* to Parliament. Discussions with its institutional audience, in particular Parliament and locally elected officials, enable ASN to be more effective in the fulfilment of its remit and the exercise of the independence conferred on it by the TSN Act.

In 2012, ASN contributed to informing the public and the media concerning the steps taken in France in the wake of the Fukushima accident. ASN was also called before Parliament for a hearing on this subject.

1 DEVELOPING RELATIONS BETWEEN ASN AND THE PUBLIC

1|1 From public information to transparency

Informing the public about nuclear safety and radiation protection is one of ASN's fundamental duties. In order to fulfil this role and meet the expectations of the general and professional publics, ASN is looking to change its working methods and its information media.

Since 2002, ASN has published the follow-up letters for all inspections carried out in basic nuclear installations (BNI) on its website *www.asn.fr.* ASN extended this publication to include radiotherapy inspection follow-up letters in 2008 and small-scale nuclear activity inspection follow-up letters in 2010. Every year, ASN thus gives access to more than 1,500 inspection follow-up letters for all the activities that it regulates and monitors: as at 31st December 2012, 10,442 follow-up letters had been posted on *www.asn.fr.*

Since 1st October 2008, ASN has published the opinions and recommendations of its Advisory Committees on its website (see chapter 2 - 2|5|2).

As part of its transparency and public information approach, ASN aims to include the general public more extensively in its decision-making process, by developing public consultation via the *www.asn.fr* website. Fourteen consultations have thus been placed on-line since 2010.

A few months after the Fukushima accident, ASN published on *www.asn.fr* the stress test reports submitted by the licensees of the nuclear power plants and the fuel cycle or research facilities in France. On 3rd January 2012, ASN published its own stress tests report in the special section created on *www.asn.fr* ; followed, in June, by the 32 resolutions issued following this report. Several interviews also published in this section explained the priorities and challenges for the safety of the facilities in France identified by this work.

In December 2012, on *www.asn.fr* (as well as the English language version on *www.french-nuclear-safety.fr*) ASN also posted the national action plan it submitted to ENSREG, in the same way as the other European countries in which NPPs are located. This national action plan reviews the implementation in France of the recommendations resulting from the stress tests performed in 2011 and, more generally, all the measures decided on further to the European assessments.

1|2 ASN's information media

With a view to providing reliable and accessible information, ASN has set up an information policy based on complementary media, so that information is made accessible to its various audiences.

1|2|1 The ASN website, *www.asn.fr*

Nowadays, ASN's main channel for informing the public is its website *www.asn.fr,* which presents the current situation of nuclear safety and radiation protection in France, and the action and stances of ASN within its areas of competence. Website visitors are informed about subjects as varied as nuclear facilities, radiotherapy, radioactive waste, radon, emergency situation management, industrial uses of ionising radiation, etc.

In order to meet the needs and expectations of these audiences, ASN has developed the use of video on its site since 2011 (press conferences, thematic subjects, etc.). The sequences illustrate the range of ASN actions, the scope of its interventions, its positions on various points and the day to day work of its personnel. In 2012, the main subjects covered were: discussions between ASN and its Japanese counterpart; the risks linked to radon; an "environment" inspection on the Nogent-sur-Seine NPP, or the management of polluted sites and soils. The regional divisions and the various ASN departments are called on to present ASN's role in the field and its most important local and national resolutions. These films on *www.asn.fr,* most of which are sub-titled in English and accessible via the social media, are a means of creating close ties with ASN's audiences.

Once again with the aim of informing and educating, ASN is developing special reports on a variety of topics on its website. In 2012 this section was supplemented, in conjunction with *Contrôle* magazine, by a presentation on the management of sites and soils polluted by radioactivity.

The main social networks (Facebook, Twitter, Google+) enable ASN news to be followed in real-time.

In 2012, the *www.asn.fr.* site received 700,000 visitors.

Since the Fukushima accident, there has been a significant surge in demand from an English-speaking and especially institutional audience. ASN has continued to develop the English version of its website, *www.french-nuclear-safety.fr,* proposing information notices, press releases and a variety of specific editorial content, in particular concerning the stress tests. Several issues of *Contrôle* magazine have been translated in full and are also available on-line.

1|2|2 The French Nuclear Safety Authority's Newsletter

Since 2009, ASN has supplemented its editorial offering for its audiences (members of Parliament, local elected officials, senior civil servants, associations, CLIs, licensees and journalists) with the launch of the ASN Newsletter. With its one-page format printed on both sides, this newsletter develops selected fundamental topics in the "Enjeu" section, and publishes the latest news in brief. Ten issues are published per year, proposing regular sections devoted to ASN resolutions and actions, and to news from the regulated sectors. It directs readers towards other ASN publications should they wish to further their understanding of a particular subject.

The newsletter is sent by post to nearly 2,000 addressees each month and an electronic version can be consulted and downloaded at *www.asn.fr,* or sent by e-mail on subscription. As at 31st December 2012, there were more than 4,700 subscribers to the newsletter.

1|2|3 *Contrôle* magazine

Three issues of *Contrôle* magazine, produced by ASN, were published in 2012 and sent out to more than 10,000 recipients in France (national and local elected officials, media, HCTISN, CLI, associations, licensees, administrations, private individuals) and abroad (nuclear safety regulators): n° 193, in March, on the topic of radioactive substance transport operations, n° 194 in May, concerning extracts from the ASN report on the state of nuclear safety and radiation protection in 2011 and n° 195 in November on the management of sites and soils polluted by radioactivity.

Contrôle magazine presents a variety of approaches to a given subject. The magazine presents the ASN viewpoint and also gives various stakeholders an opportunity to express their opinions: licensees, administrations, experts, associations, journalists, foreign safety regulators, and so on. It is a means of promoting the emergence of pluralistic information, taking account of the concerns and expectations of public opinion.

Certain articles in the magazine now comprise "flashcodes" so that the readers can access additional content (video, thematic special reports), on *www.asn.fr.*

1|2|4 The *ASN Report on the state of nuclear safety and radiation protection in France*

The *ASN Report on the state of nuclear safety and radiation protection in France* is a reference document resulting from a collective analysis and synthesis of the status of the activities regulated by ASN in these two fields. It provides a means of extending the scope of reflection to projects and prospects relating to topical issues and to questions of particular importance at regional, national and international level.

Under the TSN Act, the annual *ASN Report on the state of nuclear safety and radiation protection in France* is presented each year to the President of the Republic, to the Government and to Parliament. It is also sent out to nearly 2,000 recipients: representatives of the administration, local elected officials, licensees and heads of regulated activities or facilities, associations, professional trades unions, learned societies, private individuals and so on.

ASN publications can be consulted and downloaded at www.asn.fr. *They are also available for consultation at the ASN's public information and documentation centre. All publications can be requested free of charge from the following address: Centre d'information de l'ASN - 15, rue Louis Lejeune, 92 120 Montrouge.*

1|2|5 *Transparence* magazine

Transparence magazine was created in 2010 and is more particularly aimed at ASN staff. It is also issued three times a year to targeted external audiences such as operational partners, CLIs, members of Parliament and engineering schools. Transparence provides an informative and educational analysis of ASN missions, its activities, its areas of professional expertise and its internal organisation. In March 2012, *Transparence* magazine took a look at the organisation of the stress tests involving ASN but also the licensees, the experts and the stakeholders (*"Les Évaluations complémentaires de sûreté : un projet ambitieux et mobilisateur"*). In July, *Transparence* magazine presented ASN's powers of sanction (special report *"Pouvoir de sanction : les inspecteurs au cœur du dispositif"*).

Finally, in November, in addition to a report on internal cross-audits, the magazine focused on the safety and radiation protection issues linked to subcontracting in nuclear facilities.

1|2|6 ASN's other in-house publications

The third edition of the ASN Activity Report was published in 2012. It is intended for all ASN staff, but can also be distributed to recruitment forums at which ASN is a participant. This report highlights information on subjects ranging from training or social dialogue to the quality management system and financial resources.

The ASN intranet, OASIS, is a prime channel for internal information, providing staff with documents about developments within the Authority and the performance of its occupational activities. OASIS is also the interface for the ASN information system, which provides a coherent organisation of the documentary base covering the main professional processes within ASN.

ASN periodic publications

1|3 ASN's audiences

1|3|1 ASN and the general public

Nuclear safety and radiation protection concern the entire population.

ASN has a major role to play in access to information and compliance with the transparency principles laid out by the TSN Act. It aims to provide the citizens with information that is as clear, complete and accessible as possible.

ASN actions aimed at the general public

The Public information and documentation centre

The Public information and documentation centre has been open to visitors in ASN's Paris premises since 2004 and manages queries and contacts from a variety of audiences: private individuals, professionals, students, associations, etc.

It offers more than 3,000 documents concerning nuclear safety and radiation protection for consultation. It allows in-situ consultation of original administrative documents such as public inquiry files, impact assessments and the annual reports from the licensees which, pursuant to Article L.125-16 of the Environment Code, deal with the environmental impact of each BNI.

The public has access to all ASN publications. It can also consult French and international publications on nuclear safety and radiation protection produced by various stakeholders (CLIs, nuclear licensees, IRSN and other technical experts, radiology and radiation protection learned societies, professional associations, environmental protection associations and so on).

In 2012, the ASN's Public information and documentation centre answered more than 1,600 queries from various parties, requests for administrative documents, for environmental information, for transmission of publications, for documentary searches and for position statements on subjects with significant implications.

ASN public information data sheets also propose concise, informative and educational presentations on the main areas of nuclear safety and radiation protection, through a range of topics: "Taking stable iodine in the event of a nuclear accident"; "The principles of radiation protection"; "Nuclear or radiological: which term to use?"; "Values and units in radiation protection"; "The French nuclear fuel cycle", "Nuclear emergency situations"; "Radon".

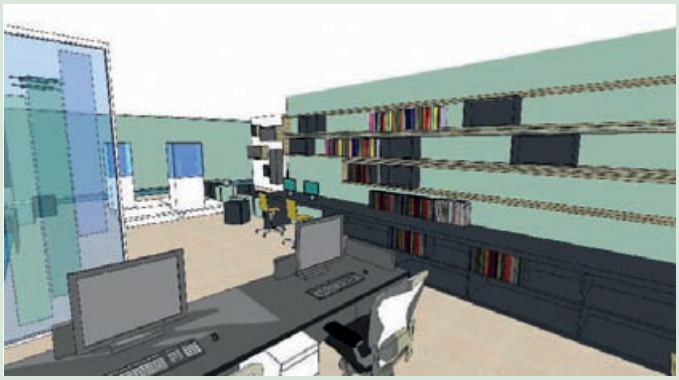
The development of ASN actions intended for the general public

ASN has always considered that nuclear subjects are everyone's business and that all citizens should be able to reach their own opinions.

To further reinforce its public information duties and better address the needs of the general public, ASN is developing its local actions. The key measures taken towards improving information of the general public are the inauguration of its new information centre, strengthening of its relations with schools and universities and the creation of a new exhibition on nuclear safety and the risk culture.

