

## European nuclear safety

# The goal is harmonised standards by 2010 through regulatory cooperation

**The regulatory systems on Reactor Safety are already similar in the European countries with nuclear power and largely comply with reference levels agreed upon by the Western European Nuclear Regulators Association, WENRA.**

The organisation consists of chief nuclear safety regulators in Europe, and has made an extensive study on the national performance of nuclear safety comparing several hundred reference levels on the safety of nuclear reactors, decommissioning and spent fuel and waste storage.

The 17 member organisations on Thursday in Brussels presented the results of three years of harmonisation work.

For nuclear reactors, a benchmarking has been performed where the countries has assessed their regulations and guides and implementation in the NPPs against the reference levels. The work covers safety management, design, operations, safety verification and emergency preparedness

Though all countries will have homework to do, the results are encouraging. The regulatory systems in the European nuclear countries already fully comply with more than half of the agreed reference levels. And even better, 88% of the reference levels on reactor safety are already implemented on the plants.

Contrary to what is often believed, the “new” European countries sometimes comply better with the reference levels than the old.

The seminar in Brussels was joined by all the top regulators of Europe as well as an extensive group from the nuclear industry and other stakeholders like government bodies and institutions within the European union.

-With WENRA Europe is at the forefront of nuclear safety harmonisation, André-Claude Lacoste, chief nuclear safety regulator in France, commented on the results and also said that Europe can be an example for other parts of the world.

This was supported by the IAEA deputy director general, Tomihiro Taniguchi, in his comment on the European work.

-Though it is not clear whether WENRA is able to fully achieve the goal to fully harmonise the safety of nuclear power in the year of 2010 it is clear there will be a lot more of harmonisation by then, Dana Drábova, chief regulator of the Czech Republic say.

-With the voluntary harmonisation work carried out by the regulators of Europe, it is not necessary to wait for other initiatives to raise the level of nuclear safety in Europe. The work is already going on, WENRA chairman Ms Judith Melin, Head of the Swedish regulator said.

*Members of media can obtain more information from Anders Jorle, information officer at the Swedish regulator, SKI tel +4686989305 (mobile)*

*Also look at the WENRA web page [www.wenra.org](http://www.wenra.org)*