

## THE PRINCIPLES AND STAKEHOLDERS IN NUCLEAR SAFETY REGULATION, RADIATION PROTECTION AND PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

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## CHAPTER 2

On behalf of the State, the Nuclear Safety Authority (ASN) regulates nuclear safety and radiation protection, in order to protect workers, patients, the public and the environment from the risks related to nuclear activities. It also contributes towards informing the citizens.

Its aim is to improve nuclear safety and radiation protection, the fundamental objective of which is to protect individuals, society and the environment, by creating and maintaining effective defences against radiological risks in nuclear installations.

This general objective, which is in line with the principles of nuclear safety, radiation protection and protection of the environment as stated in the Constitution, entails a number of operational goals:

- in operating conditions, exposure to ionising radiations as a result of nuclear activities must be kept below the specified limits and at a level that is as low as reasonably achievable;
- preventive measures must be taken against accidents in nuclear installations;
- should an accident occur, steps must be taken to mitigate its consequences.

## 1 THE PRINCIPLES OF NUCLEAR SAFETY, RADIATION PROTECTION AND PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Nuclear activities must be carried out in compliance with the basic principles of the legal texts.

The Environment Charter, appended to the Constitution, establishes the principle of preventive and corrective action primarily at the source, the “polluter-pays” principle, the precautionary principle and the principle of public participation.

The Public Health Code establishes the three principles of radiation protection: justification, optimisation and limitation.

The TSN Act establishes the principle of the licensee’s responsibility.

the polluter responsible for the environmental damage. This principle is defined in Article 4 of the Environment Charter in these terms: “An individual must contribute to reparation of the environmental damage he or she has caused”.

This principle in particular entails the taxing of basic nuclear installations (BNIs) (the “BNI” tax), of radioactive waste producers (additional tax on radioactive waste) and of installations classified on environmental protection grounds (ICPE) (fraction of the general tax on polluting activities - TGAP).

### 1 | 1 The principle of preventive and corrective action, primarily at the source

The “prevention principle” requires the implementation of rules and actions designed to anticipate any environmental damage, which must take account of the “best techniques available at an economically acceptable cost”.

This principle is defined in Article 3 of the Environment Charter. It is stipulated in the Environment Code.

### 1 | 2 “Polluter-pays” principle

The “polluter-pays” principle applies the principle of the responsibility of the licensee in conditions defined by the Environment Code, in that it requires that the cost of pollution prevention and mitigation measures be borne by

### 1 | 3 Precautionary principle

The precautionary principle means that the absence of certainty, in the light of current scientific and technical knowledge, must not delay the adoption of environmental protection measures. Article 5 of the Environment Charter states that “When a particular damage, albeit uncertain in the light of current scientific knowledge, could seriously and irreversibly affect the environment, the public authorities shall employ the precautionary principle in their particular areas of competence to ensure that risk assessments are made and provisional, proportionate measures are taken to prevent the damage occurring”.

With regard to the biological effects of ionising radiations at low doses and low dose rates, the precautionary principle is implemented with the adoption of a linear dose-effect relationship without threshold. This point is clarified in chapter 1 of this report.

## 1 | 4 Public participation principle

This principle, which stipulates participation of the populations in the drafting of decisions by the public authorities, is defined in Article 7 of the Environment Charter as follows: “In the conditions and within the limits defined by law, all individuals are entitled to access environmental information in the possession of the public authorities and to take part in drafting public decisions with an impact on the environment”.

In the nuclear field, mandatory national public debates are held before the construction of a nuclear power plant for example, along with public inquiries, in particular during the review of files concerning the creation or decommissioning of nuclear installations. The consultation of regional authorities with respect to certain decisions and the creation of local information committees (CLI) also illustrate this participation principle.

The right to information concerns all the fields of activity of ASN, which saw the scope of its powers enhanced by the TSN Act. ASN therefore contributes to informing the public about nuclear safety and radiation protection (responsibility presented in chapter 6):

- informing the public about events occurring in BNIs or during the transport of radioactive materials, about discharges or releases from BNIs;
- informing workers about their individual radiological exposure;
- informing patients about the medical procedure, in particular its radiological aspect.

## 1 | 5 Justification principle

Article L. 1333-1 of the Public Health Code (CSP) states that: “A nuclear activity or an intervention can only be undertaken or carried out if its health, social, economic or scientific benefits so justify, given the risks inherent in human exposure to ionising radiation which it is likely to entail”.

Depending on the type of activity, the justification decision is taken at various levels of authority: it is the responsibility of the Government for questions of general interest, such as the decision to resort to the use of nuclear power, in particular the creation or decommissioning of a BNI; it is the responsibility of ASN for transport operations or sources of radiation used for medical or non-medical purposes, except with regard to the introduction of radionuclides into consumer goods or building materials, for which responsibility lies with the Government. This decision is the responsibility of AFSSAPS with regard to release onto the market of a new irradiating medical device and of the physicians when prescribing and performing a diagnostic or therapeutic procedure.

Assessment of the expected benefit of a nuclear activity and the corresponding health drawbacks may lead to prohibition of an activity for which the benefit would not seem to outweigh the health risk. This prohibition is either generic (for example, a ban on voluntary irradiation of individuals for non-medical purposes), or the radiation protection license required will be refused or not renewed. For existing activities, justification may be reassessed if the state of know-how and technology so warrants.

## 1 | 6 Optimisation principle

Article L. 1333-1 of the CSP states that: “Human exposure to ionising radiations as a result of a nuclear activity or medical procedure must be kept as low as reasonably achievable, given current technology, economic and social factors and, as applicable, the medical purpose involved.”

This principle, referred to as the ALARA principle, for example leads to a reduction in the discharge licenses, of the quantities of radionuclides present in the radioactive effluents from nuclear installations, to requiring surveillance of exposure at the workstation in order to reduce it to the strict minimum, and to ensure that medical exposure as a result of diagnostic procedures remains close to the predetermined reference levels.

## 1 | 7 Limitation principle

Article L. 1333-1 of the CSP states that: “Exposure of an individual to ionising radiations as a result of a nuclear activity may not increase the sum of the doses received beyond the limits set by the regulations, except when this individual is exposed for medical or biomedical research purposes.”

