



French Nuclear Safety Authority Opinion n° 2014-AV- 0199 of 7 January 2014 concerning the proposed revision of the European directive on nuclear safety

The French Nuclear Safety Authority,

Having regard to the mandate given to the European Commission by the European Council in March 2011 further to the Fukushima-Daïchi accident, to review the legal and regulatory framework for the safety of nuclear installations;

Having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 5 July 2011 on energy infrastructure priorities for 2020 and beyond, underlining that “future legislative initiatives to set up a common framework for nuclear safety are essential in order to continuously improve safety standards in Europe”;

Having regard to the European Commission proposal of 17 October June 2013 for a Council Directive amending Directive 2009/71/EURATOM establishing a Community framework for the nuclear safety of nuclear installations;

Considering the importance of the upcoming debate at the European Parliament on the aforementioned European Commission proposal;

Committed, in close cooperation with the French Government, to the ongoing negotiations on the revision of the directive on nuclear safety,

Notes with satisfaction definite improvements with respect to the text in force, notably on the following points:

- Reinforcement of the provisions on transparency and public involvement;
- Introduction of safety objectives for nuclear installations, addressing their entire life cycle and taking into account the conclusions of the last meeting of the contracting parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety;
- Obligation to conduct 10-year safety reviews of installations, one of the recommendations resulting from the European stress tests conducted after the Fukushima-Daïchi accident;

Emphasizes, however, that the new European framework for nuclear safety, desired by the European Council and the Parliament, will only ultimately realise its full potential on condition that this framework:

- Does not create any ambiguity in the responsibility of the control of nuclear safety;
- Further reinforces the statutory independence of Safety Authorities beyond the functional separation, making these Authorities in particular legally independent from the entities in charge of energy policy;

- Provides a common mechanism for topical reviews on safety-related issues under the responsibility of the national Safety Authorities leading to European peer reviews and follow-up, the results of which are made public;
- Ensures consistency between the measures taken by Member States for the management of a radiological emergency in Europe.

Montrouge, 7 January 2014.

The Nuclear Safety Authority Commission,

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