

EUROPEAN AFFAIRS IN 2021

Cooperation within the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom)

In the context of Slovakia's membership in the European union (EU) and the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom), the Authority carried out the tasks and fulfilled the obligations arising from this membership. Activities in 2021 were significantly affected by the COVID. Representatives of the ÚJD SR participated, mainly virtually or in writing (per rollam), in the EU Council working groups and in the European Commission (EC) working committees and groups, where they presented the interests of the Slovak Republic as experts in areas related to the Authority's competences, in particular in relation to the obligations and activities arising from the Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community.

One of the most important working groups of the EU Council related to nuclear safety is the Working Party on Atomic Questions (WPAQ). Key topics of the WPAQ deliberations were e.g. the CPPNM Review Conference or the merger of the 8th and 9th Review Meetings on the national reports under the Convention on Nuclear Safety.

In 2021, three hybrid plenary meetings of the European Nuclear Safety Regulators Group (ENSREG) were held under the Slovak chairmanship. ENSREG, as an advisory body to the EC, discussed the procedure for the preparation of the second topical review under Council Directive 2014/87/Euratom on the topic of fire safety of nuclear installations. The Group further discussed the work of the Working Groups, the status of Stress Tests in third countries, and prepared for a conference on nuclear safety to be held in 2022. Other activities within ENSREG in 2021 were mainly focused on the continuation of the monitoring of the measures taken and on the implementation of the recommendations resulting from the stress tests (Action Plan) carried out after the Fukushima nuclear accident. An up-to-date report on the implementation of the Action Plan is published on the website of the ÚJD SR, as well as on the ENSREG website.

In August 2021, the Slovak Republic submitted to the EC its third report on the implementation of the provisions of Council Directive 2011/70/Euratom establishing a Community framework for the responsible and safe management of spent fuel and radioactive waste. The report is also published on the ÚJD SR website.

During 2021, the Interdepartmental Coordination Group for the coordination of tasks arising from the articles of the Euratom Treaty, which was established at the ÚJD SR on the basis of the Slovak Government Resolution No. 442/2006, continued its activities. As a result of the restrictions adopted reflecting the epidemiological situation, two per rollam meetings were organized in spring and autumn. The group discussed topical issues such as the EU taxonomy in relation to nuclear energy and the planning of ARTEMIS missions.