



# THE FRENCH NUCLEAR SAFETY AUTHORITY

## Roles – Operations – Key figures

ASN was created by the 13 June 2006 Nuclear Security and Transparency Act. It is an independent administrative Authority responsible for regulating civil nuclear activities in France.

**On behalf of the State, ASN ensures the oversight of nuclear safety and radiation protection in order to protect people and the environment. It informs the public and contributes to enlightened societal choices.**

ASN decides and acts with rigour and discernment: its aim is to exercise an oversight that is recognised by the citizens and regarded internationally as a benchmark for good practice.

# ROLES

## Regulating

ASN contributes to drafting regulations, by submitting its opinion to the Government on draft decrees and Ministerial Orders, or by issuing technical regulations. It ensures that the regulations are clear, accessible and proportionate to the safety issues.

## Authorising

ASN examines all individual authorisation applications for nuclear facilities. It can grant all licenses and authorisations, with the exception of major authorisations for Basic Nuclear Installations (BNIs), such as creation and decommissioning. ASN also issues the licenses provided for in the Public Health Code concerning small-scale nuclear activities and issues licenses or approvals for radioactive substances transport operations.

## Monitoring

ASN is responsible for ensuring compliance with the rules and requirements applicable to the facilities and activities within its field of competence. Since the Energy Transition for Green Growth Act of 17 August 2015, ASN's roles now include protecting ionising radioactive sources against malicious acts. Inspection is ASN's primary monitoring activity. More than 1,800 inspections are thus carried out every year in the fields of nuclear safety and radiation protection. ASN has a range of enforcement and penalty powers (formal notice, administrative fines, daily penalty payments, ability to carry out seizure, take samples or require payment of a deposit, etc.). The administrative fine is the competence of the Sanctions Committee within the ASN, which complies with the principle of the separation of the examination and sentencing functions.

## Informing

ASN reports on its activities to Parliament. It informs the public and the stakeholders (environmental protection associations, Local Information Committees, media, etc.) about its activities and the state of nuclear safety and radiation protection in France. ASN enables all members of the public to take part in the drafting of its decisions with an impact on the environment. It supports the actions of the Local Information Committees of the nuclear facilities. ASN's main information channel is its website *asn.fr*.

\* As at 3 March 2020.

## In emergency situations

ASN monitors the steps taken by the licensee to make the facility safe. It informs the public and its foreign counterparts of the situation. ASN assists the Government. More particularly, it sends the competent Authorities its recommendations regarding the civil security measures to be taken.

## Regulation and monitoring of diversified activities and facilities

Nuclear power plants, radioactive waste management, fabrication and reprocessing of nuclear fuel, radioactive material packages, medical facilities, research laboratories, industrial activities, etc. ASN monitors and regulates an extremely varied range of activities and facilities.

This regulation covers:

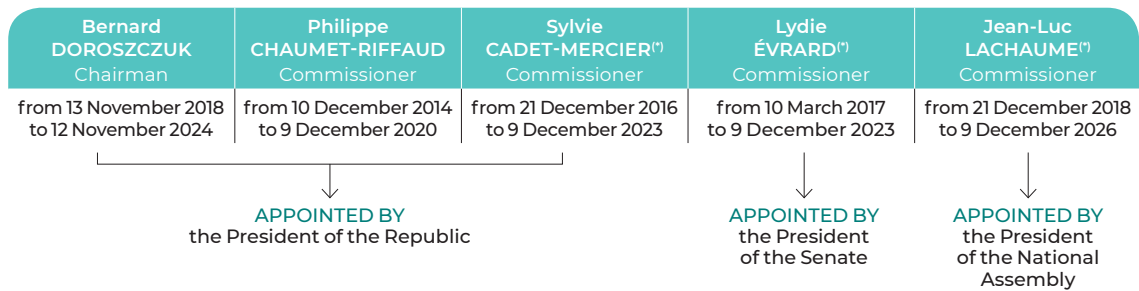
- 57 nuclear reactors<sup>(1)</sup> producing 70% of the electricity consumed in France, as well as the Flamanville EPR reactor under construction;
- about 90 other facilities participating in civil research activities, radioactive waste management activities or "fuel cycle" activities;
- more than thirty or so facilities which have been finally shut down or are being decommissioned;
- several thousand facilities or activities using sources of ionising radiation for medical, industrial or research purposes;
- several hundred thousand shipments of radioactive substances performed annually in France.

## THE SUPPORT OF EXPERTS

When drawing up its decisions and regulations, ASN calls on outside technical expertise, in particular that of the French Institute for Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety (IRSN). The ASN Chairman is a member of the IRSN Board. ASN also calls on the opinions and recommendations of its eight advisory committees of experts, who come from a variety of scientific and technical backgrounds.