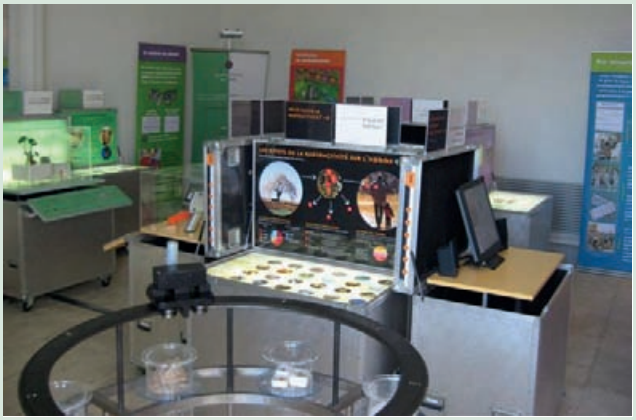
The new Information Centre at ASN headquarters in Montrouge (92)

The public information centre in the future headquarters in Montrouge is based on experience acquired by ASN nationwide, but also on a comparison with European best practices. The centre will be able to welcome a wide range of visitors, in particular school parties. It will also provide the various user categories with modern tools, complete documentation on ASN's fields of competence, in order to provide information about nuclear safety and radiation protection and contribute to reinforcing the nuclear risk culture.
The centre will perform its public service duties notably through the following specific functions:
– "organisation of pedagogical exhibitions and conferences" concerning nuclear safety and radiation protection;
– "documentation and access to administrative documents";
– "answering the public's questions".



Model of the new Information Centre at ASN headquarters in Montrouge

Exhibition: "Nuclear applications and society: from understanding to regulation"



Exhibition "Nuclear applications and society: from understanding to regulation" in Prades – May 2012

For twenty years now, the joint ASN/IRSN pedagogical exhibition has provided the public with an informative and educational view of how the risks linked to ionising radiation are assessed and controlled.

This 250 m² travelling exhibition comprises seven modules containing interactive models, films, panels, computer games, plus explanations given by specialists.

From February to May 2012, the exhibition was at the Maison de l'environnement in the Hérault département *(in Prades) where it attracted 4,000 visitors.*

In order to make the general public even more aware of the issues relating to the use of nuclear energy, ASN and IRSN wanted to give a facelift to this exhibition which targets local audiences. Following an audit in 2011 and 2012, the two organisations agreed that the exhibition had to be made more attractive by focusing more on the topic of nuclear risk culture, whether the risk is natural, medical, or industrial, by developing the modularity of the exhibition and by increasing promotion and partnerships.

2013 will be devoted to designing and putting together a new exhibition in line with these goals.

TO BE NOTED IN 2012

ASN is intensifying its relations with schools and universities

Following on from its work to inform the various audiences, ASN wanted to strengthen its contacts with schools, in order to develop the nuclear risk culture among teachers and students.

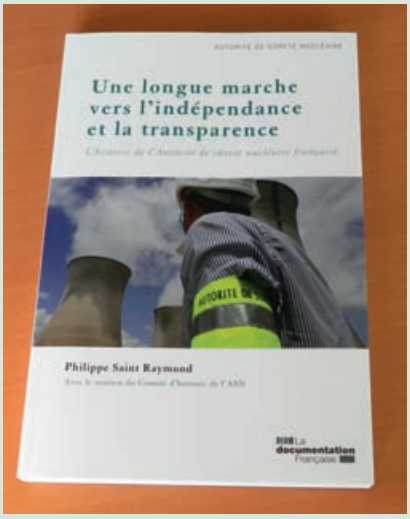
ASN first of all decided to support the "Radiation protection workshops", an operation organised by the Nuclear Protection Evaluation Centre (CEPN) and the Franche-Comté département's *"Pavillon des sciences" science centre which attracts French and European high-school students to work on educational projects linked to nuclear safety and radiation protection. The ASN's Nantes division took part in defining study subjects for volunteer Nantes high school students. It helped several groups of students with projects relating to the use of radionuclides in nuclear medicine and radiation protection in the veterinary field. The students from the participating schools, in France, Germany and Eastern Europe, presented the results of their work at a seminar held from 26th 28th March 2012 in the* École des Mines *in Nantes.*

ASN sponsored the 2012 edition of the competition for the best student paper on risk management, organised by the specialist "Préventique" magazine, which awarded prizes to the winners.

ASN also signed a partnership agreement with the chemistry department of the École normale supérieure *(ENS), for improvement of the* Culture Sciences-Chimie *website* (http://culturesciences.chimie.ens.fr) *which proposes pedagogical aids for teachers. The ENS will thus be able to use content created by ASN on a variety of topics (radiation protection, radiotherapy, etc.).*

All of these measures reflect ASN's desire to further develop the risk culture in the educational environment. With this same goal in mind, ASN is working on other partnerships.

TO BE NOTED IN 2012



« Une longue marche vers l'indépendance et la transparence »
(The long journey towards independence and transparency)
La documentation française. Can be purchased on-line from sur
www.ladocumentationfrancaise.fr

Publication of a book on the history of ASN

In 2012, ASN supported the publication of the book by Philippe Saint Raymond recording the history of the French nuclear safety regulator and entitled "Une longue marche vers l'indépendance et la transparence" *(The long journey towards independence and transparency).*

The purpose of the book is to describe the successive changes undergone by the organisation in charge of regulating nuclear safety from the 1950s until the 2006 creation of ASN as an independent administrative authority.

The book shows that the current organisation of nuclear safety and radiation protection regulation is the result of a gradual move towards greater independence from influences of all kinds, be they industrial, economic, or political. The author also describes the move towards greater transparency in order to guarantee the public's right to information.

The book recalls that these values of independence and transparency need to be constantly nurtured . This is why ASN provided its support for it.

1|3|2 ASN and professionals

The objective of ASN's relations with its professional audience is to enhance knowledge of the technical, organisational and human aspects of the regulations and nuclear safety and radiation protection culture.

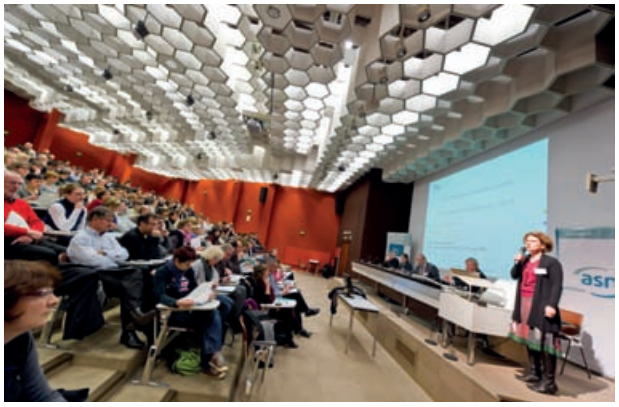
ASN maintains regular relations with the main nuclear licensees and also develops relations with the users of ionising radiation in the industrial and health sectors.

In this respect and in addition to its website *www.asn.fr,* ASN produces publications intended specifically for them and organises or takes part in many symposia, seminars and other events, in order to:
– raise the awareness of the professionals with regard to the responsibilities and implications of radiation protection;
– disseminate the regulations and promote their implementation;
– encourage the notification of significant events and experience feedback;

In 2012, several initiatives aimed at health professionals should be mentioned.

• Raise awareness concerning the responsibilities and implications of radiation protection

ASN publishes sectorial reports (or "monographs") on the state of radiation protection, trends, progress and difficulties encountered from the technical, organisational and human standpoints. The monographs produced since 2011 concern radiotherapy, interventional radiology and medical physics.



Interventional radiology information day in Pessac – 20th March 2012

ASN also distributes three thematic brochures at regional professional seminars, to shed light on radiation protection issues and to summarise the fundamental regulatory principles and ASN's messages and actions: quality management in radiotherapy, the transport of radioactive materials and industrial radiography.

TO BE NOTED IN 2012

New authorisation application forms for medical and industrial uses of ionising radiation sources

In 2012, ASN made changes to the authorisation application forms for ionising radiation sources in the medical and industrial sectors. These new forms take account of ASN resolution 2010-DC-0192 of 22nd July 2010, which modifies the list of items that may be required, in accordance with an incremental approach proportionate to the issues in terms of nuclear safety and radiation protection.

The main changes include: for medical activities, a tightening up of the information to be provided concerning the radiation protection of workers (forecast analysis of workstations, risk assessment, etc.) or the shared use of equipment utilising ionising radiation.

In order to meet the needs of the professionals, the forms are now proposed in Word format (compatible with version 3 and later), to allow the documents to be filled out and saved on computer.

In the field of industrial activities, the eight revised forms concern:

Industrial radiography (AUTO/IND/RADIO);
– detecting lead in paint (AUTO/IND/PLOMB);
– sealed radioactive sources (AUTO/IND/SS);
– non-sealed radioactive sources (AUTO/IND/SNS).

And in the field of medical activities:
– external radiotherapy (AUTO/MED/RT_EXT);
– brachytherapy (AUTO/MED/CURIE);
– medical scanners (AUTO/MED/SCAN);
– nuclear medicine and/or medical biology (AUTO/MED/MEDNU).

The forms can be downloaded from www.asn.fr, *section* "Professionnels".

• Disseminate the regulations and promote their implementation

Disseminating, understanding and implementing nuclear safety and radiation protection regulations is one of ASN's key objectives.

The "ASN guides" collection was created as an educational tool for professionals. In 2012, it comprised 16 non-prescriptive guides. These documents describe ASN doctrine in detail, clarify the recommendations, suggest the means it considers to be relevant for attaining the objectives set by the regulations, share methods and best practices resulting from experience feedback from significant events. The guides can be consulted on *www.asn.fr.*

In the medical field, ASN proposes an observations on the applicable radiation protection requirements, in its "Medical and dental radiological guide". This reference document was updated in May 2012 and distributed to the visitors to the French Radiology Days (JFR) conference.

ASN has placed two collections of radiation protection texts on-line for the professionals, on *www.asn.fr.*

• Encourage the notification of significant events and experience feedback

The notification of significant events is a key factor in strengthening the safety and radiation protection culture.

With regard to radiotherapy, ASN and the National Agency for the safety of drugs and health products (ANSM) together launched the *www.vigie-radiotherapie.fr* web portal in July 2011. This site is a way of easily filling out the notification declarations for radiation protection and medical device vigilance at the same time: access to the regulatory references and notification criteria, single notification form and identification of addressees of the notification according to the criteria identified.

ASN attaches considerable importance to sharing the lessons learned from significant events. The six-monthly electronic bulletin *"La sécurité des soins – Pour une dynamique de progrès"* (health care safety – building momentum for progress), co-signed by the radiotherapy learned societies (SFRO / SFPM / AFPPE) and ASN, was launched in March 2011. The bulletin is an initiative of the working group looking at experience feedback from significant event notifications intended for health professionals. It presents the progress and experience sharing approach initiated by the radiotherapy centres to enhance health care safety. Four numbers have so far been published and translated into English, dealing with patient identification, the treatment preparation session, analysis of significant radiation protection events and events requiring notification of ASN.

