

JOINT DECLARATION / PRESS STATEMENT

On comprehensive risk and safety assessments of nuclear plants (‘stress tests’)

The events in Japan underline the vital importance of nuclear safety, which should be addressed by the European Union (EU) and its neighbouring countries together as an absolute policy priority. There is a need to continuously re-evaluate nuclear safety.

As an outcome of the meeting of 23 June 2011 with Commissioner Oettinger, Deputy Ministers of Energy and senior representatives of the Ministries of Energy and national authorities responsible for nuclear energy of the Republic of Armenia, Republic of Belarus, Republic of Croatia, Russian Federation, Swiss Confederation, Republic of Turkey, Ukraine, in cooperation with the EU:

- Confirm their willingness to undertake (if this has not yet been done) on a voluntary basis comprehensive risk and safety assessments ('stress tests'), taking into account the specifications agreed by the European Commission and the European Nuclear Safety Regulators Group (ENSREG) on 24 May 2011. The need for a consistent approach towards nuclear safety by all countries making use of nuclear energy is reinforced by today's shared vision that highlights the potential cross-border nature of nuclear accidents;
- Agree to commit nuclear operators to self-assessments of their nuclear power plants, as well as to invite national regulatory bodies to present national reports, and to make use of a transparent peer-review system enhancing credibility and accountability of the comprehensive risk and safety assessments;
- Agree to engage on a multilateral level and with the IAEA a discussion for a strong and common safety standards as well as international peer reviews.