

Welcome (first part) by Lothar Hahn, Technical-Scientific Director of GRS, at EUROSAFE 2004 in Berlin

Ladies and gentlemen, dear guests, dear colleagues,

As in the recent years, EUROSAFE has once again a big resonance and I am very glad that so many followed our invitation. I heartily say welcome to you. „Learning from experience – A cornerstone of nuclear safety” is the general theme of the EUROSAFE Forum this year.

What is the reason to go to such meetings and intensively discuss and exchange our experiences and findings, more or less regularly on a national and international level? The overall aim is, and I am convinced that you will agree, to reach a higher safety level in our countries and finally also in the whole of Europe, to gain more trust and confidence of the public in our work, and to leave a safe legacy to the next generations. We should never forget that in our democracies we have a clear allocation of tasks and clear corresponding responsibilities concerning nuclear safety and security. This is given by the different interests of the different parties involved: operators, producers, authorities, experts and the public. I represent here, together with Jacques Repussard, my counterpart of IRSN, the role of the experts, who give advice to the nuclear authorities on the best possible scientific and reliable basis.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The forum will start with three overview presentations followed by a plenary discussion, which should give to you some guidance and an introduction to the five technical seminars tomorrow, where experts from IRSN and GRS as well as partners from Western and Eastern Europe present detailed lectures.

I just want to remind you of our bi-annual magazin “EUROSAFE Tribune”, where the basic results of the forum will be documented. It will be available at the beginning of the next year.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I am convinced that this forum will initiate fruitful discussions, which will lead us to the general motto of EUROSAFE “Towards convergence of technical nuclear safety practices in Europe”. Jacques Repussard and I myself have the vision of a common understanding and practice of nuclear safety in the enlarging Europe. In the following, we will offer to you our respective thoughts and ideas. Jacques will start and I will finish our common vision.

Jacques, you have the floor.