

# ENSREG Austrian Comments

## Input Paper - SET Plan

Vienna, 26 April 2016

Austria follows the preparation works of the European Commission aimed at implementing the new SET Plan<sup>1</sup> with growing concerns. The documents circulated for comment and review „*Set Plan Actions*“ (version 14. October 2015)<sup>2</sup> and „*Issue Paper No. 10 – Nuclear*“ (version 6. April 2016)<sup>3</sup> are reinforcing these concerns, as they display a distinct promotional bias.

The pertinent Communication from the European Commission **has not even been formally transmitted to the Council up to now and thus Council has not acted on this communication so far. Therefore, the 2015 SET Plan can not be taken as an accepted European policy guideline.**

**Existing binding legal framework such as the Research Framework Programme can not and may not be undermined by the European Commissions` s communications or other documents.**

The new SET Plan itself is in contradiction with an essential common position by the Commission and Euratom Member States: **The concept of continuous improvement of nuclear safety.** As set out, inter alia, the revised “Euratom Nuclear Safety Directive”<sup>4</sup> stipulates that not only the highest safety standards should be applied for new nuclear power plants, but safety should be continuously improved and upgraded also at existing plants. Austria furthermore refers to the negotiations under the "CNS Vienna Declaration", where EU-Europe pursued the concept of continuous improvement of nuclear safety against resistance of almost all other parties to the Convention.

While the second additional priority in Chapter 2.5 - *An Energy Union for Research, Innovation and Competitiveness - in the Communication on the Energy Union*<sup>5</sup> is also summarized in the SET Plan with "increase safety" Action 10 in the SET Plan mentions "Maintaining ... safety" only. This contradiction is also to be found in the document "*SET Plan Actions - Implementation process and expected outcomes ANNEX I - Energy Union priorities / Research and Innovation and Competitiveness SET plan related actions*" (p4, heading): "1. *Maintaining high level safety and security*", and in the "*Issue Paper No. 10 - Nuclear*" : "*To achieve the above top-level targets, and to enable nuclear to remain a safe and competitive option in the future energy mix, ...* ".

Furthermore, the thesis that the long-term operation (LTO) mainly relates to the bridge to new installations, seems questionable given the current and foreseeable medium term market development.

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<sup>1</sup> C(2015)6317, SET Plan Communication of the Commission, 15 September 2015

<sup>2</sup> Set Plan Actions - Implementation process and expected outcomes, 14 October 2015, SET Plan Secretariat

<sup>3</sup> Issue Paper No. 10, Nuclear, 6. April 2016, SET Plan Secretariat

<sup>4</sup> Directive 2009/71/Euratom establishing a Community framework for the nuclear safety of nuclear installations and its amendment, Directive 2014/87/Euratom

<sup>5</sup> COM(2015) 80 final, Energy Union Package - Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions and the European Investment Bank, A Framework Strategy for a Resilient Energy Union with a Forward-Looking Climate Change Policy, Brussels 25. 2. 2015

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Finally, the objectives of the "Sustainable Nuclear Energy Technology Platform" (SNETP, <http://www.snetp.eu/>), are not in accordance with the Research Framework Programme as its "*emphasis on continuous improvement of nuclear safety, security and radiation protection*"<sup>6</sup> is not at all duly reflected in the SNETP objectives.

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<sup>6</sup> Council Regulation (Euratom) No 1314/2013 of 16 December 2013 on the Research and Training Programme of the European Atomic Energy Community (2014-2018) complementing the Horizon 2020 Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, Art. 3