

FLASH June 2008

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Second ENEF meeting takes place in Prague



On 22 and 23 May, the European Nuclear Energy Forum (ENEF) held its second meeting, this time in Prague. Over 300 participants took part in the Forum in the Czech capital city. Among the attendees were: 3 EU Prime Ministers (Mirek Topolanek, Robert Fico and Mr. Kirkilas of the Czech Republic, Slovakia

and Lithuania respectively), EC President José Manuel Barroso, EU Energy Commissioner Andris Piebalgs, several ministers from EU government, ambassadors, 10 MEPs and high-level nuclear industry representatives including CEOs of CEZ, Areva, British Energy, Enel SE, Urenco, Nuclearelectrica, Posiva.

Forthright messages in support of nuclear energy were delivered by participants, in particular Czech Prime Minister Topolanek, who said: "If we find the courage today to say that we need and will need nuclear energy and that without it our freedom as well as our independency may be endangered. We need courage and responsibility!" Mr. Topolanek also stated that energy and sustainability issues would be looked at under the Czech Presidency, in the first half of 2009.

EC President Barroso said "Europe could become a real model if it succeeds in adopting a common legal framework on nuclear safety and waste management". Moreover, he said that by 2020, 60% of our electricity could come from carbon-free sources (nuclear and renewables) and concluded by confirming the EC's commitment to the ENEF process.

French Secretary of State for Industry and Government spokesperson Chatel echoed President Barroso's comments for a legal framework in the EU for nuclear safety and waste management by saying that the French Presidency of the EU (which runs from July to December 2008) would encourage debate on these issues and that the work of the High Level Group was vital to this discussion.

Strong messages also came from the European Parliament, with MEP Edit Herczog (Hungary, PSE) encouraging the Council to show strong support for nuclear issues.

There were a large number of representatives from industry present. Anne Lauvergeon, CEO of Areva, expressed her strong support for the ENEF process but said she found it paradoxical that the EU was

a world leader in combating climate change and championing renewable technology but was not more coherent on nuclear energy and had no single energy strategy.

Jean-Pol Poncelet, Chairman of the Opportunities WG, gave a presentation on the work carried out specifically by the Sub-group on Competitiveness which analysed, in comparison with other energy sources, the competitiveness of nuclear energy in a European low-carbon economy and a global energy security context. Mr. Poncelet pointed out that in future other sub-groups will be established under the framework of the Opportunities WG and they will concentrate on: 1). outlining the key elements of successful financing schemes for new nuclear build, 2). investigating possibilities for a “nuclear legal road-map” focusing on regulatory framework and safety requirements for new NPPs and 3). industrial capacity in the nuclear energy sector.

Bill Coley, CEO of British Energy, stressed that a major challenge for EU is to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide and that far more nuclear capacity is needed to meet this goal.

Presenting the work of the Risks WG its Chairman, Dr. Walter Hohlefeldt, emphasises strongly the

issue of investment in training and education and said that a Directive on common fundamental safety principles can be supported by the industry. He also said that there was a need for national waste management solutions to be implemented.

Janos Toth, of the European Economic and Social Committee, gave an update on the work carried out by his WG and Subgroups, which has focused on ‘better information.’ The emphasis of their work has been to encourage national governments and parliaments to hold regular public debates on nuclear energy issues, and to create a platform (or further support current ones) to support best practices in the exchange of nuclear energy information. In conclusion, Mr. Toth said that public opinion was decisive for the future of nuclear energy and that a strong dialogue must continue with civil society on these issues.

The EC delivered its conclusions from the Prague ENEF meeting. It supported the need for open debate and the development of dialogue on nuclear energy at all levels. Dominique Ristori, Deputy Director General DG TREN, said it was impossible to manage consultation processes without having all the stakeholders in the ENEF process on board

New Member States Task Force meets following Prague ENEF meeting

On 23 May, FORATOM’s New Member States Task Force (NMSTF) met in Prague. The meeting took place back-to-back with the second meeting of the European Nuclear Energy Forum (ENEFF). FORATOM’s Secretariat gave an extensive briefing about the work that has been carried out in the ENEFF Working Groups and Sub-groups since the Bratislava meeting, in November. It also reported back on the first outcomes of the Prague meeting. The purpose of the NMSTF’s meeting was to discuss the possibilities for further nuclear energy expansion in the Czech Republic. Two excellent presentations were given. Firstly, Martin Uhlir from CEZ spoke the company’s strategy and the need for energy investment in the

region. Oldřich Vlasák, MEP (EPP-ED, Czech Republic), then spoke about the European Parliament’s position on nuclear energy and about the public perception of nuclear power in the Czech Republic.

