

Press Release

FORATOM raises reservations about EC proposed revision of Nuclear Safety Directive

13 June 2013. FORATOM takes note of the adoption by the European Commission (EC) today of a Proposal for a revised Directive on nuclear safety. To the European nuclear industry, the level of nuclear safety in Europe is undoubtedly high, which was confirmed by the results of the safety reassessments' process. The industry raises reservations about the potential impact of the revised Directive: the proposal is too technically detailed for a Europe-wide safety framework and it risks undermining the authority of national safety regulators.

The Proposal is the culmination of a long discussion process that has involved the participation of a broad range of stakeholders, including all the EU national nuclear regulatory bodies, and the European nuclear industry. However, the European nuclear industry believes that the EC should have waited until the results of the post-Fukushima review of other international bodies such as the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) are available to revise the current Nuclear Safety Directive. Moreover the Member States are due to submit to the EC their report assessing the implementation of the current Directive by 2014. The EC should also have even better taken into consideration the national regulators' proposal, since the latter remain the competent authorities as far as nuclear safety is concerned.

Commenting on the New Nuclear Safety Directive, Jean-Pol Poncelet, FORATOM's Director General, said: "The European nuclear industry has always made safety its top priority and the industry is committed to the principle of continuous improvement at all its facilities. If a revision of the Safety Directive is required, we intend to continue to participate in discussions about the achievement of this important EU legislation on nuclear safety. We think that the current proposed Safety Directive should fix general objectives without describing their detailed implementation."

Notes to Editors

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FORATOM is the Brussels-based trade organisation representing the interests of the European nuclear energy industry. As the respected and credible voice of that industry, it promotes the interests of a multi-faceted industrial sector that is a driving force behind Europe's efforts to achieve a sustainable and competitive low-carbon energy mix.