Partnerships with institutions, associations and professional organisations

• ASN's support for networks of persons competent in radiation protection (PCR)

Together with the Directorate General for Labour, ASN supports the PCR networks with their management and coordination in the industrial and medical fields. In late 2012, twelve regional networks signed the founding coordination charter for the PCR networks. With the assistance of ASN, they produced a brochure and a poster, used in particular during the PCR days organised by the French Radiation Protection Society (SFRP) on 29th and 30th November 2012 to help make the PCRs and radiation protection stakeholders aware of what the networks were doing.

• Collaboration with institutions and learned societies

ASN conducts an active policy of collaboration with institutions and learned societies, with a view to ensuring constant improvement of the radiation protection of patients and workers. This cooperation is given form by conventions or framework agreements and mainly concerns regulations, quality assurance, training, or experience feedback from radiation protection events.

With regard to radiation protection in the medical field, ASN has signed conventions with five institutions to make it easier for them to perform their respective duties and carry out joint or complementary work: the General Directorate for Labour (DGT), the General Directorate for Health (DGS), the High Authority for Health (HAS), the French National Agency for the Safety of Drugs and Health Products (ANSM) and the French Health Monitoring Institute (InVS).

Five medical learned societies are also signatories of framework agreements with ASN: the French Society for Radiation Oncology (SFRO), the French Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging Society (SFMN) and the Professional Council of French Radiology (G4), the AFPPE and the SFPM.

ASN is also working with the Commission for the radiation protection of veterinarians and, since 2011, with that for dentists.

More generally, ASN takes part in professional meetings, regional seminars or professional continuous training courses. The presence and contributions of ASN at such events, both regional and national, are a valuable means of informing the professionals and ensuring closer relations with them - particularly in the small-scale nuclear sector - with a view to improving application of the safety and radiation protection principles.

Professional symposia

ASN is also developing relations with professionals through the symposia it organises and through its participation in the events they organise. These events are also opportunities for ASN to share ideas and experience with its foreign counterparts.

• The ASN's divisions reaching out to the professionals in the small-scale nuclear sector

Dose optimisation in medical imaging was one of the ASN priorities in 2012. ASN's regional divisions were extensively engaged in this area and organised a "tour de France" of imaging departments and radiology and surgery departments performing medical procedures using ionising radiation: Lille (31st January), Paris (7th February), Bordeaux (20th March), Nantes (7th June), Lyon (4th October) and Marseille (16th November). The other regional professional seminars were devoted to radiotherapy (Orleans, 11th December), nuclear medicine (Lille, 4th October) and industrial radiography (Strasbourg, 19th October).

• The main professional events in 2012

The French national convention on technological risks (Douai, 11th October)

ASN was concerned by the main subjects of the 2012 edition of the National Convention on Technological Risks: interaction between technological risks and natural risks, organisational and human factors, management of the response and of the accident during the emergency phase, controlling urban development, polluted sites and soils and ageing of facilities. ASN spotlighted its involvement in these topics by running an information stand and by taking part in the round-table on human and organisational factors.

The French National Convention on Technological Risks, held every two years by the network of Regional Directorates for the Environment, Planning and Housing (DREAL) under the supervision of the Ministry responsible for sustainable development (MEDDE) attracts 800 to 1,000 participants from industry, associations, Government representatives, elected officials, employees and design offices.

Conferences in the medical and radiation protection sector

The campaign to raise awareness of managing and optimising doses in medical imaging was marked by the meeting of medical physicists and medical imaging professionals at the national conferences of the French Society of Medical physics (SFPM, 13th June) and the French Radiology Days (JFR, 21st-25th October).

At the SFPM conference, ASN underlined the need to continue with the efforts being made to hire and train medical physicists, in particular in the field of interventional radiology, where there is a shortage, so that they can reach the entire field of medical imaging and reinforce effective application of the justification principle.

In 2012, the JFR gave priority to interventional radiology, a speciality in which some of the highest levels of patient and professional exposure to ionising radiation is reached. ASN presented a stand and also ran two training workshops concerning patient dosimetry during imaging.

These medical conferences also enabled ASN to share the lessons learned from significant radiation protection events. At the conference of the French Association of Electroradiology Paramedical Staff (AFPPE, 17th-19th March), ASN presented the experience feedback from significant events in radiotherapy and nuclear medicine. On its stand, it promoted ASN's contribution to the national radiotherapy plan, and the bulletin entitled "La sécurité des soins – Pour une dynamique de progrès" (health care safety – building momentum for progress) devoted to the quality approach in radiotherapy.

Finally, ASN reviewed the regulatory changes currently under way in the field of radiation protection.

ASN presented the challenges and prospects of the draft Euratom directive on radiation protection in Europe at the PCR days (29th-30th November 2012), organised by the SFRP.

It presented a poster about the ASN resolution currently under preparation concerning the layout and equipment of nuclear medicine facilities at the 50th nuclear medicine symposium (20th to 22nd April 2012), organised by the French Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging Society (SFMN).

• ASN's contribution to improving international nuclear safety and radiation protection

IRPA international congress

ASN played an active role in sharing international radiation protection experience at the 13th Congress of the International Radiation Protection Association (IRPA), in Glasgow (Scotland), from 13th to 18th May 2012. The event attracted 700 participants (radiation protection professionals, radiation protection societies, health agencies, safety regulators, etc.).

ASN was active on the two major topics of this congress: stakeholder involvement and post-accident management. It presented 14 posters to promote its main projects and best practices. This strong ASN presence at the scientific congress was an opportunity to:

– spotlight medical issues related to individual radiosensitivity;
– call for European regulations concerning X-ray generators used by industry, researchers or veterinarians, as well as for a common radiation protection approach to body scanners and lamps with low added radioactivity;
– illustrate the benefits of analysing significant radiotherapy and industrial radiography events;
– promote worlwide the best practices in an integrated and mandatory quality management system for radiotherapy as well as national plans for monitoring the radiological quality of tap-water, for management of the radon risk and for removal of radioactive fire detectors and lightning rods.

ASN presented aspects of doctrine and the lessons learned from the work done by the Steering committee for managing the post-accident phase of a nuclear accident or radiological emergency situation (CODIRPA), initiated in France in 2007 as a contribution to the international examination of the aftermath of the Fukushima accident (see chapters 4 and 9).

IAEA-WHO international conference on radiation protection in medicine

This conference, which was held in Bonn (Germany) from 3rd to 7th December 2012, was an opportunity to review the results of the action plan for radiation in the medical sector drawn up in 2001 at the instigation of IAEA in Malaga (Spain) and to define international priorities for the next ten years. The event attracted 400 participants.

ASN was particularly involved in experience feedback from interventional radiology events and in individual radiosensitivity and the rise in medical dose levels. It was also a co-signatory of the poster on the European project to draft recommendations for analysis of the risks of accidental or unintentional exposure in external radiotherapy (ACCIRAD), as pilot of one of the working groups. A written paper was also presented concerning the clinical audits in France with the National Authority for Health.

The themes which were highlighted by this conference to a large extent overlap those on which ASN is focused at the national level: training and assessment of professional practices, enhancing the radiation protection culture in the world

of health care, inclusion of research on individual radiosensitivity and improved information of the patients.

1|3|3 ASN and the media

Press relations

ASN maintained close ties with the international, national and regional media throughout the year. This enabled it to perform its public information duty and strengthen its credibility and legitimacy in the areas in which it is competent.

2012 was marked to a large extent by the follow-up to the Fukushima accident.

ASN held two press conferences, on 3rd January and 28th June, in order to inform journalists of the next stage in the process and how the stress tests were progressing.

On 3rd January 2012, the ASN stress tests report was presented to the press at ASN headquarters. André-Claude Lacoste, Chairman of ASN, and Jean-Christophe Niel, Director General, answered questions concerning the requirements imposed on the licensees in order to increase the robustness of the nuclear facilities to extreme situations.

On 28th June, ASN presented to the press its 2011 *Report on the State of Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection in France*, also giving an interim report on the post-Fukushima stress tests performed on the nuclear facilities. These regular meetings kept the journalists informed of the work stipulated by ASN for the French facilities and enabled them to monitor the process as it developed in France.

On 26th September, ASN informed the media by issuing a press release on the submission of the stress test reports by the licensees, concerning the 2nd series of nuclear facilities.

ASN received numerous queries from the national and international media throughout the year concerning the stress tests performed in France, but also on those performed across Europe, along with ASN safety initiatives at a global level. This was in particular the case in late April, when the European Commission made public its report on the stress tests performed on the European NPPs.

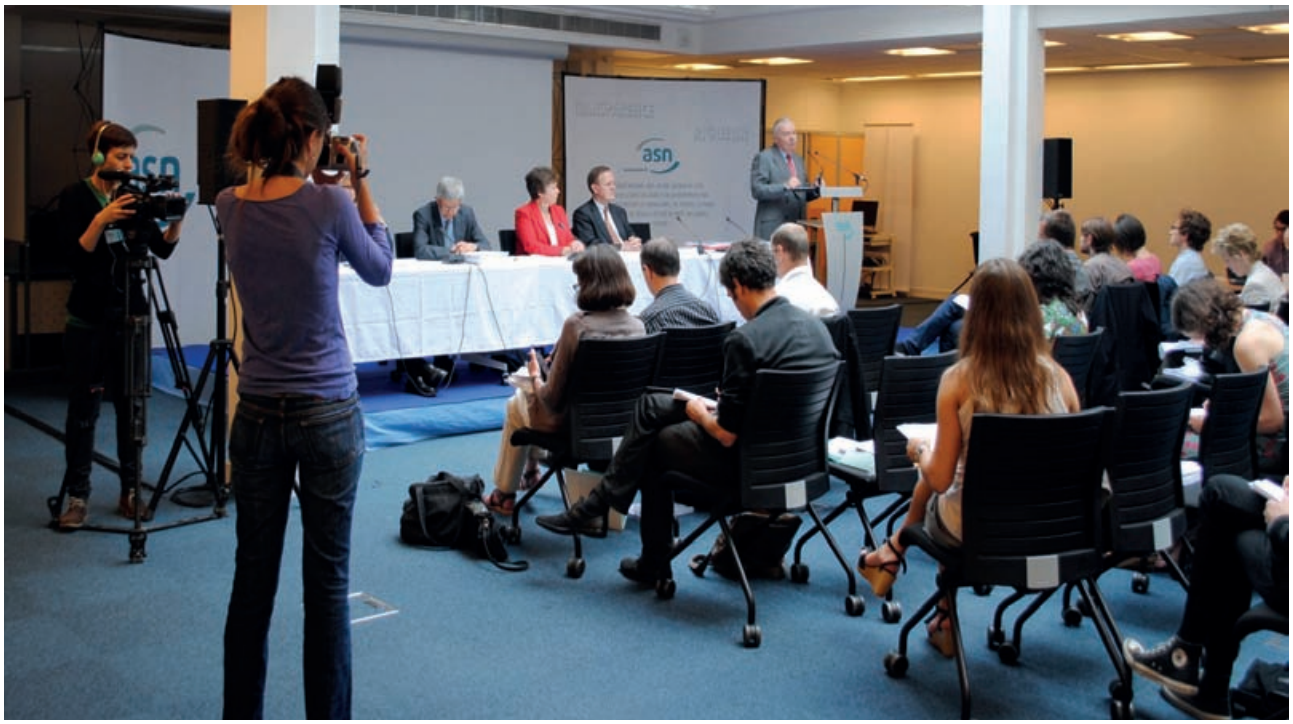
Increasing numbers of international media contacted ASN for details concerning ASN news and events occurring in France.

