

EUROPEAN AFFAIRS IN 2018

Cooperation within the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom)

In the context of the membership of the Slovak Republic in the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom), ÚJD SR covered the European agenda on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy throughout the year 2018, ensured the tasks and fulfilled the obligations resulting from this membership. Representatives of ÚJD SR regularly participated in meetings of the working groups of the EU Council, as well as in meetings of working committees and groups of the European Commission, where they defended the interests of Slovakia as experts in the areas related to the ÚJD SR competencies, especially in relation to obligations and activities resulting from the Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom Treaty).

One of the most important working groups of the Council of the EU in terms of nuclear safety is the Working Party on Atomic Questions (ATO). In 2018, the WP ATO held eleven meetings. In the first half of the year Bulgaria chaired the meetings (BG PRES), in the second half year it was Austria (AT PRES). In the context of the preparation of the EU's multiannual financial framework after 2020, two important documents were submitted to this working group. The first is the Proposal for a Council Regulation establishing a European Instrument for Nuclear Safety Complementing Neighbourhood Instrument and Development and International Cooperation under the Euratom Treaty. The European Instrument for Nuclear Safety aims to promote the introduction of efficient and effective nuclear safety standards in third countries based on experience gained from nuclear safety activities within the Euratom community. In accordance with the mechanism of cooperation within the framework of European Affairs of ÚJD SR pursuant to with the Government Resolution No. 627/2013, ÚJD SR experts drafted and submitted to the inter-ministerial commenting procedure and for approval the preliminary opinion on the given draft. The second important document is the Proposal of a Council Regulation laying down a specific program for the financing of decommissioning of nuclear installations and radioactive waste management, which includes continuing to support EU funding for decommissioning of NPP Bohunice V-1. Further, in 2018 the WP ATO did the preparations and discussed the 6th Review Meeting on the Joint Convention on the Safe Management of Radioactive Waste and Spent Nuclear Fuel, which was held in the spring at the IAEA headquarters in Vienna. At the end of the year, during the AT PRES, discussions started on the draft Council Conclusions on the results of thematic assessment under Council Directive 2014/87/Euratom on nuclear safety, which will continue also in 2019.

Throughout 2018, the European Nuclear Safety Regulators Group (ENSREG) in cooperation with the EC, has prepared, coordinated and subsequently evaluated the historically first topical peer review (TPR) by the Euratom member states on the topic of nuclear power plants ageing management. The TPR meeting took place in May 2018 in Luxembourg. In this respect, ÚJD SR, in cooperation with the operator, developed and sent to EC the National Assessment Report on Aging Management of Nuclear Power Plants. The priority of the Slovak Republic during the meeting was to defend the report in this area and to respond satisfactorily to all questions raised. The assessment included 16 Euratom member states with nuclear power plants and/or research reactors of 1 MW and more, including Norway, Ukraine and Switzerland. More than 2,300 questions were raised, of which 115 were for Slovakia. Also the public had the opportunity to join the process. Five specific areas were evaluated, namely aging management programs, power cables, concealed pipes, reactor pressure vessels and containment concrete structures. TPR fulfilled the objectives set out in Council Directive 2014/87/Euratom. NPPs in Slovakia were rated very well. In general, areas of improvement for NPPs have been identified, but no

major deficiencies. The final version of the Final Report was endorsed by the ENSREG group in October 2018. By September 2019, the member states, including SR, are to develop National Action Plans to address findings and results, in order to further improve the quality of aging management of NPPs, as well as research reactors. The experience gained in this process will be taken into account in the preparation of the next topical assessment, which will take place in 6 years on the set topic.

Other activities within the ENSREG and its subgroups in 2018 aimed at continuing to monitor the measures taken and implementing recommendations resulting from the peer reviews as part of the Stress Tests (Action Plan) implemented after the nuclear accident in Fukushima. Slovakia continuously implements and fulfils all set recommendations.

In January 2018, the EC published the second Report of the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on the implementation of Council Directive 2006/117/Euratom on regulation and control during shipments of RAW and SNF by the member states that the EC developed on the basis of national reports of the member states, including Slovakia. The report covers shipments for a period 2012 – 2014.

In August 2018, ÚJD SR sent the second National Report of the Slovak Republic to the EC in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Council Directive 2011/70/Euratom establishing a Community framework for responsible and safe management of SNF and RAW. Slovakia fulfils all its obligations under this Directive.

Regarding the Integral Storage Facility for Radioactive Waste in Jaslovske Bohunice, general data were notified to the EC pursuant to Article 37 of the Euratom Treaty, which were drafted in accordance with the relevant schedules to the Commission Recommendations 2010/635/Euratom. Subsequently, the EC issued a positive opinion in November 2018. In April 2018, JAVYS, a. s., forwarded to ÚJD SR general data pursuant to Article 37 of the Euratom Treaty on Completion of Storage Capacity of Interim Spent Fuel Storage in Jaslovske Bohunice with request for their notification to the EC. The documentation was reviewed, after which request was raised to re-work and complete it. After completion, the documentation will be sent to EC in 2019.

In the course of 2018, the inter-ministerial coordination group continued to coordinate the tasks arising from Articles of the Euratom Treaty, which was established at ÚJD SR on the basis of Government Resolution No. 442/2006. Two meetings were held during the year, in June and in December 2018. At these meetings current topics (such as, for example, Brexit, transposition of Council Directive 2013/59/Euratom, results of the first thematic review meeting under the Council Directive 2014/87/Euratom, and other) were discussed, and recommendations were adopted for the implementation of the Euratom Treaty.