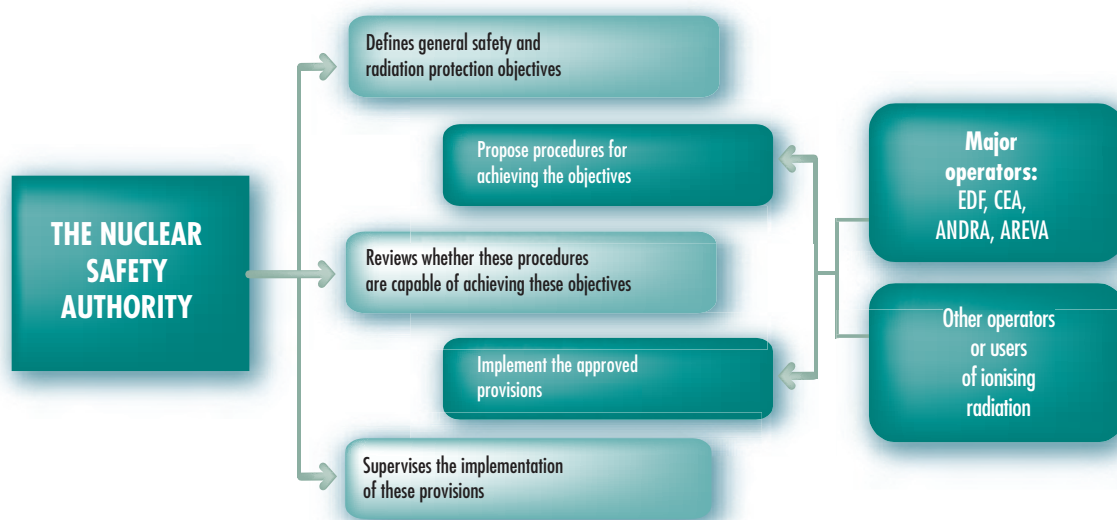
The exposure of the general population or of workers as a result of nuclear activities is subject to strict limits. These limits comprise significant safety margins to prevent the appearance of deterministic effects. They are also far below the doses at which probabilistic effects (cancers) have begun to be observed.

Exceeding these limits is considered to be unacceptable and, in France, can lead to administrative or legal sanctions.

In the case of medical exposure, no strict dose limit is set provided that this voluntary exposure is justified by the expected health benefits to the person exposed.

## 1 | 8 The principle of licensee responsibility

The responsibility principle states that the responsibility for activities entailing a risk lies with those who undertake



### Responsibility of licensees and responsibility of ASN

or carry out these activities. This principle is defined in Article 9 of the International Convention on Nuclear Safety (see chapter 7) in these terms: “Each Contracting Party shall ensure that prime responsibility for the safety of a nuclear installation rests with the holder of the relevant licence and shall take the appropriate steps to ensure that each licence holder meets its responsibility”. It is enshrined in the TSN Act.

It applies to all activities:

- responsibility of the licensees for the safety of basic nuclear installations (BNIs);
- responsibility of the various stakeholders for the transport of radioactive materials;

- responsibility of holders of licences or receipts of notification for small-scale nuclear activities;
- responsibility of suppliers for the recovery of radioactive sources;
- responsibility of employers for the radiation protection of workers;
- responsibility of the prescribing doctor and practitioner of the procedure for the radiation protection of patients;
- responsibility of polluters for any harm they may cause to the environment;
- responsibility of producers of radioactive materials for waste disposal.

## 2 THE STAKEHOLDERS

The Convention on Nuclear Safety (see chapter 7, point 4 | 1) establishes the framework for the regulation and inspection of nuclear safety and radiation protection. Its Article 7 requires that “Each Contracting Party shall establish and maintain a legislative and regulatory framework to govern the safety of nuclear installations” and its Article 8 requires of each Member State that it “shall establish or designate a regulatory body entrusted with the implementation of the legislative and regulatory framework referred to in Article 7 and provided with adequate authority, competence and financial and human resources to fulfil its assigned responsibilities”.

These stipulations are incorporated into the European Directive of 25 June 2009 concerning nuclear safety.

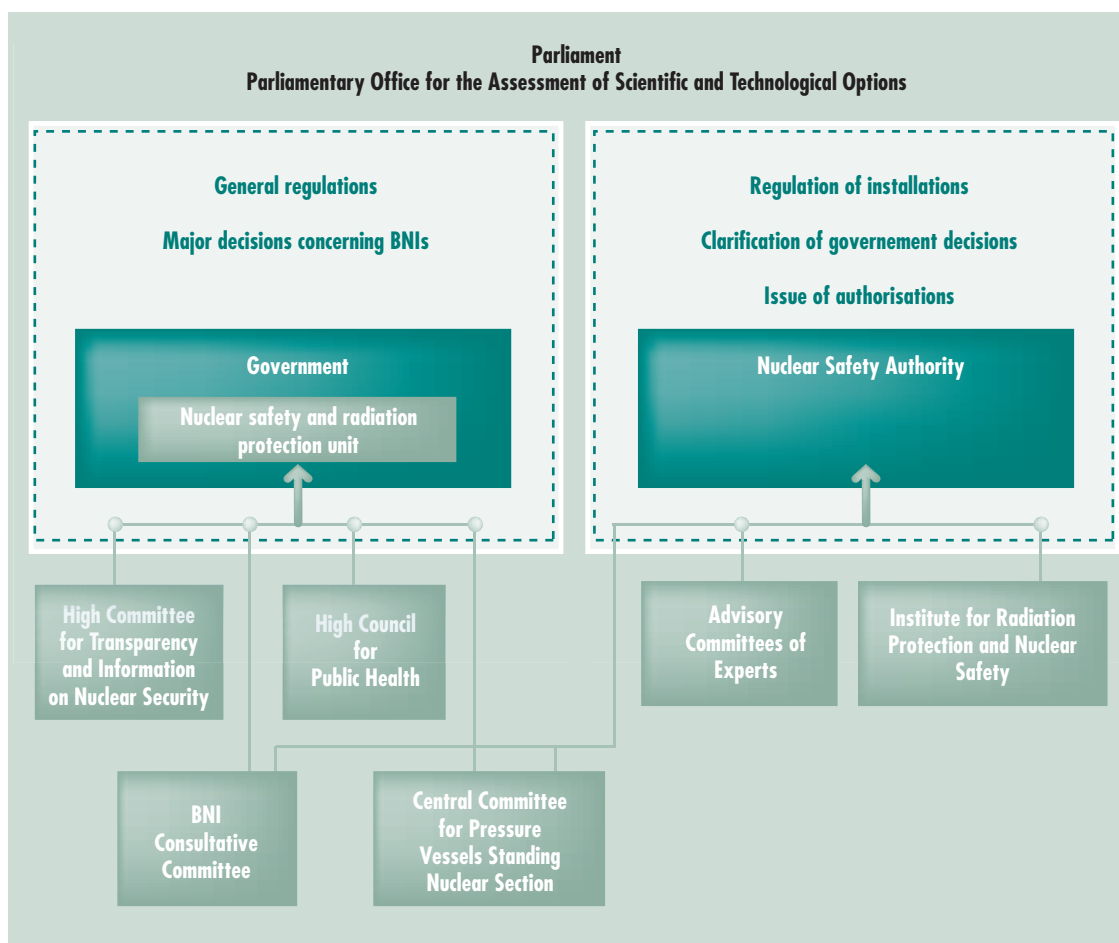
In France, the regulation of nuclear safety and radiation is primarily the responsibility of three parties: Parliament, the Government and ASN. Act 2006-686 of 13 June 2006 on transparency and security in the nuclear field (TSN Act)

defines the respective responsibilities of the Government and ASN.

