

# Regulatory Updates

## Nuclear safety...

### ASN expresses its comments and expectations on the occasion of its New Year's greetings to the press

January 2019



On the occasion of the New Year, ASN – through its Chairman Mr. Bernard Doroszczuk – presented its greetings to the press on 29 January, at its Montrouge headquarters.

The ASN Chairman emphasised the fact that in 2018, "nuclear safety and radiation protection were kept at a satisfactory level".

Mr. Doroszczuk drew the audience's attention to:

- The difficulties encountered in the recovery and packaging of legacy waste and in decommissioning operations (projects completed behind schedule, postponements, changes in strategy after several years of study).
- The large number of deviations in installation compliance with their baseline safety requirements, even if "the licensees are aware of the need to improve both management of installation ageing and maintenance operations".
- The persistence, in the medical field, of recurring events rated level 2 (dose error or laterality error for example), as well as the fact that insufficient account is taken of the risks linked to fluoroscopy guided interventional practices. "ASN will take initiatives in this area in 2019, together with the professionals concerned".

For the future, Mr. Doroszczuk more particularly expressed three expectations:

- Greater anticipation from all stakeholders in the nuclear and medical sector. "It is now rare that projects are completed in less than 10 years;"
- Maintaining sufficient safety margins in industrial projects, at a time when the desire for optimisation may seek to erode these margins;

- Mobilisation of the nuclear sector to maintain skills "built around professional training, in order to achieve the required level of quality and safety". The difficulties encountered in the construction of new facilities, in particular with regard to conventional industrial operations such as welding, electromechanical work, or even non-destructive testing, have given rise to "doubt concerning the sector's ability to carry out major works relating to the continued operation of the fleet, decommissioning, or the construction of new reactors".

🌐 [For more information  
www.french-nuclear-safety.fr](http://www.french-nuclear-safety.fr)

### Visit to the ASN of Mr. Tiippana, Director General of the Finnish Nuclear Safety Authority

January 2019



On 24 January Mr. Petteri Tiippana, recently renewed for a second term as head of the Finnish Nuclear Safety Authority (STUK), met at ASN headquarters with Mr. Bernard Doroszczuk, Chairman of ASN.

ASN and STUK share many common topics on the issues of safety and radiation protection. Among them, the two EPRs under construction in Flamanville and Olkiluoto are the subject of a long-standing cooperation between the two authorities, and present close schedules of achievement.

MM. Tiippana and Doroszczuk expressed their wish that this collaboration continues after the commissioning of the two reactors, including in a broader framework that would integrate the authorities of other countries operating, constructing or considering EPR-type reactors (China, United Kingdom, etc.).

On the European level, MM. Doroszczuk and Tiippana discussed the role of WENRA and ENSREG, whose presidencies will be renewed shortly, and in particular the necessary coordination with the European Commission on the implementation of the European directives.

Finally, it was agreed in this first meeting to hold a bilateral STUK-ASN meeting at the end of 2019, in Finland. Moreover, in January 23, Mr. Tiippana met with Mr. Olivier Gupta, Director General of ASN, on the safety issues of the Flamanville 3 and Olkiluoto 3 EPRs, as well as on the WENRA strategy. He also spoke with Sylvie Cadet-Mercier, Commissioner, on the follow-up of the "peer review" approach at European level on the ageing of nuclear reactors.

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### Bilateral meeting between ASN and the Spanish Safety Authority

January 2019

On 14 January 2019, the ASN Chairman, Mr. Bernard Doroszczuk, welcomed, in Montrouge, a delegation of 4 representatives of the Spanish Nuclear Safety Authority (Consejo de seguridad nuclear - CSN), led by its Chairman, Mr. Fernando Marti Scharfhausen.

ASN maintains an ongoing and rich relationship with the CSN on a wide range of topics; this meeting was an opportunity to discuss current issues in the fields of nuclear safety and radiation protection, as well as international cooperation frameworks, particularly in Europe.

The CSN expressed its wish, after the ASN has left the chairmanship of ENSREG, that ASN continues playing a leading role at the European level. Topics of common interest for the future between the two authorities were also discussed: decommissioning, nuclear waste management (in particular waste resulting from decommissioning), aging management and conditions for the long term operation of the existing nuclear installations.



## ASN appointed a new Chairman and a new Commissioner

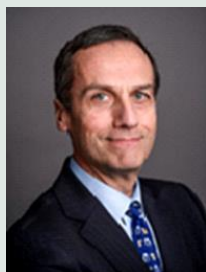
November and December 2018



By decree of the President of the Republic, dated 13 November 2018, Mr. Bernard Doroszczuk was appointed Chairman of ASN for a period of 6 years.


