

EUROPEAN AFFAIRS IN 2020

Cooperation within the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom)

In the context of the Slovak Republic's membership in the EU and in the European Atomic Energy Community, ÚJD SR performed the tasks and fulfilled the obligations arising from its membership. Activities in 2020 were marked by the epidemiological situation caused by COVID-19. Representatives of ÚJD SR participated - mainly in virtual or written form - in negotiations in working groups of the EU Council and in meetings of working committees and EC groups where, as experts in areas related to the Authority's competencies, especially in relation to obligations and activities arising from the Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community, they defended the interests of the Slovak Republic.

One of the most important working groups of the Council of the EU from the point of view of nuclear safety is the Working Party on Atomic Questions (WPAQ). In the first half of 2020, the EU Council was chaired by Croatia (HR PRES). Regular meetings of the WPAQ took place only in January and February. Subsequently, the meetings were cancelled. Virtual online meetings took place in May and June, followed mainly by written communication. In February 2020, Special Report No. 3 of the European Court of Auditors entitled "The Commission contributes to nuclear safety in the EU, but updates are needed", to which HR PRES distributed the draft Council Conclusions in March. Subsequently, comments were made and a compromise text was reached, which was approved by the silent procedure of the WPAQ, the written procedure of COR2 and the Council of the EU on 29 June 2020. In the second half of 2020, during the German Presidency (DE PRES), virtual meetings of the WPAQ were organized to a limited extent. The key issues were the completion of discussions on regulations under the Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027, the Regulation on the European Instrument for Nuclear Safety for third countries, the Regulation on the continuation of EBO V-1 decommissioning after 2020 and the Euratom Community report on the 7th Review Meeting of the Joint Convention on the Safe Management of RAW and the Safe Management of SNF.

Due to the pandemic situation already mentioned, only one virtual plenary meeting of the European High Level Group on Nuclear Safety (ENSREG) took place in 2020. At its 41st meeting, ENSREG, as an advisory body to the EC, discussed the procedure for preparing the second topical peer review under Council Directive 2014/87 / Euratom and approved NI's fire safety as a review topic. The Group also discussed the work of working groups, the state of Stress Tests in third countries (e.g. Belarus) and approved the ENSREG report for the EU Council and the European Parliament. Other activities within the ENSREG Group and its subgroups in 2020 focused mainly on the continued monitoring of measures taken and on the implementation of recommendations resulting from peer reviews carried out in the framework of Stress Tests (Action Plan) carried out after the Fukushima-Daiichi NPP accident. The account of the implementation of the Action Plan is published on the website of ÚJD SR, as well as on the ENSREG's website.

In July 2020, the Slovak Republic submitted to the EC the second report on the implementation of the provisions of Council Directive 2014/87/Euratom amending Directive 2009/71/Euratom establishing a Community framework for the nuclear safety of nuclear installations. The report is based on the ENSREG manual from February 2019 and contains basic information on how

the Slovak Republic is implementing the provisions of the Directive. The report from 2020 is available on the website of ÚJD SR.

In December 2020, the fourth National Report of the SR on the implementation of Council Directive 2006/117/Euratom on supervision and control of cross-border shipments of RAW and SNF for the period 2018-2020 was prepared and sent to the EC. We can state that the Slovak Republic fulfils all its obligations under this Directive.

In April 2020, the Authority forwarded the basic data to the EC through the Permanent Representation of the SR to the EU in Brussels to effect a notification pursuant to Article 37 of the Euratom Treaty in the case of "Completion of the storage capacity of the interim storage facility for spent nuclear fuel in the Bohunice site". The documentation was prepared by JAVYS, a. s., subsequently assessed and commented on by ÚJD SR in cooperation with ÚVZSR, MH SR and MŽP SR. The EC communicated its positive opinion by letter of 12 October 2020.

In the course of 2020, the inter-ministerial coordination group for the coordination of tasks arising from the articles of the Euratom Treaty, which was established at ÚJD SR on the basis of Government Resolution No. 442/2006, continued in its activities. As a result of the restrictions adopted, reflecting the epidemiological situation, two meetings were held in spring and autumn. The summary information covered topics such as the European Court of Auditors' report on nuclear safety in the EU, the EU taxonomy in relation to nuclear energy and the planning of the ARTEMIS mission.