In order to further consolidate its links with the European media, ASN therefore met the French correspondents of the German press. This meeting was an opportunity to tackle subjects of interest to these journalists, in particular the stress tests in France and across Europe.

ASN also held a press briefing in Vienna on 29th March 2012 for Austrian and French journalists, with respect to the joint convention on safety standards. This was an opportunity to tackle nuclear safety at a European level and look at the first lessons learned from the Fukushima accident.

In addition to the stress tests, ASN informed journalist throughout the year with more than thirty national and regional press briefings on a variety of topics: the condition of the French nuclear facilities and any incidents which had occurred, the management of nuclear waste, post-accident management following a nuclear accident or radiological emergency (CODIRPA), subcontracting in the NPPs, the transport of radioactive sources, the results of the medical inspections and controlling exposure to ionising radiation.

With regard to the radiation protection of patients, the working of radiotherapy centres and the ASN recommendations to improve the quality of treatment safety were subjects that



Press conference held for the presentation of the ASN 2011 *Report on the State of Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection in France* – June 2012

interested journalists. The press was also interested in the topics of medical imaging and interventional radiology and the optimisation of the doses received by both patients and practitioners.

Numerous interviews and coverage in the field enabled the media to understand the different steps involved in ASN's regulatory work and to inform their audience about the steps taken to ensure the security of nuclear facilities and the safety of medical treatments.

Finally, throughout the year, the press focused at length on the ASN as an institution and in particular on its status and means of sanction, its independence, its transparency and its competence.

About twenty press releases, a hundred or so information notices and numerous interviews were an opportunity for ASN to inform the media and to clarify aspects of nuclear regulation and radiation protection in France, as part of its transparency approach.

At the local level, ASN's eleven regional divisions informed the public and the media about ASN actions and local issues, in particular through 19 regional conferences around the country. The main questions posed at the local level concerned the stress tests and their application to nuclear facilities, the incidents which had occurred and protection of patients and the public against ionising radiation.

ASN and the media in emergency situations

Article L. 592-32 of the Environment Code assigns clear duties to ASN in emergency situations. It must *"inform the public of the safety state of the installation that caused the emergency situation […] and of the possible releases into the environment and their risks for personal health and the environment"*.

ASN must in particular be capable of responding to media queries should a nuclear event occur. In 2012, three civil emergency exercises included simulated media pressure from journalists, designed to assess and strengthen ASN's reactivity to the media, as well as the consistency and quality of the messages put across by the various stakeholders, licensees and public authorities, both nationally and locally (see chapter 5).

In 2012, the ASN press service was mobilised on 5th and 6th April, when a fire broke out and an abnormal leak was detected on the reactor coolant system of reactor 2 in the Penly 2 NPP. Several press releases informed the media of how the situation was developing (see chapter 16).

Other events entailing numerous media queries, particularly from the international press, took place in 2012, requiring the creation of a reinforced organisation so that the media could be informed in real-time. These events included the chemical incident in the Fessenheim NPP, which focused the attention of all the media in September 2012.

Training in communication and media relations

With the aim of issuing high-quality, clear and understandable information, ASN offers all of its staff training in spoken and written communication and emergency management. This training is tailored to their various responsibilities. In order to be better able to answer queries from journalists and put across a message clearly, the ASN spokespersons are prepared for public speaking and media communication during the emergency exercises with simulated media pressure (see chapter 5).

ASN inspectors receive training in written communication (drafting of information memos and press releases).

1|3|4 ASN and members of Parliament

ASN actions take place within an institutional context that comprises a large number of stakeholders, in particular members of Parliament and local elected officials.

TO BE NOTED IN 2012

The ASN barometer

In 2012, in collaboration with the TNS SOFRES institute, ASN repeated its survey (barometer) of the organisation's public image and profile. This opinion survey took place between October and December 2012 with a representative sample of the general public and a sample representing the more informed and professional public (in particular consisting of journalists, elected officials, association managers, administrators, CLI chairmen, health professionals and teachers).

This barometer is designed to measure ASN's recognition level and the degree of satisfaction of two sample populations of the public with regard to its information actions. It enables ASN to adapt its information policy to its various audiences.

In 2012, for the informed public, ASN's overall level of recognition, which rose from 70% to 88% between late 2010 and late 2011, following Fukushima, rose a further 2 points (90% of those questions were familiar with ASN).

Within the general public, and after a year 2011 in which ASN was very much in the spotlight following the Fukushima accident, ASN's overall level of recognition experienced a relative drop of 4 points (to 33%). It had risen by 13 points in 2011.

23% of the French general public had heard about ASN actions in 2012 (-3 points in relation to 2011) a figure which stood at 68% (+7 points) among the more informed public.

It should be noted that among the French who were familiar with ASN, there was a significant improvement in their perception of its competence with respect to nuclear safety (77%, +5 points) or radiation protection (73%, +6 points).

ASN organises discussions with this institutional audience in order to report on its activity and duties and to forge relations with the Government stakeholders in order to be more effective in carrying out its duties:

– on 21st March 2012, the ASN Chairman was given a hearing by Mr Roland Blum, member of Parliament for the Bouches-du-Rhône, as part of the mission entrusted to him by the Prime Minister for "identification of the main decisions to be taken by Parliament and the Government by the summer of 2012, to ensure that France can reach its energy policy targets";
– on 3rd April, the ASN Chairman was called before the Senate commission of enquiry on the real cost of electricity;
– on 5th July, the ASN Chairman was called before the economic affairs commission of the National Assembly;
– on 12th September, ASN was given a hearing by Mr Hervé Mariton, member of Parliament for the Drôme, as part of the preparation for the 2013 Finance Bill, with regard to nuclear facilities and in particular the Fessenheim NPP;
– on 16th October, ASN was called before the Parliamentary Office for the Evaluation of Scientific and Technological Choices (OPECST) regarding various subjects concerning nuclear safety and radiation protection in France;
– on 15th November, ASN was called before the National Assembly's sustainable development commission to provide information about radioactive waste management.

In 2012 and in parallel with these consultations, ASN was extremely active in the international, national and regional debates on topics concerning nuclear safety and radiation protection. Several of these debates concerned post-Fukushima nuclear safety and the management of a nuclear accident.

At a regional level, the ASN's Commission met members of Parliament, members of the Senate and institutional representatives. The discussions focused essentially on improving transparency and the debate on nuclear questions.

ASN will continue to further develop its relations with its institutional audiences in 2013.

1|4 International cooperation in the field of communication

In order to promote experience feedback and share public information best practices, ASN is continuing to work closely with its counterparts and the international stakeholders.

The ASN Communication and Public Information Department (DCI) continued to run an assistance mission on behalf of the Ukrainian nuclear safety regulator (SNRIU) to help it optimise it public information procedures. The Finnish (STUK), Spanish (CSN) and Italian (ISPRA) regulators also took part. The exercise lasted two years and, through an analysis of concrete cases, led to the sharing of European best practices regarding press relations, the use of social networks and the management of information centres. This mission is financed by the European Commission (INSC– Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation) with operational oversight being the responsibility of the Riskaudit economic interest grouping.

ASN and 24 other nuclear safety regulators met on 9th and 10th May 2012 in Madrid on the occasion of a conference on emergency communication organised by the Nuclear Energy

ASN hearing before the members of the Parliamentary Office for Scientific and Technological Choices (OPECST) – February 2013

The rating scales for nuclear incidents and accidents and radiotherapy radiation protection events

The need to inform the public of the severity of nuclear events, especially following the Chernobyl accident (1986), led to the development of rating scales. The first scale was created in 1987 by the French High Council for Nuclear Safety and Information (CSSIN). ASN played a vital role in the creation in 1991 of the International Nuclear Event Scale (INES) published by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). In 2002, ASN proposed a new scale to take account of radiation protection events (irradiation, contamination), in particular those affecting workers, regardless of the location of the incident.

In July 2007, ASN - together with SFRO - produced a scale for rating radiation protection events affecting patients undergoing a radiotherapy procedure, which was published in 2008.

In July 2008, IAEA published a revised INES scale taking greater account of events occurring in the transport sector or entailing human exposure to radioactive sources.

In September 2008, ASN also invited HCTISN to take part in the task on which it had been working since 2007 with a view to creating an index for measuring radioactivity in the environment.

The INES scale

The INES scale is based on both objective and qualitative criteria. It is used by sixty countries and its purpose is to facilitate media and public perception of the scale of any nuclear incidents and accidents. It is not a tool for assessing or measuring nuclear safety and radiation protection and cannot constitute a basis for either compensation or sanction. The INES scale is not designed for international comparisons and in particular cannot be used to establish a cause-and-effect relationship between the number of incidents notified and the probability of a severe incident occurring on a given installation at a later date.

• Nature of the events rated on the INES scale

The INES scale enables ASN to rate all events occurring in civil basic nuclear installations and during radioactive material transport operations, according to their importance. It has also been possible, since 1st July 2008, for the INES scale to be used by the 60 member countries of IAEA to rate radiation protection events (excluding events affecting medical patients) resulting from the use of radioactive sources in medical, industrial or research installations.

• Use of the INES scale in France

All significant nuclear safety events must be notified to ASN by the licensees within 48 hours, with a proposed INES scale rating. ASN retains sole responsibility for the final rating decision.

Using the INES scale enables ASN to select those events and incidents which are sufficiently important for it to issue a communication:
– incidents rated level 0 are not the subject of an incident notification, unless they are of particular interest;
– events rated level 1 are systematically the subject of an incident notification published on www.asn.fr.

Incidents rated level 2 and above are also the subject of a press release and a notification to IAEA.

International transport incidents concerning a foreign country are also notified to IAEA as of level 1. In the event of loss of a radioactive source, this notification is made as of level 0.

The ASN-SFRO scale

The purpose of the ASN-SFRO scale is to inform the public about radiation protection events affecting patients undergoing a radiotherapy procedure.

The scale was drawn up in July 2007 by ASN, jointly with SFRO, and was tested over a 12-month period. After joint evaluation with SFRO and the SFPM (French Medical Physics Society), the final version of the scale was published on www.asn.fr, *in July 2008.*

• Presentation of the ASN/SFRO scale

Events are rated on eight levels on the ASN-SFRO scale:
– levels 0 and 1 are used to rate events with no clinical consequences for the patient(s) concerned;
– levels 2 and 3 correspond to events categorised as "incidents";
– levels 4 to 7 correspond to events categorised as "accidents".

The severity of the effects is assessed with reference to the international clinical classification (CTCAE[1] grades) already used by practitioners.

