

“The resilience of the nuclear sector in Europe in the face of pandemic risks”

Seminar objective

The objectives of this seminar are (1) to share the experience accumulated by European stakeholders (utility companies, industrial players, regulators and EU Member States) in managing the COVID-19 pandemic, and (2) to discuss potential recommendations that could increase the resilience of the nuclear sector for potential future pandemic disruptions.

9:30 – 9:50 Opening session

Michael Huebel, DG ENER, Head of Unit D3, Radioprotection and Nuclear Safety
Yvan Pouleur, Policy Officer, DG ENER, D3

Welcome and opening remarks by the European Commission, followed by a summary of actions taken for the COVID-19 monitoring, on the electricity sector and specifically on nuclear safety, by DG Energy (ENER) and the Joint Research Centre (JRC).

9:50 – 12:00 The COVID-19 impact on the nuclear sector

9:50 – 11:00 Part 1 – The specific impact of COVID-19 on electricity and radionuclide production

In this session, the direct impact of the ongoing pandemic on electricity and radionuclide production will be discussed, highlighting the overall behaviour of the industry and its installations against unprecedented external threats;

- 09:50 – 10:10 • Nicolas Mario, Senior Consultant, NucAdvisor;
“The European nuclear fleet behaviour during COVID-19 pandemic”
- 10:10 – 10:25 • Michael Rogge, Convenor of the ENTSO-E Steering Group System - European Network of Transmission System Operators for Electricity, ENTSO-E;
“European Transmission System Operators during COVID19 pandemic - Experiences & best practices”
- 10:25 – 10:35 • Nicolas Mario, Senior Consultant, NucAdvisor;
“Radionuclide supply and demand situation in Europe during COVID-19 pandemic”
- 10:35 – 10:45 • Ira Goldman, Chairman security of supply working group, Nuclear Medicine Europe (NMEu);
“Managing COVID-19 Impact on Radionuclide Production for Nuclear Medicine (NMEu coordination)”
- 10:45 – 11:00 • Questions and answers with the audience

11:05 – 12:00 Part 2 – The economic impact of COVID-19 pandemic on the nuclear industry

Starting with a landscape of the economic status of the European nuclear industry and the challenges faced during the last decade, the specific impact of COVID-19 on utilities will be presented and its consequences for future planned investments;

- 11:05 – 11:25 • Yannick Perez, Full Professor of Economics;
“The COVID-19 pandemic: an additional constraint on the European nuclear industry? Before and after economic status of nuclear utilities”
- 11:25 – 11:40 • Antonio Vaya Soler, Nuclear Energy Analyst, Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA);
“The role of nuclear energy during COVID 19 and beyond”
- 11:40 – 12:00 • Questions and answers with the audience

12:00 – 14:00 Lunch Break

14:00 – 16:00 The nuclear sector resilience during COVID-19 pandemic

In this session, the resilience of nuclear industry stakeholders (safety authorities, utilities and industrial players) will be discussed successively, highlighting mitigations actions taken, practical constraints raised by the pandemic and lessons learned.

14:00 – 14:40 Part 1 – Ensuring the safety of nuclear installations during a pandemic

- 14:00 – 14:10 • Alain Vallée, Expert Partner, NucAdvisor;
"Ensuring a strong and sustainable nuclear safety during COVID-19 pandemic despite the sudden evolution of working habits"
- 14:10 – 14:20 • Thierry Ethvignot (PhD), Senior Advisor, Autorité de Sûreté Nucléaire (ASN) – Division des relations internationales ;
"Managing the COVID-19 pandemic from the regulator side: the French case study"
- 14:20 – 14:30 • Christopher Joseph Fong, Deputy Head for Regulation, Division of Nuclear Safety Technology and Regulation, Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA);
"Regulatory responses during the pandemic: a sample of approaches from NEA member countries"
- 14:30 – 14:40 • Questions and answers with the audience

14:40 – 15:20 Part 2 – Securing electricity production during a pandemic: the nuclear utilities resilience

- 14:40 – 15:10 • Alain Vallée, Expert Partner, NucAdvisor;
"Overview of nuclear utilities anticipation and adaptations actions taken during the COVID-19 pandemic"
- 15:10 – 15:20 • Luis Soriano, Paris Centre Director, World Association of Nuclear Operators (WANO);
"Ensuring European and International collaboration of nuclear operators to address COVID-19 specific challenges: the international experience"
- 15:20 – 15:30 • Questions and answers with the audience

15:30 – 16:10 Part 3 – The COVID-19 impact on European and international nuclear supply chains: equipment, services and fuel supply

- 15:30 – 15:50 • Alain Vallée, Expert Partner, NucAdvisor;
"The specific challenges faced by nuclear supply chains to support utilities activity: onsite services, equipment and spare parts manufacturing and delivery"
- 15:50 – 16:00 • Andrei Goicea, Policy director, FORATOM;
"The coordination of European industry resilience during a pandemic"
- 16:00 – 16:10 • Questions and answers with the audience

16:10 – 17:40 How to improve the overall resilience of the nuclear sector?

In this roundtable, a speaker panels will be asked to comment the different findings and recommendations discussed during the previous sessions, to identify the topics where the resilience of the nuclear industry shall be improved in the near future to ensure a better preparedness against potential new pandemics and other external threats.

The audience, especially member states representatives are invited to comment their own national experience and highlight the best practices implemented during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Panel speakers

- Alain Vallée, Expert Partner, NucAdvisor (Panel Session Introduction)
- Jan Bartak, Chairman, NucAdvisor (Panel facilitator)
- Andrei Goicea, Policy director, FORATOM;
- Aninda Dutta Ray, Nuclear Engineer, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA);
- Christopher Joseph Fong, Deputy Head for Regulation, Division of Nuclear Safety Technology and Regulation, Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA);
- Luis Soriano, Paris Centre Director, World Association of Nuclear Operators (WANO);
- Michael Rogge, Convenor of the ENTSO-E Steering Group System - European Network of Transmission System Operators for Electricity, ENTSO-E;

17:40 – 18:00 Closing session

Michael Huebel, DG ENER, Head of Unit D3, Radioprotection and Nuclear Safety
Yvan Pouleur, Policy Officer, DG ENER, D3

Date: 23rd of November 2021, 9:30 – 18:00 (Brussels Time)
Venue: Through videoconference (Microsoft Teams)