### 2 | 1 The Parliament

Parliament’s role in the field of nuclear safety and radiation protection is in particular to pass acts. Two major acts were thus passed in 2006: the above-mentioned TSN Act and Programme Act 2006-739 of 28 June 2006 on the sustainable management of radioactive materials and waste.

In the same way as the other independent administrative authorities and by virtue of the TSN Act, ASN regularly reports on its activities to Parliament. ASN in particular presents Parliament with its annual report on the state of nuclear safety and radiation protection in France.



Regulation of nuclear safety and radiation protection in France

### The work of the OPECST

*In the field of nuclear safety, the Parliamentary Office has since it was created focused on the administrative organisation of nuclear safety and radiation protection, the arrangements made by the licensees in this field, the structures adopted in other countries and the adequacy of the resources given to ASN for the performance of its regulatory responsibilities. Other studies concerned the management of radioactive waste and the operating life of nuclear reactors, or even socio-political issues, such as the conditions surrounding the distribution and perception of information about nuclear matters.*

*The Office's reports are produced ahead of an act being voted, in order to prepare the legislative decision, or subsequently, to monitor implementation of the voted text. The Office's first report on radioactive waste, prepared by Mr. Christian Bataille and adopted in December 1990, was drawn on extensively by the 30 December 1991 Act on research into radioactive waste management. Similarly, the report by Mr. Christian Bataille and Mr. Claude Birraux entitled "Looking after the long term, an Act in 2006 on the sustainable management of radioactive waste", adopted by the Parliamentary Office on 15 March 2005, was also a significant source of inspiration for the 28 June 2006 Programme Act on the sustainable management of radioactive materials and waste.*

*The members of the French Parliamentary Office for the Evaluation of Scientific and Technological Choices also played an important role in drafting the 13 June 2006 Act on transparency and security in the nuclear field.*

*In particular, the rapporteurs for the bill in the Senate, Messrs Henri Revol and Bruno Sido, were also members of the OPECST. Other deputies, who were members, such as Messrs Christian Bataille, Claude Birraux, Jean Dionis du Séjour, Claude Gagnon, Jean-Yves Le Déaut, played a significant part in the debate on the bill in the National Assembly, with several of their amendments being adopted.*

*After its recommendations were transcribed into the 2006 Acts on the sustainable management of radioactive materials and waste and transparency and security in the nuclear field, the Parliamentary Office was closely involved in supervising the implementation of these two Acts.*

*ASN reports on its activities primarily to the OPECST, in particular through the presentation of its annual report.*

### The French Office for the Evaluation of Scientific and Technical Choices

The French Office for the Evaluation of Scientific and Technical Choices (OPECST) was created in 1983 and is a parliamentary delegation of eighteen members of the National Assembly and eighteen members of the Senate. Its role is to inform Parliament of the consequences of the scientific or technological choices made, in particular so that it can make its decision in full possession of the facts. The Parliamentary Office is assisted by a Scientific Council comprising 24 members, with the composition of the Council reflecting the diversity of scientific and technical disciplines.

## 2 | 2 The Government

The Government exercises regulatory powers. It is therefore in charge of laying down the general regulations concerning nuclear safety and radiation protection. The TSN Act also tasks it with taking major decisions concerning BNIs. It relies on proposals or opinions from ASN.

The Government also consults bodies such as the BNI Consultative Committee, the High Committee for Transparency and Information on Nuclear Security, and the High Council for Public Health.

The Government is responsible for civil protection in the event of an emergency.

### 2 | 2 | 1 The ministers responsible for nuclear safety and radiation protection

The ministers responsible for nuclear safety are at present the Minister for Ecology, Energy, Sustainable Development and the Sea, in charge of Green Technologies and Climate Negotiations (MEEDDM) and the Minister for the Economy, Industry and Employment (MEIE). On the advice of and, as applicable, following a proposal by ASN, they define the general regulations applicable to BNIs and take major individual decisions concerning:

- the design, construction, operation, final shutdown and decommissioning of BNIs;

- the final shutdown, maintenance and surveillance of radioactive waste disposal facilities;
- the construction and operation of pressure vessels (ESP) specifically designed for these installations.

On the advice of ASN, if an installation presents serious risks, the above-mentioned ministers may pronounce suspension of its operation.

Furthermore, the minister in charge of health (the Minister for Health and Sports) is responsible for radiation protection. The minister determines the general regulations concerning radiation protection, as applicable on the basis of proposals from ASN.

The regulations covering the radiation protection of workers are the responsibility of the minister in charge of labour (Minister for Labour, Labour Relations, the Family and Solidarity).

Finally, the ministers responsible for nuclear safety and for radiation protection approve the ASN internal regulations by means of a Government order. Each of them also approves ASN technical regulatory decisions and certain individual decisions (setting BNI discharge limits, delicensing a BNI, etc.) affecting his own particular field.

### *The Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection Mission*

Under the authority of the ministers responsible for nuclear safety and for radiation protection and within the General Directorate for Risk Prevention at the MEEDDM, the Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection Mission (MSNR), jointly with ASN, is tasked with proposing Government policy on nuclear safety and radiation protection, except for defence-related activities and installations and the radiation protection of workers against ionising radiations.

## 2|2|2 The *préfets*

The *préfets* are the State's representatives in the *départements*\*. They are the guarantors of public order and play a particularly important role in the event of an emergency, in that they are responsible for measures to protect the population.

The *préfet* intervenes during the various procedures presented in chapter 3. He in particular issues his opinion on authorisation applications and, at the request of ASN, calls on the Departmental Council for the Environment and Health and Technological Risks, to obtain its

opinion on water intake, effluent discharges and other detrimental effects of BNIs.