## The Commission

The Commission defines ASN's general policy regarding nuclear safety and radiation protection. It consists of five Commissioners, including the ASN Chairman, appointed for a term of 6 years<sup>(\*)</sup>.



\* Pursuant to Act 2017-55 of 20 January 2017 constituting the general statutes of Independent Administrative Authorities and Independent Public Authorities, which stipulates renewal of half of the ASN Commission, except for its Chairman, every three years, Decree 2019-190 of 14 March 2019 (codifying the provisions applicable to BNIs, the transport of radioactive substances and transparency in the nuclear field) sets out the relevant interim provisions and modified the duration of the mandates of the three Commissioners.

### Impartiality

The Commissioners perform their duties in complete impartiality and receive no instructions from either the Government or any other person or institution.

### Independence

The Commissioners perform their duties on a full-time basis. Their mandate is for a six-year term. It is not renewable. The duties of a Commissioner can only be terminated in the case of impediment or resignation duly confirmed by a majority of the Commissioners. The President of the Republic may also terminate the duties of any member of the Commission in the event of serious breach of his or her obligations.

### Competencies

The Commission takes decisions and issues opinions, which are published in ASN's *Official Bulletin*. The Commission defines ASN's oversight policy. The Chairman appoints the ASN inspectors. The Commission decides whether to open an inquiry following an incident or accident. Every year, it presents the *ASN report on the state of nuclear safety and radiation protection in France*, to Parliament. Its Chairman reports on ASN activities to the competent committees of the National Assembly and of the Senate and to the Parliamentary Office for the Assessment of Scientific and Technological Choices. The Commission defines ASN's external relations policy at national and international level.

## The departments

ASN comprises departments placed under the authority of its Chairman. The departments are headed by a Director General, appointed by the ASN Chairman. They carry out ASN's day-to-day duties and prepare draft opinions and decisions for the ASN Commission. They comprise:

- head office departments organised according to topics, which oversee their field of activity at a national level, for both technical and transverse matters (international action, preparedness for emergency situations, information of the public, legal affairs, human resources and other support functions). They more specifically prepare draft doctrines and texts of a general scope, examine the more complex technical files and the "generic" files, in other words those which concern several similar facilities;
- eleven regional divisions, with competence for one or more administrative regions, covering the entire country and the overseas territories. The regional divisions conduct most of the oversight in the field of nuclear facilities, radioactive substances transport operations and small-scale nuclear activities. They represent ASN in the regions and contribute to public information within their geographical area. In emergency situations, the divisions assist the Prefect of the *département*<sup>(\*)</sup> who is in charge of protecting the general public, and supervise, the operations to safeguard the facility affected by the accident.

\* Administrative region headed by a Prefect.

# KEY FIGURES IN 2019

## PERSONNEL



521

staff  
members

of  
which



321

inspectors



84%

management

## ASN ACTIONS



1,817

inspections  
representing 4,274 days  
of inspection



23,420

inspection follow-up letters  
available on *asn.fr*  
as at 31 December 2019



22

meetings  
of Advisory  
Committees of experts



276

technical opinions  
sent to ASN  
by IRSN



1,585

individual licenses  
issued for  
facilities and activities

## BUDGET

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€63.97  
MILLION

total budget for ASN  
(programme 181)

€83.4  
MILLION

IRSN budget devoted  
to analysis and assessment work  
on behalf of ASN

## INFORMATION

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More than **1,200**  
answers to queries  
from the public and  
stakeholders



