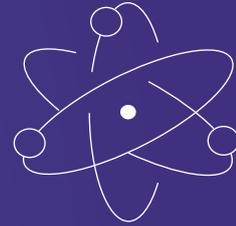


NUCLEAR SAFETY

A global engagement



The European Commission attaches great importance to the **highest standards of nuclear safety**, not only within the European Union (EU) but also beyond. It advances the global safety agenda through bilateral and multilateral cooperation with countries outside the EU and through close cooperation with relevant international organisations.

The Commission also has long-standing cooperation with international organisations and non-EU countries in the field of **nuclear security**.

Nuclear **safety** means ensuring proper operating conditions for nuclear installations, preventing accidents and mitigating the consequences of these if they occur.

Nuclear **security** relates to protecting against malicious acts involving nuclear material and other radioactive substances or the facilities where they are used or stored.

European nuclear stress tests and topical peer reviews

In response to the 2011 Fukushima nuclear accident in Japan, risk and safety assessments ('stress tests') were carried out on all EU nuclear power plants. While the assessments found that the plants' safety standards were generally high, further improvements were recommended. EU nuclear safety regulators working within the European Nuclear Safety Regulators Group (ENSREG) set up and peer-reviewed **national action plans** to schedule physical upgrades of EU reactors. Together with ENSREG, the Commission is overseeing the implementation of these plans.

Experts from ENSREG also carried out peer reviews of stress tests conducted in several countries outside the EU: Belarus, Switzerland, Ukraine, Armenia and Taiwan. Cooperation on nuclear stress tests is ongoing with other countries. Three non-EU countries – Norway, Ukraine and Switzerland – also participated in the first 'topical peer review' under the EU's Nuclear Safety Directive in 2017-2018. This review was dedicated to the 'ageing management' of nuclear installations.

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

The European Commission's cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency on nuclear safety was first formalised by a **cooperation agreement** in 1975.

To further strengthen this cooperation, particularly in education and training, research and development, and capacity building, in 2013 the Commission and the IAEA signed a **Memorandum of Understanding on Nuclear Safety Cooperation**, which was extended in 2017. The partners meet annually to review progress.

The Commission actively participates in the review meetings of the **Convention on Nuclear Safety (CNS)**. When the Vienna Declaration on Nuclear Safety was adopted by all CNS contracting parties in 2015, its principles – to prevent accidents and mitigate their radiological consequences – were already part of binding EU legislation.

The Commission also works closely with the IAEA on implementing nuclear safety projects in non-EU countries and provides support to the agency's **Technical Cooperation Programme**.

The Commission plays a significant role in supporting the implementation of the civil nuclear safety provisions of the **Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action** (also known as the Iran nuclear deal).

The **Convention on Nuclear Safety (CNS)** is a key international instrument in the field of civil nuclear power generation.

Concluded under the aegis of the IAEA, the CNS aims to improve the safety of land-based civil nuclear power plants worldwide. Euratom and all EU Member States are among the 85 contracting parties to the CNS.

Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA)

The European Commission supports the OECD Nuclear Energy Agency's goal of assisting member countries in ensuring high safety standards in the use of nuclear energy. The NEA seeks to do this by supporting the development of effective and efficient regulation and oversight of nuclear installations, and by helping to maintain and advance scientific and technological knowledge.

The Commission has a special status in the NEA and participates in its biannual **Steering Committee**. **Commission** experts also contribute to various NEA **standing technical committees, working groups and expert groups**.

Other instruments of cooperation with non-EU countries

Under the **Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation (INSC)** of the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom), the Commission contributes to the improvement of nuclear safety in countries outside the EU. An example is the EU flagship environmental programme for Central Asia to remediate former uranium legacy sites.

Euratom has concluded bilateral **nuclear cooperation agreements with Argentina, Australia, Canada, Japan, Kazakhstan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan and the US**.

The **European Atomic Energy Community or Euratom** was established by the Euratom Treaty in 1957. It is legally distinct from the European Union although it has the same membership and institutions.