## 2|3 The Nuclear Safety Authority (ASN)

The TSN Act created an independent administrative authority, ASN, responsible for regulating nuclear safety and radiation protection. ASN advises the Government on general regulatory texts and the main individual decisions. It prepares draft regulatory texts on behalf of the Government and clarifies the regulations through technical decisions. It issues certain individual authorisations and proposes others to the Government. The nuclear safety and radiation protection inspectors designated by ASN carry out monitoring and inspection of nuclear activities. ASN contributes to informing the citizens. Finally, it assists with the management of radiological emergency situations.

From a technical viewpoint, ASN relies on the expertise provided by the Institute for Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety (IRSN) and Advisory Committees of experts.

### 2|3|1 Responsibilities

#### *Regulations*

ASN is consulted on draft decrees and ministerial orders of a regulatory nature and dealing with nuclear safety.

It can take regulatory decisions of a technical nature to complete the implementing procedures for decrees and orders adopted in the nuclear safety or radiation protection field, except for those relating to occupational medicine. Decisions relative to nuclear safety are subject to the approval of the ministers tasked with nuclear safety and decisions relative to radiation protection are subject to the approval of the ministers tasked with radiation protection.

Approval orders and approved decisions are published in the Official Gazette (Journal officiel).

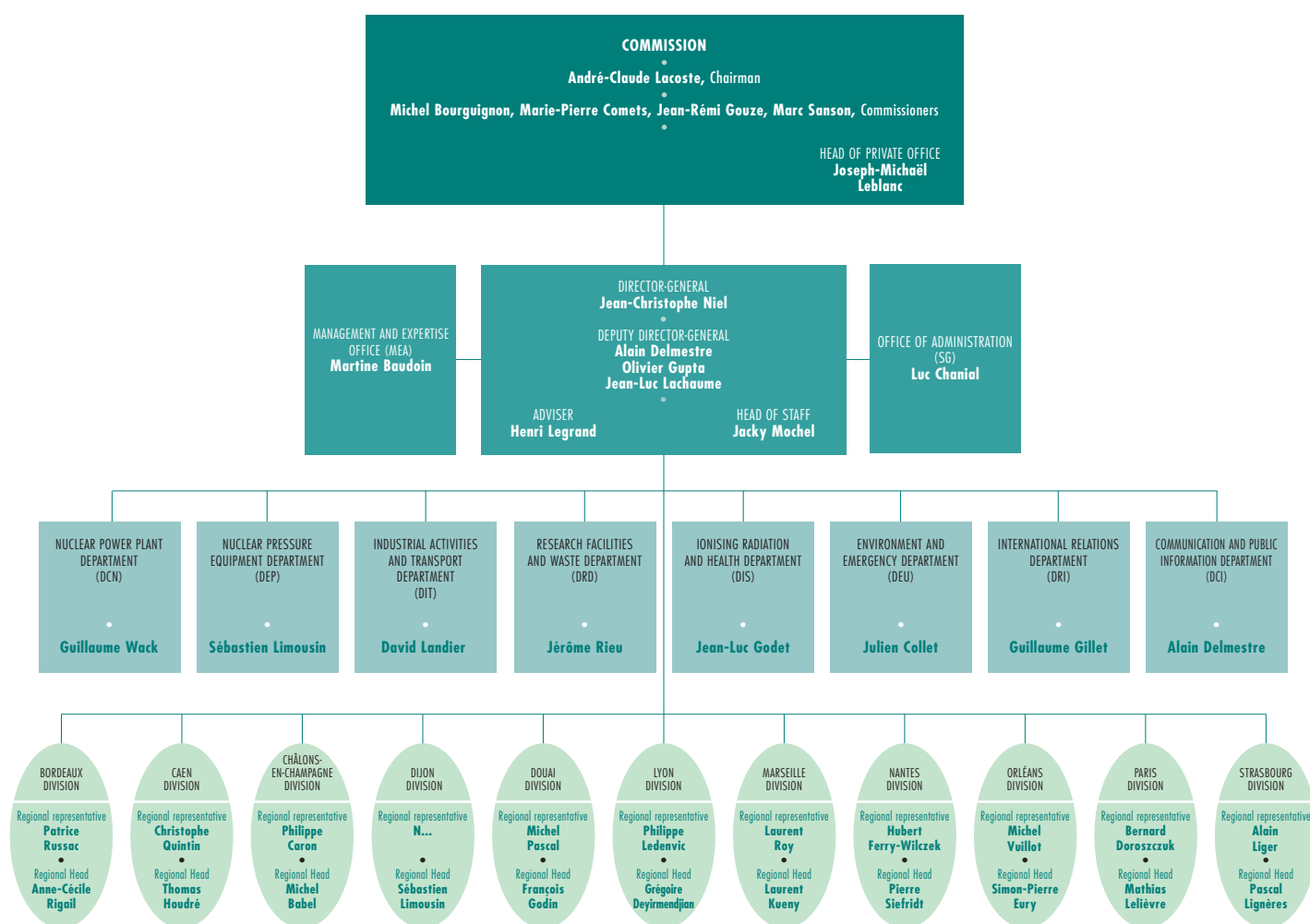
#### *Authorisation*

ASN reviews BNI authorisation or decommissioning applications, issues opinions and makes proposals to the Government concerning the decrees to be issued in these fields. It defines the requirements applicable to these installations with regard to the prevention of risks, pollution and detrimental effects. It authorises commissioning of these installations and pronounces delicensing following completion of decommissioning.

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\*Administrative region headed by a *Préfet*.





ASN organisation chart applicable as at 31 December 2009

Some of these ASN decisions require approval by the ministers responsible for nuclear safety.

ASN also issues the licenses provided for in the CSP concerning small-scale nuclear activities and issues authorisations or approvals for radioactive material transport operations.

ASN's decisions and opinions are published in its Official Bulletin on its website, [www.asn.fr](http://www.asn.fr).

### Controls

ASN checks compliance with the general rules and particular requirements concerning nuclear safety and radiation protection applicable to BNIs, the construction and use of pressure equipment specifically designed for these installations, the transport of radioactive substances and the activities mentioned in Article L. 1333-1 of the CSP and the individuals mentioned in Article L. 1333-10 of the same code.

ASN organises a permanent radiation protection watch throughout the national territory.

From among its own staff, it appoints nuclear safety inspectors, radiation protection inspectors and officers in charge of verifying compliance with pressure equipment requirements. It issues the required approvals to the organisations participating in the verifications and nuclear safety or radiation protection watch.

### Support in emergency situations

ASN is involved in managing radiological emergency situations. It provides technical assistance to the competent authorities for drafting of emergency response plans, taking account of the risks resulting from nuclear activities.