The effects considered in the notification to ASN are unexpected or unforeseeable effects due to inappropriate doses or irradiated volumes. Side-effects are not taken into account, whatever their grade, when resulting from the treatment strategy adopted by the practitioner in consultation with the patient and which are unrelated to any error in the volume irradiated or the dose delivered (notion of accepted risk).

For patients affected by a radiotherapy event, the resulting appearance of effects or complications may not be immediate. An event may therefore be temporarily rated at a given level which can then be subsequently modified according to the changes in the patient's state of health.

Unlike the INES scale, the "defence in depth" criterion (assessment of the level of safety of the radiotherapy activity) is not used in this rating, in order to avoid any confusion between the seriousness of a medical condition and a failure of the installation or breakdown in the organisation of a department.

• Classification criteria

As with the INES scale, the criteria for rating an event on the ASN-SFRO scale concern not only the confirmed consequences but also the potential effects of events. When several patients are affected by the same event, the rating level adopted corresponds to the most severe observed or anticipated effects. In the case of confirmed effects, the number of patients exposed is generally taken into account.

(1) Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse Event, Cancer Therapy Evaluation Program, Août 2006, http://ctep.cancer.gov

Table 1: Rating of significant events on the INES scale in 2012 (see chapter 4)

Level	Pressurised water	Other basic nuclear installations	Transport	Small-scale nuclear	Total
3 and +	0	0	0	0	**0**
2	1	1	1	1	**4**
1	95	15	6	33	**149**
0	734	186	52	118	**1,090**
Total rated	830	202	59	152	**1,243**

Agency. The aim was to share international best practices and improve information of the public and the media in the light of the lessons learned from the Fukushima accident. André-Claude Lacoste, Chairman of ASN, led a session devoted to the expectations of the stakeholders (elected officials, NGOs, etc.), while Jean-Christophe Niel, ASN Director General, presented ways of strengthening coordination between regulatory authorities.

ASN took part in a seminar of international experts organised by the IAEA in Vienna, from 18th to 20th June 2012, devoted to the means of improving the transparency and effectiveness of communication in a nuclear emergency situation. André-Claude Lacoste presented ASN's practices and experience feedback in this field.

2 ENHANCING THE RIGHT TO NUCLEAR SAFETY AND RADIATION PROTECTION INFORMATION

The TSN Act significantly extended the arrangements for information of the public. Information concerning nuclear matters is a component of environmental information and is thus subject to the greatest transparency.

The Act in particular guarantees "the public's right to reliable and accessible information on nuclear security" (Article L.125-12 of the Environment Code). The right to information on nuclear safety and radiation protection concerns all fields of ASN activity, in particular:
– informing the public about events occurring in BNIs or during the transport of radioactive materials, about discharges or releases from BNIs;
– informing workers about their individual radiological exposure;
– informing patients about the medical procedure, in particular its radiological aspect.

ASN ensures application of these measures, which are binding on itself as well as on the licensees subject to its regulation, and the implementation of which can sometimes lead to confusion. ASN attempts to facilitate the exchanges between all the stakeholders concerning the problems encountered and best practices.

2|1 Information released by the licensees

2|1|1 Information circulated on the initiative of the licensees

The main licensees of nuclear activities operate a proactive public information policy.

They are also subject to a number of legal obligations, either general (such as the environmental report required by the Commercial Code for joint stock companies), or specific, such as those pertaining to the nuclear sector.

All BNI licensees must therefore establish an annual report on their situation and the steps they take with respect to nuclear safety and radiation protection.

In 2010, after extensive consultation, in particular with the CLIs, ASN published a guide on the drafting of these reports on *www.asn.fr,* so that they meet the goals of the Act and deliver the most complete and accessible information possible to the general public. This guide recommends that the reports not be limited to simple application of the letter of the law, but that they give a broader picture of the impact of the facilities and the steps taken to reduce the risks of accidents and chronic detrimental effects.

To simplify public access to the information and limit the burden on the licensees, the order of 7th February 2012 setting the general rules concerning nuclear facilities ("BNI" order) did away with the individual reports previously required by the regulations, provided that the information they contain is incorporated into the annual public information reports. This incorporation is not yet effective in the majority of cases.

Every year, ASN analyses the reports, not simply verifying compliance with the letter of the law, but also aiming for continuous improvement in the quality of the information distributed to the public.

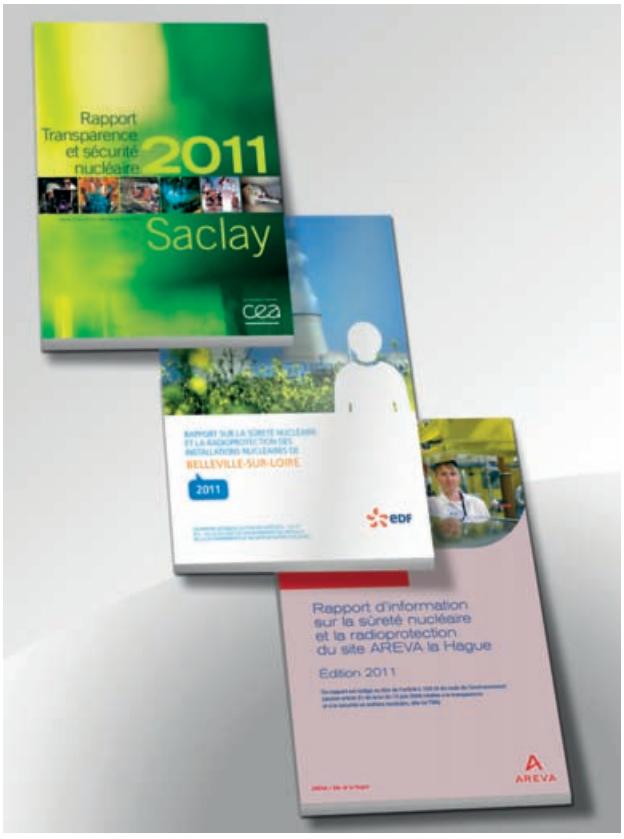
As in previous years, ASN thus considers the results of the analyses to be on the whole positive. The reports were produced on-time and comply with the obligations of the TSN Act with regard to the topics to be covered.

Efforts were continued in order to produce appropriate media for the general public and all the reports are now posted on-line (on the licensees' websites).

The areas for progress previously highlighted are still valid, in particular putting the information into perspective and presenting objectives designed to go further than a simple list of the results obtained. Similarly, the reports could more clearly present the public's right of access to information about nuclear activities.

ASN therefore aims to continue working with the licensees and the various stakeholders to share best practices and areas for progress.

More precisely, the following observations concern the reports drafted by the various licensees.



Examples of licensee reports

ANDRA

The two reports from ANDRA (Manche repository and low and intermediate level radioactive repository in the Aube) on the whole comply with the objectives of the Act. The reports follow the standard layout recommended by ASN. The topics mentioned in the Act are dealt with satisfactorily.

The presentation of the reports is good: they follow a common graphic charter and can be easily read by the public (explanations, graphics, numerous illustrations, etc.). They are easily accessible and have been widely distributed, notably via the websites of ANDRA and the CLIs concerned.

The CHSCT recommendations are presented in the two reports after the conclusion; they underline the quality of these reports.

The reports are detailed enough to be able to highlight the particularities of the BNIs. They would appear to be highly satisfactory in particular with respect to the activities and issues associated with these facilities.

Improvements are still possible, for example the addition of a presentation of the objectives of the "medium-term plan" currently in force (discharges, radiation-protection, level of disposal, security) or of the system concerning the individual right of information to nuclear activities. The reports also remain closely focused on the results of the past year and are lacking in any content in terms of outlook.

AREVA

As in previous years, ASN observes that the annual public information reports on the installations of the AREVA group are readily accessible and comprehensible. The standard layout plan recommended by the ASN guide is followed and the graphic charter and volume of the documents are harmonised. There are many illustrations.

Efforts are required concerning presentation for the SICN facility in Veurey.

The reports deal with nuclear issues satisfactorily, but the situation is not so straightforward for non-nuclear aspects (various detrimental effects, etc.), or the impacts of the site facilities subject to the classified installations regime. The part devoted to waste needs to be improved, in particular for the La Hague site.

The CHSCT recommendations (if any) are appended to the report.

The reports were presented to the CLI and are accessible on the AREVA website; the previous editions are not however available.

Among the points on which progress is needed, one could mention the presentation of the conditions for public access to information.

Furthermore, in general and as in previous years, greater perspective is required concerning the data presented and objectives need to be identified.

CEA

The annual public information reports on the facilities operated by CEA are on the whole informative general public documents dealing with all the aspects required by the Act. The language is easily understandable and a number of explanations are included. The reports are organised according to the same layout, but without always fully adhering to that recommended by ASN.

These reports do however differ widely and would benefit from the important aspects being more clearly highlighted. It would also be interesting for CEA to examine the possible harmonisation of the graphic charter.

Efforts must still be made to bring out the trends and performance of the BNIs by putting the data, experience feedback and objectives into perspective.

The presentation of the data concerning the accident risk, incidents and accidents or the main changes to the facilities is on the whole satisfactory. The "waste" topic needs to be improved in certain respects, such as the occupation of the storage areas, the presentation of the waste produced, non-radioactive waste and the objectives for the coming years.

The risks and nuisance factors that are not specifically mentioned in the Act (microbiological risk, noises, odours, etc.) are never addressed, yet they contribute to the overall impact of the installation. The topic of on-site and off-site transport operations is covered superficially.

Public information measures are presented infrequently and unequally.

The CHSCT observations are appended to the reports.

The reports were widely distributed to the Mayors within the PPI perimeter, with systematic access via the licensee's website. However, the presentation at the plenary session of the CLI concerned and the public announcement of the availability of the report on-line are generally lacking.

EDF

The annual public information reports on EDF's nuclear facilities comply with the requirements of Articles L. 125-15 and L. 125-16 of the Environment Code.

These reports are clear and well-organised enough to be comprehensible to the general public. Improvements were made over the reports for the year 2011, in particular the page layout and infographics, as well as the addition of boxes presenting aspects of the national context.

Further improvements could however be made to inform the public about the transport of dangerous substances and incidents, as well as about the social climate within the facilities. It would also be preferable if the EDF annual reports were to present comparisons with previous years, strategies and outlook.

Other licensees

The annual public information reports on the facilities operated by CIS bio, le CNRS, ISOTRON, ILL and SOCODEI comply satisfactorily with the requirements of the Act, but are often overly limited to simple application of the letter of the law. For example, detrimental effects other than discharges of effluents and the production of radioactive waste or actions in favour of transparency and information are often neglected.

Generally speaking, improvements should be made to the presentation of the management, control and accounting of discharges, as well as of their impact.

The reports are balanced and present the regulatory procedures in progress. Moreover, technical definitions make for easier understanding. They are generally distributed in paper format to the nearby town halls. For the larger facilities, the report is available on their website. The distribution of a report was never publicly announced, nor was it presented to a plenary session of a CLI.

The quality of the reports would be enhanced by adding clarifications, explanatory graphics and figures, illustrations and a conclusion.

