

## Eurosafe Forum 2005

- Introduction -

**Jean-Jacques Van Binnebeek, Director general of AVN**

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to welcome you in Brussels for the 2005-edition of the EUROSAFE forum. The under-title on the forum brochure, which translates the EUROSAFE approach objective, is:

**“Towards Convergence of Technical Nuclear Safety Practices in Europe”.**

It will be developed later.

This is the first time that a EUROSAFE forum is organised with another partner than IRSN & GRS, namely AVN.

The presence of AVN in the organisation of this forum is actually not surprising.

AVN, which is the specialist of Nuclear Safety in Belgium since the very beginning of nuclear energy in the country, has always been a strong supporter of **international exchanges in nuclear safety practices**.

In particular, AVN already participated to the EUROSAFE programme Committee for the last 5 years.

### **What are the objectives of this meeting?**

This year EUROSAFE forum will focus on “the safety improvements, their reason, the associated strategies and their implementation”, and gives the views of the various stakeholders, namely the authorities, the technical safety organisation and the utilities.

The programme will be discussed further by Mr Hahn.

As usual in the EUROSAFE for a; presentations of the latest technical developments on the proposed theme, with interaction with other stakeholders, will serve as a starting point to discussions, exchange of views between the participants.

This is the main purpose of the EUROSAFE forums.

This will involve, besides GRS, IRSN and AVN, their partners in the EU, Switzerland and Eastern Europe.

This programme and the widespread European origin of the participants demonstrate once more the **European anchorage of the EUROSAFE approach**.

The motto of the EUROSAFE approach, “Convergence (better **Harmonisation**) of technical nuclear safety practices in Europe”, put an even stronger emphasis on that European anchorage.

Also, the fact that, for the first time, the EUROSAFE forum is organised outside France or Germany and is held in **Brussels**, as centre of European Union institutions, is by no means a coincidence.

IRSN, GRS and AVN have always been strongly convinced that cooperation and exchanges of experience in Nuclear and Radiation Safety are essential in Europe.

Hence their initiative of cooperation, with other colleagues, to **harmonise the respective safety assessment approaches**

This initiative is actually some sort of technical and more detailed practical equivalent, on the field, of the development, by WENRA, of harmonised safety levels for the national regulations.

Even more,

the EUROSAFE members (GRS-IRSN-AVB & partners) are actually deeply convinced that **a nuclear safety expertise pole is necessary in Europe**

and they are already working together in order to achieve this goal.

My colleagues will develop this aspect further.

This **European nuclear safety expertise pole** could be based on **some pooling of so-called TSO capacities**

### **What is a TSO?**

TSO means **“Technical Safety Organisation”** (instead of “Technical Support Organisation”, without reference to safety and meaning anything, even accounting).

The **TSO concept** has no frozen definition (and perhaps there is no need for one, as adjustments are needed to cope with national practices), but only **specific conditions**:

- Is a **non profit-making organisation**
- **Supports its national nuclear safety authority**, in the field of nuclear and radiation safety
- Performs safety assessments with a **global regulatory approach** on a **regular** basis and with a **broad scope**
- Has a **profound competence** in nuclear and radiation safety (knowledge, expertise, long standing experience, global overview)
- **Maintain its expertise** by an adequate training and knowledge management programme for its staff
- Has a **value charter** implemented at all levels in the organisation and promoting: **honesty**, **independence**, **impartiality**, **consistency** in the safety approach, **respect** for all stakeholders
- Has a **code of ethics, avoiding conflicts of interest in full transparency**

#### **In short**

Basic conditions to be a TSO are  
to **regularly give trusted global** advises  
in Nuclear and radiation safety to its national Safety authorities  
with **sustained high competence, independence and ethics**.

Moreover, when the TSO is **not managed by the safety authority**,  
it may also be

- an **alternate source of regulatory ideas, of initiatives, of research** in Nuclear & Radiation Safety,
- but also an **independent source of information** for the political world, the media and the Public.

By pooling TSO activities in Europe to create an European **expertise pole**

- it is not only possible to harmonise **safety assessment practices**,
- **BUT** also to share **highly rare competences**, otherwise not maintainable
- **AND** to **reinforce the** national technical independence of judgement.

The initiatives to achieve these objectives will be further developed by my colleagues of IRSN and GRS.

I thank you for your attention.