When such an emergency situation occurs, it assists the Government for all matters within its competence. It transmits its recommendations on the medical and health or civil security measures to be taken, it informs the





1. The ASN Executive Committee (from left to right):  
J. Mochel, O. Gupta, J.-L. Lachaume, J.-C. Niel, H. Legrand and A. Delmestre

2. The ASN management committee (from left to right):  
J.-L. Godet, A. Delmestre, L. Chanial, J. Collet, M. Baudoin, G. Gillet, J. Rieu,  
G. Wack and S. Limousin (D. Landier, not on photo)

3. The ASN regional heads (from left to right):  
P. Siefert, G. Deyirmendjian, M. Lelièvre, P. Lignères, T. Houdré, M. Babel,  
F. Godin, S. Limousin and S.-P. Eury (A.-C. Rigail and L. Kueny not on photo)

public about the situation, about any releases into the environment and their consequences.

### *Investigation in the event of an accident*

In the event of an incident or accident involving a nuclear activity, ASN may conduct a technical inquiry along similar lines to those applicable to “accident and investigation” boards called on to deal with transport accidents.

### *Information*

ASN participates in informing the public in its areas of competence. Chapter 6 of this report presents ASN actions in this field.

## 2 | 3 | 2 Organisation

ASN is run by a Commission and comprises central services and regional divisions.

### *ASN Commission*

The Commission comprises five Commissioners holding the post on a full-time basis. These appointments are permanent and have a non-renewable mandate of 6 years.

The Commission defines ASN strategy. It is more particularly involved in defining general policies, in other words the doctrines and principles underpinning ASN’s main responsibilities, which are regulation, inspection,

transparency, management of emergency situations, international relations, and so on. For this purpose, it defines the multi-year strategic plan (PSP).

Pursuant to the TSN Act, the Commission submits ASN’s opinions to the Government and takes the main ASN decisions.

The Commission adopts the ASN internal regulations which lay down its organisation and working rules, as well as its ethical guidelines.

In 2009, the ASN Commission met 69 times. It issued 13 opinions and took 42 decisions. They are listed in appendix B and are also available in the ASN’s Official Bulletin.

### *ASN central services*

The ASN central services comprise an Executive Committee, an Office of Administration, a Management and Expertise Office and eight departments covering specific themes.

Under the chairmanship of the ASN Director-General, the Executive Committee organises and manages the departments on a day to day basis. It ensures that the orientations determined by the Commission are followed and that ASN’s actions are effective. It oversees and coordinates the various entities.

## THE PRINCIPLES AND STAKEHOLDERS IN NUCLEAR SAFETY REGULATION, RADIATION PROTECTION AND PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

The role of the departments is the national management of the activities for which they are responsible. They take part in drafting the general regulations and coordinate the actions of the ASN divisions.

- The Nuclear Power Plant Department (DCN) is responsible for regulating and inspecting the safety of the NPPs in operation, as well as the safety of the future power generating reactor projects. This concerns nuclear safety in the broadest sense: technical but also organisational and human aspects, radiation protection and protection of the environment. The DCN contributes to consideration of regulation/inspection strategies and ASN actions on topical or high-stake subjects, such as the safety consequences of deregulation of EDF's electricity monopoly, installation ageing, the construction of a safety performance evaluation system for NPPs, or harmonisation of nuclear safety in Europe.
- The Nuclear Pressure Equipment Department (DEP) is responsible for regulating/inspecting safety and radiation protection in the field of BNI nuclear pressure equipment. It is more particularly tasked with drafting the regulations applicable to the construction of nuclear pressure equipment and checking implementation of these regulations, in particular by means of inspections carried out at the manufacturers and their subcontractors, and with checking the conformity of the equipment design, manufacturing and maintenance files with the regulations. The DEP declares the conformity of the more important nuclear pressure equipment. It also examines applications from the approved organisations who wish to carry out regulation inspections on nuclear pressure equipment.
- The Industrial Activities and Transport Department (DIT) is responsible for regulating and inspecting activities relating to the fuel cycle, sources of ionising radiations in the non-medical sector and transport of radioactive materials. Its main responsibilities in this respect are to help with drafting of the technical regulations and monitoring of their implementation, running authorisation procedures (cycle installations – AREVA installations - installations and devices emitting ionising radiations in the non-medical sector, approval of packages and organisations) and participating in management of emergency situations.
- The Research Facilities and Waste Department (DRD) is tasked with regulating/inspecting nuclear research installations, nuclear installations being decommissioned, polluted sites and radioactive waste. It checks CEA, ANDRA and, with regard to their installations being decommissioned, EDF and AREVA. The DRD, which is responsible for checking the safe management of radioactive waste, is thus the primary interface with those producing and disposing of radioactive waste, especially ANDRA. It takes part in inspecting the Bure underground research laboratory and the research installations covered by international conventions, such as CERN or ITER.
- The Ionising Radiation and Health Department (DIS) is responsible for regulating/inspecting the use of ionising radiations in the health sector. Its main responsibilities are – jointly with IRSN and the various health agencies concerned – to organise a scientific, health and medical watch concerning the effects of ionising radiations on health, to contribute to drafting regulations in the fields of radiation protection of the public, workers and patients, to help with drafting the technical regulations concerning the medical uses of ionising radiations and to contribute to health management of radiological incidents and accidents.
- The Environment and Emergency Department (DEU) has competence for management of issues concerning inspections, the environment and the management of emergency situations. Its main responsibilities are to ensure that nationwide monitoring of discharges linked to nuclear activities is complete and accessible to the public and to help guarantee that discharges from BNIs are as low as reasonably achievable, in particular through the definition of general regulations, to ensure that emergency situations are managed in the best possible conditions, helping to define the organisational framework of the public authorities and nuclear licensees for management of situations and, finally, to ensure that the inspections are carried out by ASN pertinently and uniformly.
- The International Relations Department (DRI) is in charge of ASN's bilateral and multilateral international relations. It develops exchanges with ASN's foreign counterparts in order to promote and explain the French practices and approach to the regulation of nuclear safety and radiation protection and to provide the countries concerned with all useful information about the safety of nuclear installations in France located close to their borders. The DRI coordinates ASN representation on international bodies dealing with nuclear safety and radiation protection issues, such as the European Union, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) or the OECD's Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA).
- The Communication and Public Information Department (DCI) is responsible for implementing ASN's information and communication policy in the fields of nuclear safety and radiation protection, thus helping to implement transparency within ASN as defined by the "TSN" Act. It coordinates ASN communication

and information actions targeted at its various audiences in order to provide them with precise, clear and explicit information appropriate to their needs and accessible to the greatest number. It in particular handles information and documentation requests and takes part in preparing the ASN/IRSN travelling exhibition “Nuclear applications and society: from understanding to regulation”. The DCI is tasked with making ASN’s position statements known and explaining the regulations, in particular by organising specific events. Finally, DCI is responsible for providing reliable answers to queries from the media.