Despite a certain degree of progress, the GANIL report stands out because of its poor quality, including in the presentation of subjects explicitly required by the Act. Significant efforts are in particular required to make the report easily understandable to and usable by the public (specify units and values to make the data clearer, give reminders of the regulations, comparisons over time and in relation to similar facilities, present context, etc.). ASN asked this licensee to improve its next publication.

The annual reports for all the BNIs are available in the ASN public information and documentation centre.

2|1|2 Access to information in the possession of the licensees

With entry into force of the TSN Act, the nuclear field has a unique system of public access to information.

Hitherto, access to nuclear information had been regulated by two "regimes":
- access to administrative information, defined by Act 78-753 of 17th July 1978 containing various measures to improve relations between the administration and the public and various administrative, social and fiscal measures, in particular institutes freedom of access to administrative documents: for instance, the administration must, in certain conditions, communicate to anyone who so requests the administrative documents in its possession.
- access to environmental information, defined by chapter IV of part II of book I of the Environment Code stipulates that the public authorities and the persons responsible for a public service duty relating to the environment must communicate the information they have concerning the environment to whoever requests it.

These two regimes are obviously applicable to the nuclear field, with a few specific differences. Their common feature is that they place the obligation for communication on the shoulders of the public authorities mentioned in Article L. 124-3 of the Environment Code or the organisations acting on their behalf.

The TSN Act innovated widely by creating a right of information concerning nuclear safety and radiation protection that is directly binding on the licensees. They are thus required to communicate the information in their possession to anyone who so requests, whether it is produced by themselves or received from elsewhere, concerning risks linked to exposure to ionising radiation that could stem from this activity and concerning the safety and radiation protection steps taken to prevent or mitigate these risks or this exposure.

This arrangement is consistent with the principle of the prime responsibility of the licensee: as the licensee has responsibility for the safety of its facility, it is also responsible for communicating about the risks created by its facility and the steps it takes to prevent or mitigate their consequences.

In accordance with the regime governing access to environmental information mentioned earlier, steps are taken in particular to protect public safety or commercial and industrial confidentiality.

The procedures governing disputes following a refusal to communicate information are similar to those applicable under the general regime: in the event of refusal by a licensee to communicate information, the applicant can refer the matter to the Committee for Access to Administrative Documents (CADA), an independent administrative authority, which gives its opinion on the justification for the refusal. Should the interested parties not follow the opinion of the CADA, the dispute would be taken before the administrative jurisdiction in order to rule on whether or not the information in question should be communicated.

The creation of this new right binding on the licensees, pursuant to Articles L.125-10 and L.125-11 of the Environment Code, represents a significant change to the legal framework of transparency. Currently, there is no equivalent applicable to other fields.

The right to information concerning nuclear safety and radiation protection is today in force with regard to BNI licensees and to those in charge of radioactive material transport operations, provided that the quantities are higher than the thresholds set in the Act. The conditions in which this right will be extended to other nuclear activities that so warrant remains to be defined.

ASN is heavily committed to the implementation of this new right and is monitoring its application. The information collected shows that it is still under-used with respect to a few particular sites, such as Fessenheim. The number of referrals to CADA still remains extremely limited. ASN is thus continuing to regularly urge the public to make use of this right to information and presents it whenever it has the opportunity.

2|2 Public consultation about projects

2|2|1 Public consultation procedures (also see chapter 3)

Article 7 of the Environment Charter stipulates the principle of participation, by virtue of which everyone has the right of access to the environmental information in the possession of the public authorities and everyone has the right to take part in the preparation of public decisions with an impact on the environment.

Since 2010, the draft regulatory texts concerning BNIs have been the subject of public consultation on the web that went far

beyond the legislative requirements and supplemented the consultations held by the various stakeholders. This was in particular the case of the order of 7th February 2012 setting the general rules concerning BNIs and the draft ASN regulatory resolutions which will supplement it.

Act 2012-1460 of 27th December 2012 on the implementation of the principle of public participation as defined in Article 7 of the Environment Charter, developed procedures for the public consultation of draft regulatory texts, via the web. ASN will implement these provisions as of the first consultations starting in 2013.

With regard to the individual resolutions, the TSN Act and its implementing decree of 2nd November 2007 had enhanced the information of and participation by the public in the case of BNIs. The authorisation decree and the final shutdown and decommissioning authorisation for a BNI are therefore now always subject to a public inquiry. Furthermore, since 1st June 2012, an experiment set up by decree 2011-2021 of 29th December 2011 concerns the electronic transmission of the project dossiers subject to public inquiry and liable to affect the environment. Whether with respect to their creation or their decommissioning, BNIs are concerned by this experiment, for which the results will be reviewed in 2017.

These procedures also make provision for an opinion by the General Council, the municipal councils and the CLI. The latter can also request a hearing from the ASN Commission before it issues its opinion on the draft authorisation decree submitted to ASN by the Minister responsible for nuclear safety.

The draft ASN prescriptions concerning water intake, effluent discharges into the ambient environment and the prevention or mitigation of detrimental effects of facilities on the public and the environment are also presented to the CLI and Departmental Council for the Environment and for Health and Technological Risks (CODERST).

Following a proposal from ASN, a public disclosure procedure was put into place for any project to modify the facility or its operating conditions liable to lead to a significant increase in water intake or environmental discharges, but the scale of which is not sufficient to warrant a public inquiry procedure. This procedure is mandatory for projects submitted to ASN as of 1st July 2012 and a regulatory resolution from ASN will be adopted in 2013 to clarify the implementation process.

ASN aims to ensure that these consultations enable the public and the associations concerned to express their views, in particular by verifying the quality of the licensee's files and by developing the CLI's resources so that they can express an independent opinion on the files (e.g. by consulting experts other than those of the licensee and ASN).

If this system is to work well, the public must obviously have as much information as possible. Although there are certain restrictions on the communication of environmental information legitimately provided for in Articles L. 124-1 to L. 124-6 of the Environment Code, in particular to protect public security or commercial and industrial secrecy, ASN ensures that any rejection or refusal to communicate is effectively justified and notified to the applicant by a written decision giving full reasons and laying out the appeal procedures and deadlines.

In the years 2011 and 2012, as part of the work done by the ANCCLI and HCTISN on the application to nuclear activities of the Aarhus convention on access to information, participation by the public in the decision-making process and access to justice in the environmental field, ASN and the Greenpeace association co-chaired a working group on practical ways to improve the effectiveness of procedures for public participation in decisions concerning BNIs. ASN will aim to ensure that this work is followed up.

In the field of small-scale nuclear activities, public participation in the drafting of decisions is still extremely limited. Even if the issues are generally considerably less far-reaching than those linked to BNIs, certain small-scale nuclear activities can however have a significant environmental impact and justify the implementation of a proportionate procedure for public participation in the main decisions concerning them. ASN is convinced that changes are required in this respect and will take initiatives on this subject in 2013.

2|3 The Local Information Committees (CLIs) and the National Association of Local Information Committees and Commissions (ANCCLI)

2|3|1 Local Information Committees for the Basic Nuclear Installations

The CLI operating framework

Creation of the CLIs began in 1981 in application of a circular from the Prime Minister Pierre Mauroy, and was generalised by the TSN Act of 13th June 2006 (Article 22). The broad role of the CLIs is to monitor, inform and be a channel for discussion on questions of nuclear safety, radiation protection and the impact on the populations and the environment of the nuclear activities of installations on the site(s) that concern(s) them.

The CLI operating framework is specified in decree 2008-251 of 12th March 2008 concerning BNI Local Information Committees.

The CLIs, whose creation is incumbent upon the President of the *Conseil général* (general council), comprise various categories of members: representatives of *Conseils généraux*, of the municipal councils or representative bodies of the groups of communes and *Conseils régionaux* (regional councils) concerned, members of Parliament elected in the *département*, representatives of environmental protection associations, economic interests and representative employee and medical profession union organisations, and qualified personalities. The representatives of Government departments, including ASN, and of the licensee have an automatic right to participate in the work of a CLI, in an advisory capacity.

The CLIs are chaired by the President of the *Conseil général* or by an elected official from the *département* designated by him for this purpose.

The CLIs receive the information they need to function from the licensee, from ASN and from the other Government departments.

They may request expert assessments or have measurements taken on the installation's discharges into the environment.

CLIs are financed by the regional authorities and by ASN. In 2012, ASN decided to boost its support to the CLIs and their federation by two-thirds, devoting about one million euros to them. Once again ASN suggested that the Government implement a provision of the TSN Act to top-up the budget of the CLIs with association status (there are about ten of them) with funds from the BNI tax, but this provision has not yet been implemented.

ASN support is not restricted simply to financial aspects. ASN considers that correctly functioning CLIs contribute to safety by regularly questioning those in charge, and that this is an important factor in "ecological democracy". ASN also aims to ensure that the CLIs receive information that is as complete as possible. With the agreement of the licensees, it also invites CLI representatives to take part in inspections. In 2012, the CLIs for example took part in 14 post-Fukushima inspections.

Apart from its direct support, ASN takes steps to ensure that a favourable environment is created for them. It encourages BNI licensees to facilitate CLI access - as early as possible - to the procedure files for which the opinion of the CLIs is required, so that they have sufficient time to produce a well-founded judgment. Similarly, ASN considers that the development of a diversified range of expertise in the nuclear field is essential if the CLIs are to be able to base their opinions, when needed, on the work of experts other than those called on by the licensee or ASN itself.

With the exception of the IONISOS facility in Dagneux in the Ain *département*, all the BNI sites now have a CLI, given that the Cadarache CLI should shortly be modified to cover the GAMMASTER facility in Marseille and that a CLI will shortly be created for the COMURHEX site (ECRIN facility) in Malvési (Aude *département*) part of which has been reclassified as a BNI (see chapter 16).

At the end of 2012 there were 36 CLIs created under the TSN Act. To this must be added the local information and monitoring committee (CLIS) of the Bure underground laboratory (Meuse *département*), created pursuant to Article L. 542-13 of the Environment Code, along with about fifteen information committees created around defence-related nuclear sites, pursuant to Articles R.1333-38 and R.1333-9 of the Defence Code. For the Valduc site (Côte-d'Or *département*), there is also an advisory structure with association status: the Valduc information exchange structure (SEIVA).

The Cronenbourg CLI could be shut down relatively soon, owing to the decommissioning of the Strasbourg University reactor for which it had been created.

TO BE NOTED IN 2012

24th Conference of Local Information Committees

The 24th Conference of Local Information Committees attracted 240 participants to Paris on 12th December 2012 at the initiative of ASN and in partnership with ANCCLI.

CLI mobilisation was significant and diversified: 128 participants represented 35 of the 38 CLIs, a record level of participation.

As in previous years, and together with the CLI representatives, the conference brought together members of the HCTISN, representatives of the General Councils and the préfectures *of* départements *with CLIs, the Government departments concerned, associations and licensees of nuclear installations.*

The conference discussed social, organisational and human factors in the nuclear field, as well as the needs in terms of public information in the event of an incident or accident with no external consequences and not leading to triggering of the organised information and alert systems. As a preamble, ASN and ANCCLI touched on a few topical subjects and the President of the HCTISN presented the High Committee's activity for 2012. Delphine Batho, Minister for Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy, addressed the conference.