**18**  
press  
conferences



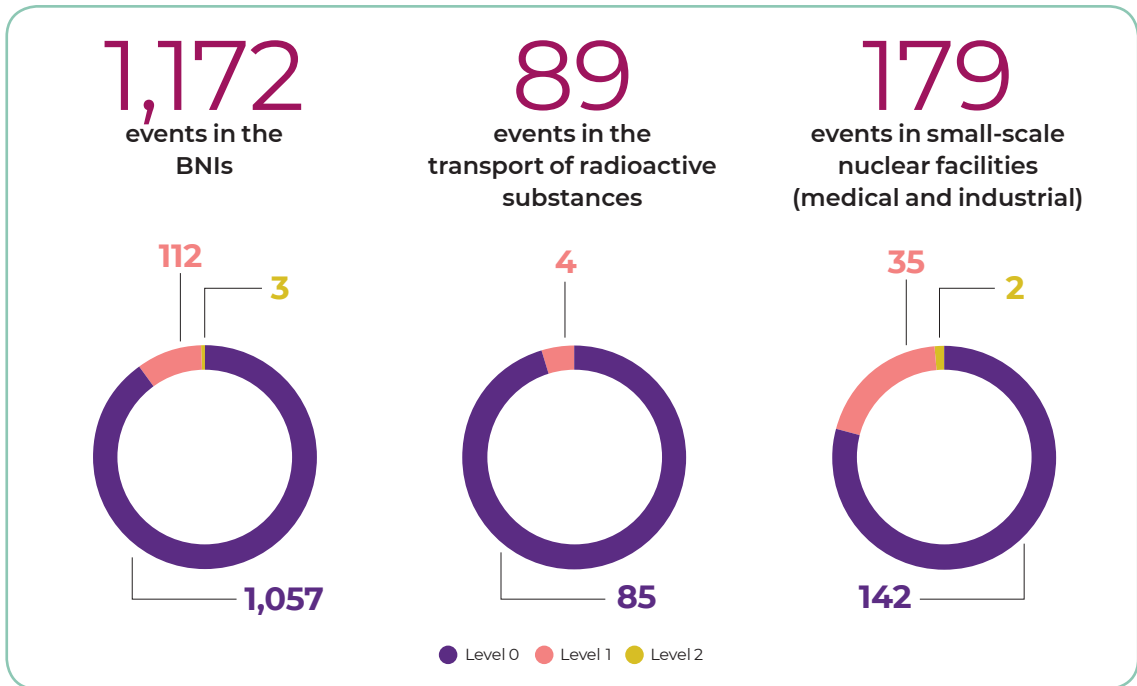
**75**  
information  
notices



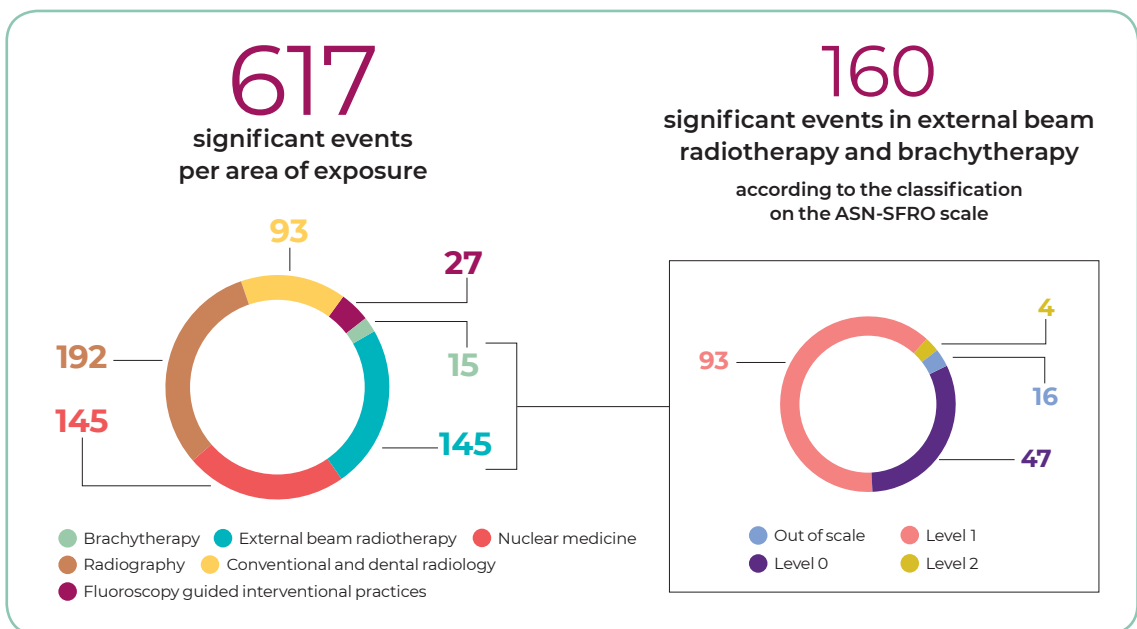
**8**  
emergency  
exercises

# KEY FIGURES IN 2019

## NUMBER OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS RATED ON THE INES SCALE<sup>(\*)</sup>



## NUMBER OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS IN THE MEDICAL FIELD<sup>(\*)</sup>



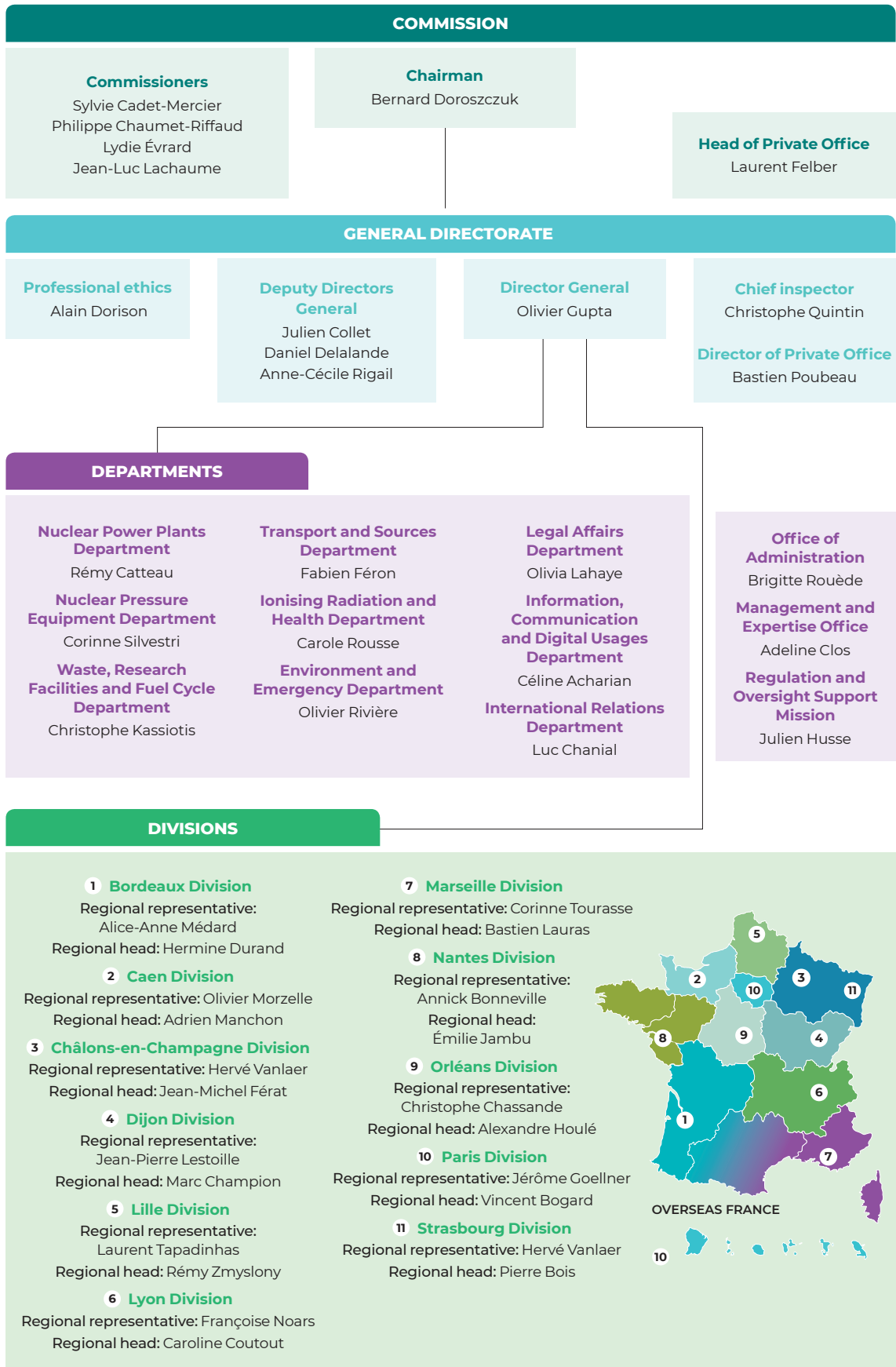
<sup>(\*)</sup>The INES scale (International Nuclear and Radiological Event Scale) was developed by IAEA to explain to the public the importance of an event in terms of safety or radiation protection. This scale applies to events occurring in BNIs and events with potential or actual consequences for the radiation protection of the public and workers. It does not apply to events with an impact on the radiation protection of patients, and the criteria normally used to rate events (notably the dose received) are not applicable in this case.

As it was pertinent to be able to inform the public of radiotherapy events, ASN –in close collaboration with the French Society for Radiotherapy and Oncology– developed a scale specific to radiotherapy events (ASN-SFRO scale).

These two scales cover a relatively wide range of radiation protection events, with the exception of imaging events.

# ASN ORGANISATION CHART

on 3 March 2020



For BNI oversight only, the Caen and Orléans divisions hold responsibility for the Brittany and Île-de-France regions respectively.

For more information, log on to



You can also follow ASN on the social media



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Competence  
Independence  
Rigour  
Transparency

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