- The Office of Administration (SG) contributes to providing ASN with sufficient, appropriate and long-term resources, whether human, material or financial, it needs in order to function correctly. It is responsible for human resources management, including with regard to skills, and for the development of labour relations. It is also in charge of ASN real estate and its moveable and fixed assets policy. The SG is responsible for budget issues and aims to optimise use of its financial resources. Finally, it provides legal expertise for ASN as a whole.

- The Management and Expertise Office (MEA) provides ASN with IT resources and a high level of expertise. It ensures that the ASN actions are coherent by means of a quality approach and by overseeing coordination of the workforce.

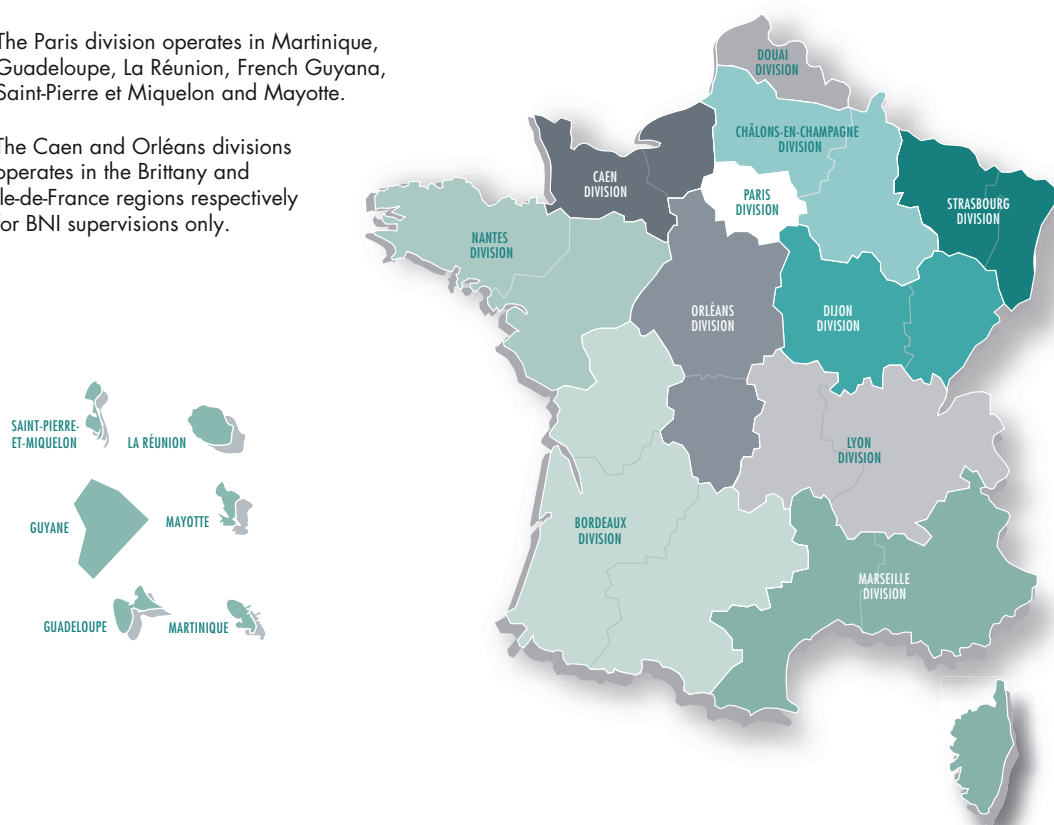
### ASN divisions

The ASN regional divisions work under the authority of the regional representatives. The director of the local DRIRE or DREAL for the area in which the division concerned is located acts as the regional representative. He is seconded to ASN for the performance of these duties and is not under the authority of the *préfet* for his nuclear safety and radiation protection duties. Delegation of the power of signature by the Director-General gives him the authority to take decisions at a local level.

The divisions carry out most of the direct inspections on the BNIs, on radioactive material transport and on small-scale nuclear activities, and review most of the authorisation applications filed with ASN by the nuclear activity licensees within their regions.

The Paris division operates in Martinique, Guadeloupe, La Réunion, French Guyana, Saint-Pierre et Miquelon and Mayotte.

The Caen and Orléans divisions operate in the Brittany and Ile-de-France regions respectively for BNI supervisions only.



Geographical competence of the regional divisions

In emergency situations, the divisions assist the *préfet* of the *département*, who is in charge of protecting the population, and supervise the operations carried out to safeguard the installation on the site. To ensure preparedness for these situations, they take part in drawing up the emergency plans drafted by the *préfets* and in periodic emergency exercises.

The divisions contribute to ASN's public information duty. They for example take part in the meetings of the Local Information Committees (see chapter 6, point 2|3|1) and maintain regular relations with the local media, elected officials, associations, licensees and local administrations.

## 2|3|3 Operation

### Human resources

The total ASN workforce on 31 December 2009 stood at 443.

This workforce can be broken down as follows:

- 350 tenured or contract staff;
- 93 staff seconded from public establishments (Assistance publique - Hôpitaux de Paris, CEA, IRSN, ANDRA).

On 31 December 2009, the average age of the ASN staff was 43.

Table 1: ASN workforce on 31 December 2009

Central services	234
Regional divisions	209
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>443</b>

A balanced age pyramid and a policy of diversity in recruitment and thus in experience, gives ASN the qualified and complementary human resources it needs to perform its responsibilities. In addition, training, integration of the youngest staff members and transmission of know-how guarantee the required level of expertise.

So that its staff are at all times competent, ASN must be able to offer them a varied career path, related to their needs, in particular acknowledging their experience. To do this, it set up a working group at the end of 2009, under the supervision of a Commissioner, to examine the options open to ASN and propose an innovative action plan in this area.

### Skills management

Competence is one of the four key values of ASN. The tutor system, initial and continuous training, whether

general, linked to nuclear techniques or the field of communication, as well as day to day practices, are essential aspects of the professionalism of ASN staff.

Management of ASN personnel skills is in particular based on a formalised curriculum of technical training. For each member of staff, this curriculum is a means of implementing a detailed and regularly updated training reference system. For example, an inspector must follow a series of predetermined training modules before being qualified to carry out inspections. This involves technical training, but also training in legal aspects and communication. In 2009, more than 4,090 days of technical training were given out to the ASN staff during 1,236 different course sessions. The financial cost of the courses, provided by organisations other than ASN, amounted to 405 k€.