The conference was preceded by an "inter-CLI meeting" organised by the ANCCLI, which included a debate between the representatives of the CLIs and ASN on the resources available to these committees.

11th December 2013 was set as the date for the 25th annual CLI conference.

CLI activities

The CLIs conduct their activities through plenary meetings, some of which are open to the public, and the specialised commissions they set up.

The annual public information report drawn up by the licensee is presented to the CLI in at least half of all cases. Significant events are also generally presented to the CLI.

Ten or so CLIs were consulted about licensees' projects in accordance with the procedures of the new BNI system. A comparable number of CLIs had ordered appraisals, as allowed by the TSN Act, for example on the occasion of the reactor ten-yearly outage inspections (for example, the Fessenheim CLIS and the Golfech and Gravelines CLIs) or in the form of environmental analysis campaigns.

About thirty CLIs have a website or have pages on the site of the local authority that supports them. Nearly half the CLIs publish a newsletter (sometimes an insert in the newsletter of the municipality).

The CLIs can have special advisers, generally on a part-time basis. They are members of staff of the local authorities or, for those CLIs with association status, employees of the association itself. If these special advisers are in place, this clearly helps the CLIs adopt a more proactive attitude.

More detailed information on the action of some of the CLIs is given in chapter 8.

Examples of CLI newsletters

2|3|2 The Federation of Local Information Committees: the National Association of Local Information Commissions and Committees (ANCCLI)

The TSN Act provides for the constitution of a federation of CLIs, and the decree of 12th March 2008 sets forth certain provisions that this federation must adhere to. This federation became the National Association of Local Information Commissions and Committees (ANCCLI). It is chaired by Mr Jean-Claude Delalonde.

The activity of the ANCCLI in 2012

In 2012, the ANCCLI comprised 37 CLIs, with more than 3,000 representatives of civil society, including 1,500 elected officials.

It has a frequently visited website (3,000 hits per month).

In 2012, it organised more than 40 meetings (scientific committee, advisory committees, Aarhus Convention, seminars) and took part in more than 100 events, which represents about one meeting every two days, thus demonstrating the commitment of the CLI and ANCCLI volunteers.

The ANCCLI is the point of contact for the public authorities. In the second half of 2012, it entered into discussions with the Government, in anticipation of the energy transition debate.

The ANCCLI bodies

The ANCCLI comprises a number of bodies, which continued their work in 2012.

• The ANCCLI Scientific Committee
This committee comprises independent unpaid experts from different backgrounds.

In 2012, it responded to requests from the Cruas-Meysse CLI concerning draft instructions concerning water intake and effluent discharges, the Gravelines CLI for support with the appraisal carried out on the occasion of the 3rd ten-yearly outage and the Tricastin CLI (the CLIGEET), concerning the modification of the creation authorisation decree for the EURODIF plant. It also worked on more general questions concerning water intake and discharges, various incidents and a report drawn up for the Bure CLIS.

It met five times in 2012.

• The ANCCLI special advisers club
Since the creation of the CLI special advisers club in 2011, closer ties have been forged between the CLIs on the one hand and between the CLIs and the ANCCLI on the other, in order to share best practices, facilitate information exchange, share certain examinations and pool studies (PPI, emergency exercise, environmental assessments, etc.) and transmit local difficulties to the national bodies.

This club met three times in 2012.

• The "Advisory committees" and the ANCCLI working groups
The ANCCLI set up various "advisory committees" comprising members of CLIs or the ANCCLI. Working groups are also

created on more specific questions. Thus, in 2012, the "Post-accident and the regions" advisory committee worked on urban development, the local safeguard plans, the on-site emergency plans and the synergy between nuclear risk and chemical risk. In addition, a working group continued to be active on the pioneering work done with IRSN on the creation and dissemination of a tool to raise the awareness of local stakeholders to post-accident issues (OPAL).

The "Radioactive materials and waste" advisory committee worked in partnership with the Bure CLIS and IRSN for technical dialogue before any important decisions are made concerning the management of ILW-HLW-LL (intermediate level – high-level long-lived waste).

Symposia and training

In 2012, the ANCCLI organised three symposia on the topic "Transparency and the Environment" in Dijon, in March and on the topic "Future nuclear projects – The human and social sciences approach to nuclear matters" in Lyon in June, as well as an event entitled "Environment/Health – Monitoring in the regions by the various stakeholders" with IRSN in Paris in November. Other training and information actions were organised throughout the year on subjects such as child leukaemia in the vicinity of nuclear facilities, stress tests, or waste, often in partnership with IRSN, the CLIs or ASN.

ANCCLI partnerships

ANCCLI enjoyed regular discussions with ASN and takes part in several working groups set up by it (PNGMDR, CODIRPA, "tritium" action plan monitoring committee, working groups on the distribution of iodine tablets, on controlling urban development around BNIs, etc.).

The ANCCLI signed a cooperation agreement with IRSN, under the terms of which it, for example, runs the OPAL project mentioned above.

• European cooperation

At a European level, since it was created in 2007, the ANCCLI has played an active role in the European Nuclear Energy Forum (ENEF). It is a member of the "Transparency" working group set up following the first plenary session of the forum; since 2012, it has also been a member of the "emergency communication" sub-group, set up by the European Commission.

Also in 2012, it launched an initiative with a view to creating a European civil society organisation (called "Nuclear Transparency Watch") to enable the citizens to make an effective contribution to monitoring nuclear activities in the highly diverse national contexts within Europe.

• The ACN initiative launched by ANCCLI

The Aarhus Convention and Nuclear (ACN) is an initiative launched by ANCCLI and the European Commission in 2008 with the aim of progressing with the practical implementation of the Aarhus Convention in the nuclear field. After an inaugural European workshop attracting about a hundred participants from some fifteen member countries in June 2009, national round-tables were set up in about ten countries.

The French round-table, under the supervision of the HCTISN and the ANCCLI, completed its work in 2012, and proposed recommendations on the following topics: the site selection process for LLW-LL (low level, long-lived) waste, public access to information and participation in the decision-making process, as well as increasing skill levels and access to expert appraisal to ensure true participation.

In parallel with the national work, thematic round-tables were organised at a European level: after the two round-tables in 2010 and 2011, a third one was chaired by the ANCCLI and ASN in January 2012 on the management of a nuclear accident with long-term consequences and a fourth was organised in December by the ANCCLI and IRSN on the nuclear safety context.

The final conference of the ACN approach should be held in March 2013, under the aegis of the European Commission and the Secretariat of the Aarhus Convention.

2|4 High Committee for Transparency and Information on Nuclear Security

The High Committee for Transparency and Information on Nuclear Security (HCTISN) created by the TSN Act is a body that informs, discusses and debates on nuclear activities, their safety and their impact on health and the environment.

The High Committee is chaired by Mr Henri Revol, former senator for the Côte-d'Or *département* and former Chairman of the French Parliamentary Office for the Evaluation of Scientific and Technological Choices (OPECST). It comprises forty members appointed for six years by decree, including:
– two MPs appointed by the National Assembly and two senators appointed by the Senate;
– six representatives of the CLIs (local information committees);
– six representatives of environmental protection associations and approved health system users associations;
– six representatives of persons in charge of nuclear activities;
– six representatives of representative employee labour organisations;
– six personalities chosen for their scientific, technical, economic or social competence, or for their information and communication expertise, including one appointed by the Government, three appointed by OPECST, one by the Academy of Science and one by the Academy of Moral and Political Sciences;
– the ASN Chairman, an IRSN representative and four representatives of the ministries concerned.

The Chairman of the High Committee is appointed by decree from among members of Parliament, representatives of the local information committees and personalities chosen for their competence.

In 2012, the HCTISN held four ordinary plenary meetings and one extraordinary meeting a year after the Fukushima accident; it also ran several working groups.

As requested by the Prime Minister, the High Committee is associated in all steps of the process, run by ASN, to assess the safety of nuclear facilities in the light of the Fukushima accident. Thus, after the work done in 2011 together with ASN on the specifications for the stress tests, the working group chaired by Mr Gilles Compagnat, continued with its hearings of the stakeholders on

the various nuclear sites, focusing on social, organisational and human factors and the use of subcontracting.

At the request of the Minister for Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy, the HCTISN also began work to prepare the stakeholders and the public for the public debate planned for 2013 concerning the intended deep geological repository for high and intermediate level waste, called "Cigéo".

The elements presented and debated at HCTISN meetings can be consulted on its website, *www.hctisn.fr.*

ASN considers that the HCTISN plays an important role in consultation and debate at national level, and contributes actively to its work.

2|5 Information released by the other stakeholders

Nuclear safety and radiation protection are complex areas in which many parties are involved.

Given the diversity of available information, the public can now make up its own mind, in particular by consulting the websites of the main organisations concerned. The information they make available varies in nature, from the most general to the most scientific, aimed at an audience ranging from the layman to the informed professional.

2|5|1 Institute for Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety (IRSN)

IRSN presents its activities in an annual report, with official distribution to its supervisory ministers, as well as to the HCTISN, the French High Public Health Council (HCSP) and the Working Conditions Guidance Council (COCT).

The 2011 version of this activity report is available in French and in English on the IRSN website and can be obtained on request, in paper format (French version) and/or on a CD-Rom (English version), from the Institute's communication department (IRSN, BP 17, 92262 Fontenay-aux-Roses Cedex).

In accordance with the requirements of the decree that created it, IRSN published the results of its R&D programmes, except for those concerning defence.

IRSN applies an information and communication policy that is consistent with the objectives defined in the objectives contract signed with the State. Some of its information actions are carried out jointly with ASN. This in particular concerns transparency and the "Nuclear applications and society" exhibition.

In accordance with its public information role, IRSN remained available to answer the continuing questions from the media and the public following the Fukushima disaster in Japan and the assessment and expert appraisal measures taken to verify the safety of reactors in France and elsewhere in the world.

The Institute's website continued to regularly publish bulletins on the condition of the damaged plant and on the environmental and health consequences of the accident.

In accordance with the transparency approach initiated in 2010 jointly with ASN, the IRSN website published more than 15 technical opinions it had produced at the request of the Authority.

With regard to the "Nuclear applications and society" exhibition, the Hérault *département*'s general council wanted to host a part of the ASN/IRSN exhibition in its "Maison de l'environnement" in Prades, so that it could incorporate the "Health – Environment" connection. The topics concerning radioactivity, its principles, health effects, transfers and environmental monitoring, which are all modules of the exhibition, were thus presented for four months. This exhibition attracted more than 4,000 visitors. The principles concerning the changes to be made to the current exhibition were determined and content is currently being prepared.