The meeting was followed by a technical tour to the Temelin NPP and a dinner that the Director of Temelin NPP, Milos Stepanovsky, attended. Apart from Mr. Vlasák, four other Czech MEPs participated in the visit: Jana Bobosikova (Non-attached Group), Jan Zahradil (EPP-ED), Jaroslav Zvěřina (EPP-ED) and Hynek Fajmon (EPP-ED).

Bulatom Annual Conference in Varna (Bulgaria)

Foratom spoke during the plenary session of this well-organised international event that is hosted by the Bulgarian Nuclear Forum, in Varna, on the Black Sea coast. The conference was attended by more than 200 participants.

Following a welcome address by Bulatom’s Chairman, Bogomil Manchev, the main theme of the conference was elaborated in a comprehensive speech delivered by the Bulgarian Minister of Energy and Economy Petar Dimitrov. He underlined the important part played by nuclear in the country’s energy supply – which is still providing 33% of

electricity even after the closure of Kozloduy units 3 and 4 – thanks to the completion of the successful upgrade of units 5 and 6. With Bulgaria having the highest economic growth rate in the whole EU, more than three times the EU average, it was, he said, vitally important that nuclear help meet the corresponding growth in energy demand. Key to that need was the expected completion of Belene units 1 and 2 by 2013/2014. Financing of the project remains a hurdle but progress had been made through the provisional acceptance of a loan offer from BNP Paribas.

Bulgarian MEP Vladimir Urutchev, who spoke after the Minister, was critical of the EU institutions for setting tough targets for CO₂ reduction while at the same time insisting on the closure of “clean” nuclear plants in the new Member States. He called for more wisdom to prevail. Whilst he welcomed President Barroso’s reported remarks at the Prague ENEF meeting, he was also critical of what he called “the antinuclear majority” within the EC.

At the end of the opening session, Bulatom’s Director General, Stanislav Georgiev, referred to the difficulties caused in the Balkan Region by the premature closure of Kozloduy units 3 and 4 and made a declaration calling for the plant to be reopened.

The first speaker in the Plenary Session, FORATOM’s Richard Ivens, reported on EU nuclear

developments. He focussed in particular on the conclusions of the Prague ENEF meeting, but also drew attention to the various EU initiatives expected in the coming year. The plenary session was rounded off by WNA Director General, John Ritch, who highlighted the challenges of global climate change.

The Belene project dominated the remainder of the conference agenda. Bulgarian, Russian and Western partner organisations were able to present the design, project management and contractual arrangements. Speakers from TVO and AMEC made useful comparisons between the Belene project and new build projects in Finland and the UK.

FORATOM Legal Task Force discusses third party liability

On 16 May, the Legal Task Force (LTF) met to address again the topic of third party nuclear liability, guided this time by personal reflections from Patrick Reyners, who in his former role as Head of Legal Department at the OECD/NEA had been the architect of the Revised Paris and Brussels Conventions. Regarding the issue of financial security for covering the new operator liability ceilings, Mr. Reyners seemed to think that some form of government intervention would be necessary to underpin the new conventions that the governments themselves had negotiated.

Sam Emmerechts of the NEA then updated LTF members on the status of the Revised Paris

Convention ratification process. LTF members were later given a presentation by Magnus Ovilius of the EC’s DG Justice, Freedom and Security on the subject of critical energy infrastructure protection (CIP). A Directive on CIP covering, amongst other things, electricity generation by nuclear power plants is likely to be adopted later this year.

Finally, LTF members were informed about the issue of harmonising the ‘Nuclear Legal Roadmap’ for licensing, which is on the agenda of the ENEF’s Risks Working Group. They also discussed FORATOM’s strategy regarding possible Directives on safety and waste management.

Spanish press focuses on nuclear scenario in Belgium and Europe

From 28 - 30 May, around 15 journalists representing the main Spanish media (TV and radio channels, national and regional newspapers) took part in a press trip to Belgium by the Spanish Nuclear Forum. María Teresa Domínguez, the Chairwoman of the Spanish Nuclear Forum, accompanied them to Brussels in order to explain the key issues and the latest developments on nuclear energy front in Europe. During the subsequent visit to the European Parliament, which was organised in cooperation with FORATOM, the Spanish journalists had the



opportunity to have a discussion with Spanish MEP Alejandro Vidal-Quadras (EPP-ED), who is Vice-President of the EP. Mr. Vidal-Quadras stressed

Europe’s willingness to implement an open electricity market and to combat climate change by reducing CO₂ emissions.

