



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Invitation to the Roundtable on SUPPORTING EUROPEAN EXPERTISE IN NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING

Brussels, 23rd January 2018

Schuman room, Berlaymont building, rue de la Loi 200

***Organised jointly by the EUROPEAN COMMISSION,
FORATOM and the EUROPEAN NUCLEAR SOCIETY***

The European Commission invites to a roundtable discussion on nuclear decommissioning in follow-up of previous similar successful meetings held in 2012 and 2014. The focus of the current edition will be on "*Supporting European Expertise in Nuclear Decommissioning*". The roundtable will be chaired by Vladimir Šucha, Director General of the EC Joint Research Centre and Gerassimos Thomas, EC Deputy Director General for Energy and is organised jointly with FORATOM, the Brussels-based trade association for the nuclear energy industry in Europe and the European Nuclear Society (ENS), the association of nuclear professionals in Europe.

The aim of the roundtable is to assess the potential of joint EU actions to address two main areas in decommissioning: (1) technological challenges, including standardisation and (2) human competences, including education and training. In this perspective of stimulating joint European initiatives, the roundtable will bring together the industry, research organisations as well as European and international actors, including the International Atomic Energy Agency, to share their experiences in these fields.

PROGRAMME: *(see detailed agenda p5-p6)*

Opening: Vladimir Šucha, Gerassimos Thomas (EC), Yves Desbazeille (FORATOM),
Christian Legrain (European Nuclear Society) and Christophe Xerri (IAEA)

Session 1: Addressing technological challenges, the need for standardisation

Session 2: Capitalising on EU competences in nuclear decommissioning

Panel Discussion: Supporting decommissioning expertise: stakeholders' views

Conclusions: Sylvain Granger (EDF), Massimo Garribba (EC)

ADDRESS OF THE DAY

EUROPEAN COMMISSION
SCHUMAN ROOM, Belmont Buiding
Rue de la Loi 200, 1049 Brussels

REGISTRATION TO THE ROUNDTABLE

A preliminary registration to the event is requested, by Wednesday 17 January 2018 at the latest.

To register, please transmit your coordinates¹:

Family name	
First name	
Date of birth	
Identity document number	
Identity document validity date	
Nationality	

by e-mail to Ms. Daniela Santopolo daniela.santopolo@ec.europa.eu

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Roundtable on
SUPPORTING EUROPEAN EXPERTISE IN NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING
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BACKGROUND

Nuclear decommissioning encompasses all technical and management actions associated with ceasing operation of a nuclear installation and its subsequent dismantling to remove it at the end from regulatory control, aiming at delivering an environmentally friendly end-product, in line with the 'circular economy', as promoted by the EU.

Decommissioning is an industrial activity that is expected to grow worldwide, creating technological challenges along with new career opportunities. The European industry masters a significant know-how that competes at the top level in the nuclear decommissioning market. However, in view of an expansion of the activities, it is necessary to further support the development of the underpinning technical expertise, to answer the current challenges. A joint effort is also desirable to ensure the availability of the necessary workforce in the future.

ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

The European Commission - in its role of guardian of the Euratom Treaty - watches that the Community establishes uniform safety standards to protect the health of workers and of the general public and ensures that these standards are applied. Back in 2003 the European Union Institutions underlined the importance of the safe decommissioning of nuclear installations, including long-term management of radioactive waste and spent fuel. In the following years the Commission acted accordingly, issuing several acts, including a Recommendation in 2006 on the management of financial resources for the decommissioning of nuclear installations, spent fuel and radioactive waste, and, later, crucial Directives which comprehensively refined the regulatory framework in the nuclear energy sector, with enhanced focus on safety and waste management, and including decommissioning in their scope as appropriate.

This legal framework sets requirements for the Member States to ensure that arrangements are in place for education and training, as well as research and development activities as relevant.

The European Commission is also directly involved in decommissioning activities. The JRC started in 1999 a programme to deal with its nuclear liabilities, including the dismantling of its disused nuclear facilities. The EC has also the mandate for supervising the assistance programme to support the decommissioning of old reactors in Slovakia, Lithuania and Bulgaria, as their respective Governments committed themselves to close these reactors as part of their accession to the European Union. The EC is coordinating the EU support under the Instrument Nuclear Safety Cooperation mechanism for the radioactive waste management and decommissioning of nuclear facilities in third countries.

Finally the EC has a role in the assessment and dissemination of decommissioning experience and best practices, and in the support to the necessary technological developments and training, through its research and training framework programmes.

ROLE OF FORATOM

FORATOM is the Brussels-based trade association for the nuclear energy industry in Europe. FORATOM acts as the voice of the European nuclear industry in energy policy discussions with EU Institutions and other key stakeholders. The membership of FORATOM is made up of 15 national nuclear associations representing more than 800 firms, involved also in decommissioning activities. FORATOM Radioactive Waste Management and Decommissioning Working Group (WG) consists of specialist in decommissioning providing the required industry expertise to debate on technicalities and financing towards the European Institutions. Likewise, the Education and Training WG is an important field of activity of FORATOM members. E&T experts from the nuclear industry and research exchange their experience, in providing the best training solutions in decommissioning.

ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN NUCLEAR SOCIETY

The European Nuclear Society (ENS), which is the largest society of nuclear science, research and industry in Europe, brings together 10 000 nuclear professionals involved in the entire life cycle stages, from new build to decommissioning. Decommissioning is therefore a recurrent and important subject for expert discussions at ENS' conferences. What's more, ENS, together with its very active ENS Young Generation Network, plays an important role in the debate on how to retain the interest of youngsters in nuclear decommissioning. Decommissioning means: innovation, high responsibility and good career opportunities for very long period and ENS actively supports this message.

AIM OF THE ROUNDTABLE - EXPERTISE IN DECOMMISSIONING

In the perspective of stimulating joint initiatives, the aim of the roundtable is to bring industry and involved actors together to share experiences with the decommissioning of nuclear facilities.

The roundtable will focus on the potential of joint EU actions to address:

Technological challenges, including standardisation

Although the decommissioning activities have reached a certain level of maturity, technological development work remains, particularly aiming at improving performances, safety and waste minimisation. The industry would also benefit from the standardisation of technological practices. Some international initiatives emerge or are anticipated to respond to these needs, but it is essential that they are from the beginning on the right track.

Human resources and competences, including education and training

To answer the growing demand for a competent and skilled workforce specialised in nuclear decommissioning, the JRC has over the last years investigated the needs for careers in nuclear decommissioning and the opportunities for stimulating the development, coordination and promotion of adequate competences at EU level. JRC and EU partners in the decommissioning field have launched a project to consolidate and improve existing professional training programmes. In parallel initiatives are intended to be taken for attracting young talent and for facilitation of mobility by harmonising the job qualifications. Also here a regular interaction with the industry is essential to ensure the necessary efficiency.

SUPPORTING EUROPEAN EXPERTISE IN NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING

AGENDA 23rd January 2018

Schuman room, Berlaymont building, Brussels

09:00 - 09:30 REGISTRATION

09:30 - 09:45 WELCOME:

Vladimir ŠUCHA, Director General, Joint Research Centre, European Commission

09:45 - 10:45 OPENING SESSION: International framework to develop expertise

- Gerassimos THOMAS, Deputy Director General, DG Energy, European Commission
- Yves DESBAZEILLE, Director General of FORATOM
- Christian LEGRAIN, Vice-President of the European Nuclear Society
- Christophe XERRI, Director of the Nuclear Fuel Cycle and Waste Technology Division, International Atomic Energy Agency

10:45 - 12:30 SESSION 1: Addressing technological challenges, need for standardisation

Session Chair: Frank APEL, Chairman of the German Nuclear Society

Speakers:

- Jorge BORQUE LIÑÁN, Jose Cabrera NPP decommissioning, ENRESA, Spain
Challenges in decommissioning planning
- Erika BOHL-KULLBERG, Vattenfall AB, Sweden
Industrial technological challenges in decommissioning
- Richard D. REID, Technical Executive, Decommissioning Technology Program, Electric Power Research Institute, USA
Views from the U.S. on R&D needs in nuclear decommissioning
- Christine GEORGES, Head of the R&D for Dismantling and Decommissioning programme, CEA, France
Views on international research and innovation in nuclear decommissioning
- Matthias BOTHE, VKTA - Strahlenschutz, Analytik & Entsorgung Rossendorf e.V., Dresden, Germany
Development of decommissioning standards in Germany, integration at EU level

12:30 - 13:30 **LUNCH**

13:30 - 15:00 SESSION 2: Capitalising on EU competences in nuclear decommissioning

Session Chair: **Said ABOUSAHL**, Head of the Euratom Coordination Unit, EC JRC

Speakers:

- **Peter NUENNING**, Vice President Human Resources, Communication & Information Systems, AREVA NP, Germany
Specific HR aspects and competence planning in the field of nuclear decommissioning
- **Tomas LIUKAITIS**, Director Corporate Affairs and Administration, Ignalina NPP, Lithuania
Human Resources points of attention for the nuclear decommissioning industry: Ignalina NPP experience
- **Franck HARDEMAN**, Deputy Director General SCK•CEN, Belgium
SCK•CEN participation in the ELINDER project
- **Sophie BEERNAERTS**, Head of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Unit, DG for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture, European Commission
EC support to the development of professional competences

15:00 - 16:30 PANEL DISCUSSION: Supporting decommissioning expertise: stakeholders' views

Panel Moderator: **Massimo GARRIBBA**, Director for Nuclear Energy, Safety and ITER, DG Energy, European Commission

Panellists:

- **Thomas KLEIN**, Director of V1 Decommissioning and PMU Division, JAVYS, Slovakia
- **Alain VALLÉE**, CEO NUCADVISOR (NUVIA Group) , France
- **Francesco TROIANI**, Director Technological Development & Innovation, SOGIN, Italy
- **Joseph BOUCAU**, Director, Global D&D Products, Westinghouse, Belgium
- **Rita LECBYCHOVA**, Unit Head Fission Energy, DG Research and Innovation, European Commission
- **Vincenzo RONDINELLA**, Head of Department for Waste Management and Decommissioning, Joint Research Centre, European Commission

16:30-16:50 CONCLUSIONS

- **Sylvain GRANGER**, Senior VP Head of Decommissioning and Waste Management, EDF, France
- **Massimo GARRIBBA**, Director for Nuclear Energy, Safety and ITER, DG Energy, European Commission

(note: titles of the presentations are provisional)