For all information concerning the travelling exhibitions : *http://expo.irsn.fr/expo/.*

SOME EXAMPLES OF THE WEBSITES OF THE NUCLEAR SAFETY AND RADIATION PROTECTION STAKEHOLDERS

Here, ASN presents a non-exhaustive list of the main websites dealing with nuclear safety and radiation protection:

- **International organisations and bodies**
  - http://ec.europa.eu (site of the European Commission);
  - www.iaea.org (site of the International Atomic Energy Agency);
  - www.icrp.org (site of ICRP, the International Commission on Radiological Protection);
  - www.oecd-nea.org (site of the Nuclear Energy Agency);
  - www.unece.org (site of the UNECE Aarhus Convention on access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters);
  - www.unscear.org (site of UNSCEAR - United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation);
  - www.who.int/en (site of the WHO, the World Health Organisation).

- **Government sites**
  - www.debatpublic.fr (site of the National Public Debates Commission: "first off" EPR public debate, Cotentin-Maine VHV line, HLW-LL nuclear waste public debate);
  - www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr (site of the Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy);
  - www.toutsurlenvironnement.fr/ (Public services environmental information portal);
  - www.statistiques.developpement-durable.gouv.fr (site of the statistical department of the Ministry of the Environment);
  - www.economie.gouv.fr (site of the Ministry of the Economy and Finances);
  - www.redressement-productif.gouv.fr (site of the Ministry of Industrial Recovery);
  - www.interieur.gouv.fr (site of the Ministry of the Interior);
  - www.ladocumentationfrancaise.fr (site of *La Documentation française*, the reference public documents publishing house);
  - www.legifrance.gouv.fr (site of *Légifrance*, a public service for online legal publishing, under the editorial responsibility of the Government General Secretariat (SGG);
  - www.sante.gouv.fr (site of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health);
  - www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/-Sites-et-sols-pollues-.html (Polluted Sites portal of the Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy, dedicated to sites and soils (potentially) polluted or contaminated by radiation (MIMAUSA inventory);
  - www.vie-publique.fr (service of the Directorate of legal and administrative information, as part of its general duty to provide information and documentation about political, economic, social and international current affairs).

- **Parliamentary assemblies (report from the French Parliamentary Office for the evaluation of scientific and technological choices, bills, work done by committees, etc.)**
  - www.assemblee-nationale.fr (site of the National Assembly);
  - www.senat.fr (site of the Senate);
  - www.senat.fr/opecst/(section devoted to the Parliamentary Office for the Evaluation of Scientific and Technological Choices).

- **Health agencies, technical experts and authorities**
  - www.anses.fr (site of the French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health Safety);
  - http://ansm.sante.fr (site of the French national agency for drug and health product safety);
  - www.vigie-radiotherapie.fr (portal for assistance with notification of significant radiation protection events and medical device vigilance events in radiotherapy);
  - www.cnrs.fr (site of the National Centre for Scientific Research);
  - www.curie.fr (site of the *Institut Curie*);
  - www.e-cancer.fr (site of the French national cancer institute);
  - www.has-sante.fr (site of the French National Authority for Health);
  - www.ineris.fr (site of the French National Institute for the Study of Industrial Environments and Risks);
  - www.inserm.fr (French National Health and Medical Research Institute);
  - www.invs.sante.fr (site of the Health Monitoring institute);
  - www.irsn.fr (site of the Institute for Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety);
  - www.mesure-radioactivite.fr (site of the French national network of environmental radioactivity monitoring: roles, operations, laboratories, etc.).

- **Learned societies and think tanks**
  - www.aidn-sf.org (site of the International Nuclear Law Association (INLA));
  - www.sfmn.org (site of the French Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging Society);
  - www.sfpm.asso.fr (site of the French Society of Medical Physics);
  - www.sfro.org (site of the French Society for Radiation Oncology (INCa));
  - www.sfrp.asso.fr (site of the French Radiation Protection Society);
  - www.sfrnet.org/sfr (site of the French Radiology Society).

- **Local Information Committees (CLIs), High Committee for transparency and information on nuclear security (HCTISN)**
  - www.hctisn.fr (site of HCTISN);
  - www.anccli.fr (site of the national association of local information commissions and committees (ANCCLI);
  - www.clis-bure.com (site of the Bure CLIS);
  - www.cli-cadarache.fr (site of the Cadarache CLI and the ITER CLI);
  - www.cligolfech.org (site of the Golfech CLI);
  - www.cli-gravelines.fr (site of the Gravelines CLI);
  - www.cli-areva.fr (site of the La Hague CLI);
  - www.cli-gard-marcoule.fr (site of the Marcoule CLI);

– www.seiva.fr (site of the Valduc Seiva).
– www.cli-andra.fr (site of the *Centre de stockage de la Manche* (Manche repository) CLI);
– www.cli-civaux.fr (site of the Civaux CLI);
– www.cli-far92.fr (site of the Fontenay-aux-Roses CLI) ;
– www.cli-flamanville.fr (site of the Flamanville CLI);
– www.cli-nogentsurseine.fr (site of the Nogent-sur-Seine CLI).

• **Patients associations**
– www.leciss.org (site of the CISS, *Collectif Inter associatif Sur la Santé* (inter-associations health collective));
– www.aviamfrance.org (Association for help to victims of medical accidents and their families);
– www.ligue-cancer.net (The *Ligue Contre le Cancer* is a private and independent source of funding for cancer research in France).

• **Higher education establishments and research centres (engineering colleges, universities, university hospitals, etc.)**
– www.ensi-bourges.fr (site of the Bourges *École nationale supérieure*, offering a specialised Masters' degree in nuclear safety and security);
– http://graduateschool.paristech.org (site of the *École Nationale Supérieure des Arts et Métiers* ENSAM, offering a specialised Masters' degree in nuclear safety);
– www.mines.net (site for the four engineering schools of Albi, Alès, Douai, Nantes with those of Nancy, Paris and Saint-Etienne, constituting the *Groupe des écoles des mines* (GEM);
– www.polytechnique.fr (site of the *École Polytechnique*);
– www.ujf-grenoble.fr (site of Joseph Fourier University in Grenoble, offering a Masters' degree in Engineering, Traceability, Sustainable Development, nuclear safety specialisation).
– http://culturesciences.chimie.ens.fr (scientific training website).

• **Professionals**
– www.afppe.net (site of the French Association of Electroradiology paramedical staff);
– www.aftmn.fr (site of the French Association of Nuclear Medicine Technicians AFTMN);
– www.polenucleairebourgogne.fr (site of the Burgundy companies, research centres and training centres cluster).

• **Scientific popularisation**
– www.laradioactivite.com (general public science information site produced by CNRS researchers and CEA engineers);
– http://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Accueil (site of the Wikipedia on-line encyclopaedia, created in 2001. It is multilingual, freely accessible and written by web users).

• **Associations**
– www.acro.eu.org (site of the Association for the Control of Radioactivity in the West, "ACRO");
– www.cepn.asso.fr (site of the Nuclear Protection Evaluation Centre);
– www.criirad.org (site of the Committee for Independent Research and Information on Radioactivity);
– www.dissident-media.org/infonucleaire (site giving information about nuclear matters);
– www.ecolo.org (site of the "Association of Ecologists for Nuclear Power", AEPN);
– www.fne.asso.fr (site of the French federation of nature and environmental protection associations);
– www.global-chance.org (site of the "Global Chance" association);
– www.greenpeace.org/france (site of Greenpeace);
– http://nucleaire-nonmerci.net (site of the "nucléaire non merci" (nuclear power – no thanks) Association);
– www.gazettenucleaire.org (The GSIEN Gazette, a publication of the Group of Scientists for Information on Nuclear Energy);
– www.robindesbois.org (site of the "Robin des bois" association);
– www.sfen.fr (site of the French Nuclear Energy Society);
– www.sortirdunucleaire.org (site of the "Sortir du nucléaire" association).
– www.wise-paris.org (Wise site).

• **Licensees (industry and research organisations)**
– www.andra.fr (site of the National Agency for Radioactive Waste Management);
– www.dechets-radioactifs.com (educational site on radioactive waste published by ANDRA);
– www.areva.com (site of the AREVA group);
– www.cea.fr (site of CEA - the French Alternative Energies and Atomic Energy Commission);
– http://france.edf.com (site of EDF);
– www.in2p3.fr (site of the National Institute for Nuclear Physics and Particle Physics);
– www.iter.org (site of the international ITER project).

• **Trade union**
– www.fnem-fo.org (site of the national energy and mines federation - FO).

3 OUTLOOK

Informing the public about nuclear safety and radiation protection is one of ASN's fundamental roles. The Act, which makes it a duty for ASN to inform the public, defines transparency in the nuclear field as "all the measures taken to guarantee the public's right to reliable and understandable information concerning nuclear safety".

This duty to inform is materialised through numerous actions carried out at international, national and regional level. These actions are characterised by the multitude and diversity of the themes developed, of the audiences targeted (general public, media, institutional and professional audiences) and of the means used (press relations, events, publications, Internet, etc.).

In 2013, ASN will continue to develop its communications with the general public, in order to make the technical subjects presented to them clearer and more accessible.

It will continue to enhance transparency and information on the subjects under its responsibility, together with the other players and stakeholders. The opening of its new public information centre, its strengthened ties with schools and the national education system and the creation of a new exhibition on nuclear risks, are all designed to raise awareness among the various audiences with regard to the risk culture and to questions concerning nuclear safety and radiation protection.

ASN will make the technical subjects presented more accessible and more understandable. It will also be continuing to overhaul its publications, in order to be more informative and educational, and will enhance its information to the various audiences, in particular by increasing the number of videos made available on-line on *www.asn.fr*. ASN will continue to suggest that the public contribute to the drafting of regulatory texts, by submitting their opinion on www.asn.fr: a consultation on the draft resolution concerning the rules applicable to controlling the fire risk in basic nuclear installations has for instance been on-line since January 2013.

Developing exchanges with elected officials and stakeholders will continue to be one of the focal points of its public information actions. ASN will also take part, within its field of expertise, in the energy transition debate and will continue to develop information transparency on the subject of nuclear safety and radiation protection.

In 2013, ASN will also continue its efforts to develop the implementation of measures concerning the transparency of the licensees and of procedures concerning nuclear activities.

With regard to nuclear activities, it will in particular contribute to new legislative and regulatory provisions concerning public participation in decisions concerning the environment. These provisions will be applied to BNIs and also, in conditions proportionate to the issues, to small-scale nuclear activities which could have a significant environmental impact.

ASN will also seek to improve the practical effectiveness of the public participation procedures, in particular by following up on the work done in 2012 by the multipartite working group it co-chaired with the Greenpeace association.

ASN will also draw the first conclusions from the recent extension to those in charge of the main radioactive substances transport operations of the provisions concerning access to the information in the possession of certain parties responsible for nuclear activities which, until 2011, only applied to BNI licensees. It will submit proposals with a view to applying these arrangements, as stipulated by the Act, to other nuclear activity categories with an impact on the public and the environment.

Finally, ASN will continue to support CLI activities. With ANCCLI and in agreement with the licensees, it will establish rules of good practice to make it easier for the CLIs to perform their duties. It will reiterate its proposals to the Government with a view to ensuring that the CLIs are given the resources they need.