Since 1997, ASN has followed a programme of qualification of its inspectors, based on recognition of their technical competence. An Accreditation Committee was set up in 1997 to advise the Director-General on the entire qualification system. It in particular reviews the training curriculum and the qualification reference systems applicable to the various ASN departments, and carries out hearings of inspectors as part of the confirmation process.

Chaired by Mr Philippe Saint Raymond, the Accreditation Committee comprises senior ASN inspectors and persons qualified in inspection, appraisal and teaching in the field of nuclear safety and inspection of classified installations. His competence was confirmed in 2009 for the radiation protection field.

The Accreditation Committee met three times in 2009 and proposed the confirmation of 19 inspectors. On 31 December 2009, 50 ASN nuclear safety or radiation protection inspectors are confirmed, or about 15% of the total number of ASN inspectors.

### Financial resources

Since 2000, all the personnel and operating resources involved in the performance of the responsibilities entrusted to ASN have been covered by the State's general budget.

The operating budget for the central services and the ASN payroll amounted in 2009 to € 48.3 million. ASN also receives services from the Ministry for the Economy, Industry and Employment (MEIE) and from the DRIRE and DREAL network under the terms of special agreements. The ASN regional divisions are located in the premises of the DRIREs and DREALs. For 2009, the complete budget for ASN, except for that devoted to the expert appraisals conducted by IRSN, stood at about € 64 million.

Table 2: summary of ASN budget for 2010

Ministry responsible	Programme / Action (2010)	Destination	2009 Budget Act	2010 Budget Act
MEEDDM	<b>181: risk prevention</b> Action 9: "Regulation of nuclear safety and radiation protection"	Personnel (including seconded), operation and intervention expenses	€ 48.3 M <sup>(1)</sup>	€ 52.1 M <sup>(4)</sup>
MBCPFP	<b>218: implementation and oversight of economic and financial policy</b> Action 5: assistance and support operations	Operation of central sites (Paris and Fontenay-aux-Roses)	€ 6.2 M <sup>(2)</sup>	€ 6.2 M <sup>(2)</sup>
MEEDDM	<b>217: implementation and oversight of ecology, energy, sustainable development and spatial planning policies</b> Actions 16, 3 and 4 (personnel, real estate and operations "support" costs)	Cost of 11 ASN regional divisions (personnel and operations "support" costs)	€ 9.5 M <sup>(3)</sup>	€ 9.3 M <sup>(4)</sup>
MEEDDM	<b>190: research in the fields of energy and sustainable development and spatial planning</b> Sub-action 11-02 "IRSN"	ASN technical support activities	€ 78.1 M <sup>(1)</sup>	€ 78.1 M <sup>(4)</sup>

Sources:

(1) 2009 annual performance plan (PAP)

(2) 2006 annual performance plan (PAP)

(3) 2007 annual performance report (RAP)

(4) 2010 annual performance plan (PAP)

In 2010, ASN's budget is included in action 9 "Regulation of nuclear safety and radiation protection" of programme 181 "Risk prevention" of the "Ecology and sustainable development and spatial planning" mission. It amounts to € 52.1 million.

As stipulated in the TSN Act, ASN also relies on IRSN for technical expertise, backed up whenever necessary by research. ASN is consulted by the Government regarding the corresponding part of the State's subsidy to IRSN. This share of the IRSN subsidy amounted to € 78.1 million in 2009 and 2010. It was included in programme 189 "Research in the fields of risk and pollution" which for 2010 has been merged into programme 190 "Research in

the fields of energy and sustainable development and spatial planning".

#### *Basic nuclear installation tax*

The ASN Chairman is responsible, on behalf of the State, for issuing payment authorisation for and settling the tax on BNIs created by Article 43 of the 2000 Finance Act (Act 99-1172 of 30 December 1999). The revenue from this tax amounted to € 363.3 million in 2009. It is paid into the State's general budget.

#### *Additional taxes on radioactive waste*

In addition, Programme Act 2006-739 of 28 June 2006 on the sustainable management of radioactive materials and

Tableau 3: breakdown of licensee contributions

Licensee	Amount for 2009 in millions of euros	
	BNI tax	Additional taxes
EDF	323.8	107.6
AREVA	18.8	6.9
CEA	7	22.1
ANDRA	6.5	
OTHERS	7.2	1.7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>363.3</b>	<b>138.3</b>



waste created three additional taxes for nuclear reactors and spent nuclear fuel reprocessing plants supplementing the BNI tax, known as the “research”, “support” and “technological dissemination” taxes respectively. They are allocated to financing economic growth, on the one hand, and to financing ANDRA research into underground disposal and interim storage, on the other.

For 2009, the revenue from these new taxes amounted to € 138.3 million.

The breakdown of contributions is shown in table 3.

### Quality management system

To guarantee and improve the quality and effectiveness of its actions, ASN defines and implements a quality management system inspired by the ISO and IAEA international standards. This system is based on:

- a multi-year strategic plan and shared annual objectives;
- an organisation manual containing organisation notes and procedures, defining the rules to be applied for each task;
- internal and external audits to check rigorous application of the system’s requirements;
- listening to the stakeholders;

### The 2010-2012 multi-year strategic plan



Strategic plan for 2010-2012

*The 2007-2009 strategic plan was the roadmap that enabled ASN to consolidate the legitimacy of its status as an independent administrative authority.*

*It is now up to ASN to increase the effectiveness and quality of its regulation and inspections, jointly with the other State stakeholders and its European neighbours. ASN will thus confirm its position and its responsibilities.*

*To do this, the ASN Commission determined six strategic orientations for the period 2010-2012. These orientations are designed to confirm and clarify the role and position of ASN with regard to its internal and external environment. They must mobilise the entire ASN workforce. They also clearly reflect ASN’s commitments to the performance of its responsibilities.*

*The 2010-2012 strategic plan “Confirming the responsibilities and position of ASN” defines the orientations set by the ASN Commission, in order to achieve progress in nuclear safety and radiation protection:*

- Enhance and develop skills, strengthen the organisation and confirm doctrine in order to carry out our responsibilities and give ourselves the means to achieve our ambitions

- Focus on new areas in the medical, security and research fields, to improve the

consistency and effectiveness of State actions in regulating nuclear activities

- Clarify the role and organisation of expert appraisal in the regulation of nuclear activities in order to guarantee the long-term quality of this regulation
- Clarify and develop institutional relations with the other State stakeholders, to ensure greater effectiveness while maintaining our independence
- Be a driving force behind the European construction of nuclear safety and radiation protection to contribute to attaining a shared and rigorous level of requirements, constituting an international benchmark for good practice
- Initiate and contribute to public discussions and debates on subjects involving ASN, to help inform the populations and receive feedback from them so that we make the best decisions

*In drafting the 2010-2012 multi-year strategic plan, ASN took account of the objectives of the TSN Act and the expectations of its various stakeholders. This multi-year strategic plan was produced as part of a participative process spread over 18 months and mobilising the entire ASN workforce in the same spirit as that underpinning the reform of the State. An essential step was a convention bringing together the entire ASN on 5 May 2009.*

*The multi-year strategic plan is produced annually in an operational orientation document setting the year’s priorities for ASN, along with the action plans from each of its component entities. These documents are monitored and followed-up.*

- performance indicators for monitoring the effectiveness of the action taken;
- periodic system reviews to ensure continuous improvements.