The professional career of Mr. Doroszczuk has been entirely devoted to the oversight of high-risk activities and installations, in both the public and private sectors, where he has held several positions of responsibility directly related to nuclear safety and radiation protection. In particular in 1997, he joined ASN, taking charge of internal coordination of the second periodic safety review of the EDF 900 MWe reactors and, from 2003 to 2010, he acted as ASN regional representative for nuclear safety oversight of the NPPs in the Centre region and of the CEA centers in the Ile-de-France region. In 2010, he was tasked with setting up the Regional and Inter-departmental Directorate for the Environment and Energy for the Ile-de-France region. He ran this Directorate until 2013 and then joined the French Accreditation Committee (COFRAC) as CEO.

In addition, by decree of the President of the Republic, dated 21 December 2018, and further to a proposal from the President of the National Assembly, Mr. Jean-Luc Lachaume was appointed ASN Commissioner for a 6-year term.



Graduated as an Engineer from the French Naval Academy and as a Nuclear Engineer from Military Nuclear Energy Applications Engineering School, Mr. Lachaume began his career in the French Navy as Naval Officer, performing, between 1983 and 1991, several tours of duty on submarines. He subsequently occupied a position of expert at the Nuclear Security Office of the Naval Staff in Paris from 1992 to 1998.

In 1998 he joined ASN to take charge of a sub-directorate tasked with crisis management, inspection organisation and the environment. In 2004 he was appointed Deputy Director-General of ASN. Then, in 2017 he joined the French Institute for Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety (IRSN) as Director Delegate for crisis management, reporting to the Director General.

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## ASN renews the Advisory Committees for nuclear safety and creates a new Advisory Committee for “Decommissioning”

December 2018

In the exercise of its duties, ASN coordinates technical investigations which lead to resolutions and opinions. These investigations draw on internal and external expertise, this latter being primarily the responsibility of IRSN, in its capacity as the ASN technical support organisation.

For the more complex subjects, ASN also has recourse to Advisory Committees of experts (GPE) reporting to the ASN director general.

Each GPE has about thirty members. In order to ensure the competence of these Committees, ASN calls on various expert assessment organisations, licensees, manufacturers and carriers, university research laboratories, inspection agencies, civil society organisations and national and foreign administrations, with the aim of identifying and proposing candidate experts.

ASN renewed the composition of the five Advisory Committees for nuclear safety for a period of four years, their mandates having expired:

- The Advisory Committee for Nuclear Reactors (GPR),
- The Advisory Committee for Laboratories and Plants (GPU),
- The Advisory Committee for Waste (GPD),
- The Advisory Committee for Transports (GPT),
- The Advisory Committee for Nuclear Pressure Equipment (GPESPN).

In total, just over half the experts appointed are new members.

ASN also wished to set up a new GPE for activities related to decommissioning (GPDEM), to deal with the growing challenges of the decommissioning of nuclear facilities, which are distinct from those concerning the operation of facilities in service or the management of nuclear waste. Its members were appointed for a four-year mandate by decision of the director general dated 30 October 2018.

In addition, there are two other GPEs reporting to the ASN director general: one for medical exposure (GPMED) and the other for environment and radiation protection (non-medical - GGRADE). The mandate of their members, appointed in 2016, runs until 2020.

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## ASN delivered its opinion on the overall consistency of the nuclear fuel cycle in France

October 2018

ASN monitors the overall consistency of the industrial choices made concerning fuel management which could have an impact on safety. In this context, ASN periodically asks EDF to submit a "Cycle Impact" file prepared jointly with the fuel cycle players, presenting the consequences for each step of the fuel cycle of EDF's strategy for using the different types of fuel in its nuclear reactors.

On 18 October 2018, ASN delivered its opinion after completing its review of the "2016 Cycle Impact" file for the 2016-2030 period considering several scenarios for the development of the energy mix. ASN considers that this file provides a satisfactory overview of the consequences of the various nuclear fuel cycle development scenarios on the nuclear facilities, transport operations and waste management. However, the consequences of contingencies that could affect the fuel cycle must be examined in greater depth.

ASN underlines the need to anticipate any strategic change in the functioning of the fuel cycle by at least ten years so that it can be designed and carried out under controlled conditions of safety and radiation protection. It is a question of ensuring that - given the incompressible development times for industrial projects - the needs, for example, for new spent fuel storage facilities or for new transport packaging designs are addressed sufficiently early.

In this framework, in the longer term it will be necessary either to have new storage capacities that are significantly greater than the current and projected capacities, or to be able to use MOX fuel in reactors other than the 900 MWe reactors, which are the oldest. The time frame required for the design and production of these options is about ten years. ASN therefore asks the industrial players to start examining these two options without delay.

 [For more information  
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