

Tacis and INSC programmes for Nuclear Safety – Expectations of the European Union

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TACIS

In 1991 the European Union (EU) launched the Programme TACIS (Technical Assistance to the Commonwealth Independent States). Though TACIS ended on 31 December 2006 the implementation of the projects committed under the last Action Programmes will continue for a few years. One important component of TACIS has been the Nuclear Safety Programme with the main objective to support the nuclear safety improvements found necessary in the CIS countries.

During all these years the TACIS Nuclear Safety Programme concentrated on Design Safety analysis, On-Site assistance to the Nuclear Power Plants (NPPs) with supply of equipment, Regulatory and licensing activities, Waste Management and contributions to international initiatives (Chernobyl Closure, Shelter Implementation Plan, (SIP), Nuclear Safety Account (NSA).

The importance of the Regulatory Authorities under TACIS

Regulatory Authorities (RAs) are essential in all aspects of nuclear activities. They must be endowed with full authority, financial and human resources and, last but not least, total independence from any conflicting interests or political interference.

Since 1993 EU assistance has focused on:

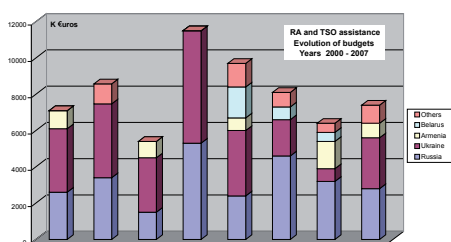
- Technical assistance for strengthening the capabilities of the nuclear regulator and its Technical Support Organisation (TSO) with transfer of regulatory methodology including the formulation of legislation and regulatory documents («Regulatory Pyramid»).
- Licensing assessments necessary for plant improvement projects with the view of upgrading and modernization safety measures for (i) the NPPs, (ii) other nuclear facilities (waste treatment and storage). They have been jointly carried out with experts of the EU TSO and of TSOs of the Beneficiary country ("2+2" approach).

Thanks to this EU technical and financial assistance the regulatory authorities' capabilities have been strengthened and much of the necessary legal framework has been put in place. However further efforts are needed in order to ensure continuity and sustainability of all these EU contributions.

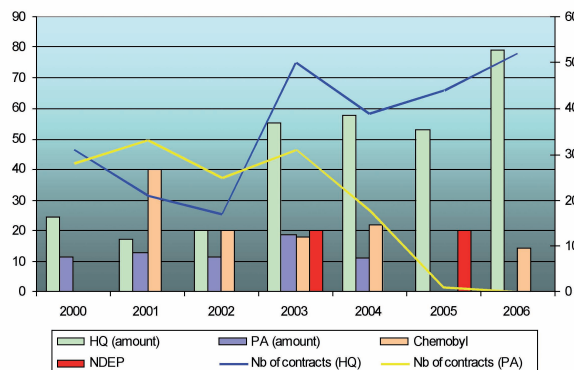
Expectations of the European Union

The cooperation with the RA of the ex-Tacis countries will continue. For the new countries, the first priority of cooperation is the development and the support in all aspects to the Regulatory Authority. An important

need for structured training to transfer EU know-how is being identified and EU TSOs will have to face this challenge.



Implementation between 2000 and 2006



Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation (INSC)

The Council Regulation N° 300/2007 provides the legal basis for INSC as successor to TACIS. This new Instrument of the EU is dedicated to the promotion and development of nuclear safety. One main element offered by INSC is the assistance to and cooperation with all countries outside the EU no longer limited to CIS as it was with TACIS.

The European Commission (EC) has therefore found necessary to establish preliminary contacts with the «new countries». «EC Information Seminars» dedicated to Energy policy were jointly organised in mid 2008 in the interested countries.

They have to be backed by «Exploratory missions» in order to meet the national Authorities in charge of the issue of Nuclear Safety. To do so a Task Force consisting of EU experts from some national RAs has been set on an ad-hoc basis.

The main objectives of these missions are (i) to identify and confirm the countries state of readiness and need for assistance (ii) to jointly develop a cooperation programme for creating or reinforcing of the national Nuclear Regulatory Authority (NRA).

As a first approach two regions have been selected on the basis of geographical proximity and political criteria: Maghreb and Machrek. The first two Exploratory Missions in Jordan and Egypt were successful and led to two «start-up» projects which have been proposed for the Annual Programme 2008. Consultation with the INSC Committee and the Regulatory Authority Management Group (RAMG) will continue.

Clear criteria which will govern the European Commission's assistance are state in the Communication from the Commission to the Council and the EP addressing « the international challenge of nuclear safety and security » COM (2008) 312 final. They are further elaborated within the council working group.