The next leg of the three-day visit was guided tour of the Belgian Nuclear Research Center (SCK-CEN) in Mol. Christian Legrain of SCK-CEN gave a detailed overview of SCK-CEN’s research activities, in particular the work carried out by the research reactor in Mol and the Centre’s

specialised laboratories. Most notable among the laboratories are the Hades, the underground laboratory, where analysis of clay as a suitable geological host for the storage of long-lived and highly active nuclear waste is carried out, and another where research into fourth generation nuclear reactors takes place.

On the final day of the visit Robert Leclere, chairman of the Belgian Nuclear Forum, met the Spanish

media at FORATOM's offices and outlined the Belgian situation regarding nuclear energy. Santiago San Antonio, FORATOM's Director General, brought the Belgian trip to a close by giving an overview of the nuclear renaissance in Europe, underlining all the arguments that are driving this revival in the Member States and explaining the ongoing processes established at the EU level to define a framework for nuclear energy in the future.

FORATOM briefs Chinese press on climate change challenges

On 27 May, FORATOM gave a presentation on nuclear energy and its contribution to combating climate change to a group of Chinese journalists. The journalists were participating in a seminar organised by the European Journalism Centre as part of a four-day fact-finding mission devoted to studying EU-China relations and learning about the EU institutions. Among those present were representatives of the most influential Chinese news agencies, newspapers and TV stations. FORATOM took part in a panel that included a speaker representing European Renewable Energy Council

(EREC) who gave an extensive presentation on the need to take serious action to fight climate change and on the contribution that renewable energy technologies are making to that fight. The journalists were particularly interested by the question of electricity generation costs, waste management solutions and global nuclear energy development plans. In the discussion that followed the presentations, the current nuclear new build plans in EU and worldwide, as well as the political decisions to phase out nuclear energy in some EU Member States, were discussed.

FORATOM designs new nuclear re-launch map



FORATOM has designed a new interactive and surfer-friendly nuclear re-launch map for members and visitors to the FORATOM web site to consult. It provides detailed and updated information on the

nuclear situation in Europe, country-by-country, including data on the number of reactors in each country, the percentage share of nuclear in each country's electricity generating market, etc.

Dates for your diary

Date	Event	Location	Organiser	
June	19	MEP Forum for the Future of Nuclear Energy (SNE-TP)	Strasbourg/France	
	24	Environmental Issues Task Force meeting	Brussels/Belgium	FORATOM
	27	ENS Board meeting and General Assembly	London/UK	ENS
	27	ENISS reactor safety group meeting	Brussels/Belgium	ENISS
	11	R&D Task Force meeting	Brussels/Belgium	FORATOM
September	tbd	Instrument for Nuclear Safety Co-operation meeting	Brussels/Belgium	FORATOM
	18	FORATOM Nuluc meeting	Brussels/Belgium	FORATOM
	19	Transport Task Force meeting	Brussels/Belgium	FORATOM
	24	UK nuclear new build dinner for MEPS	Strasbourg/France	FORATOM
	30 (tbc)	FORATOM Executive Board meeting	Brussels/Belgium	FORATOM
	October	1 to 3	Top Safe 2008	Dubrovnik/Croatia
6		Legal Task Force meeting	Brussels/Belgium	FORATOM
7		Security of Supply Task Force meeting	Brussels/Belgium	FORATOM
7 - 8 or 9		FORATOM-EURELECTRIC-BUSINESSEUROPE event on Low Carbon Technologies	Brussels/Belgium	FORATOM EURELECTRIC BusinessEurope
tbd		Seminar on public opinion	Brussels/Belgium	FORATOM
tbd		ENC Dinner and meeting	Romania	ENC
16-17		NICE Group meeting	Helsinki /Finland	FORATOM ENS
November	4	Safety & Radiological Protection Task Force + Radioactive Waste Task Force meetings	Bratislava/Slovakia	FORATOM
	26	FORATOM Steering Groups meetings	Brussels/Belgium	FORATOM
	27	FORATOM Executive Board/ General Assembly & Joint FORATOM/ENS Workshop	Brussels/Belgium	FORATOM ENS
	28	ENS Board meeting and General Assembly	Brussels/Belgium	ENS

FORATOM
european atomic forum

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