### *Internal communication*

The ASN intranet, OASIS, is the primary means of internal information within ASN. OASIS provides the staff with the documents and information they need on a day to day basis, along with news and a daily press review. OASIS is also the information system interface which organises, harmonises and builds on information concerning ASN core business processes.

In 2008 and 2009 initial changes were made to the tool, prior to an overhaul scheduled for 2010. These were designed to improve its legibility, in particular through reorganisation and by creating new headings (human resources, information system, etc.).

Four monthly internal bulletins are issued by ASN's Nuclear Pressure Equipment Department, the Nuclear Power Plant Department, the Industrial Activities and Transport Department, and the Ionising Radiation and Health Department. They are published on the OASIS website.

The ASN activity report, which is the new internal information medium created in the summer of 2009, will be sent out every year to all staff. This document of about thirty pages presents ASN, its organisation, its key responsibilities and how it is managed. It presents the results of ASN activities during the past year and the human and financial resources that were placed at its disposal. The 2008 edition came out in August 2009.

In the change management process implemented by ASN in autumn 2008, to coincide with the migration of its information system, a specific internal communication system was deployed to enable the staff, throughout the project, to understand and take on board the coming changes and stay abreast of project progress.

Furthermore, the periodic meetings organised in recent years continued in 2009, including:

- periodic coordination meetings between the ASN departments and divisions;
- regular visits by the management committee to each of the ASN divisions and by the Executive Committee to the Office of Administration and each of the departments;
- presentation of each *Contrôle* magazine to the staff in the ASN departments followed by discussions with the Executive Committee, prior to presentation of the magazine to the media;

- introductory sessions for new ASN recruits in January, May and October.

### *Staff participation in the future of ASN*

ASN has built an overall strategic approach which is based on the participation of its staff. Therefore, to prepare for its future 2010-2012 multi-year strategic plan, all staff were asked in autumn 2008, during seminars held in the 17 ASN entities, to contribute to the definition of the ASN strategic orientations for the 2012 time-frame. These debates continued during an internal convention held in Paris on 5 May 2009, concerning the implementation of this future strategic plan. The future PSP preparation phase concluded with the creation in autumn 2009 of working groups responsible for completing the drafting of the document.

A number of tools are made available for the purposes of this management change, primarily the ASN information system. The information system overhaul launched in the spring of 2008 is a strategic project for ASN in the implementation of its management system. The ASN IS will in particular be a tool used for implementing the 2010-2012 strategic plan. The changes to the ASN IS lead to a number of changes in staff practices. This approach is mainly based on the participation of the users and on communication throughout the project, as well as on training of all the staff. The new ASN IS has been operational since the end of 2009.

## **2 | 4 Consultatives bodies**

### **2 | 4 | 1 The BNI Consultative Committee**

The BNI Consultative Committee (CCINB) replaced the French Interministerial Commission for Basic Nuclear Installations (CIINB). It was created by the decree of 2 November 2007 concerning BNIs. It must be consulted by the ministers responsible for nuclear safety with regard to authorisation applications for creation, modification or final shutdown of a BNI and the general regulations applicable to these installations.

The members of the CCINB were appointed for five years by order of 3 April 2008 from the ministers responsible for nuclear safety. It is chaired by Mrs Marie-Eve Aubin, Chair of the honorary section of the *Conseil d'État*\*. The secretariat for the CCINB is provided by the MSNR, jointly with ASN.

In 2009, the Committee met twice, on 16 March and 9 September, and its sessions examined 8 draft texts:

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\*France's highest administrative court.



**IRRS audit follow-up mission welcomed by ASN in 2009**

IAEA drafts and publishes international standards for nuclear safety and radiation protection and aims to ensure that they are implemented. In this respect, it offers nuclear regulatory bodies a review service to check application of its standards, in the form of IRRS (Integrated Regulatory Review Service) missions, consisting of an audit carried out by a team of experts from nuclear regulatory bodies from other countries.

In line with its policy of continuous progress, ASN welcomed an IRRS mission in 2006. This “full scope” mission included all the fields covered by the IRRS nuclear safety and radiation protection missions; this was a world first. ASN had a three-fold objective:

- to submit to a peer review to ensure that its organisation and practices are in conformity with international standards and improve the pertinence of its actions and effectiveness;
- to present a certain number of its practices to its peers, in particular those practices that it considers go further than IAEA’s recommendations;
- to encourage all regulatory bodies to request an IRRS audit themselves.

Since then, a large number of IRRS missions have been conducted, leading to beneficial comparisons between the regulatory bodies and thus an “upwards” harmonisation of organisations and practices.

The 2006 IRRS audit was written up in a report published by ASN, which identified 40 good practices, 49 suggestions (deviations from the IAEA guides) and 35 recommendations (deviations from the IAEA standards). These findings led to the production of an improvement action plan by ASN.

From 29 March to 3 April 2009, an IRRS follow-up mission was organised by IAEA at the request of ASN, to assess the progress made in implementing its action plan. Twelve international experts took part in this mission. They considered that ASN had satisfactorily responded to 90% of the recommendations and suggestions made in 2006. In a large number of areas such as inspection, preparedness for emergencies, public information, or ASN’s international role, they once again felt that ASN ranks among the best international practices. The quality of the work done by ASN was again highlighted with respect to:

- European-wide promotion of harmonisation of nuclear safety requirements;
- development of national relations for effective and efficient regulation and inspection of nuclear safety and radiation protection;
- ensuring the long-term continuation of nuclear safety and radiation protection;
- implementing the requirements of the Act on transparency and security in the nuclear field.

The international experts identified a few areas for improvement, mainly concerning skills management at ASN, management of its finances, the auditing of its technical support organisation – IRSN – and implementation of the planned measures for controlling the security of radioactive sources, once this duty has been assigned to it by the Government.

ASN will take advantage of the conclusions of this mission to reinforce the conformity of its practices and its organisation with the best international standards. As with the previous mission, this report will be available for consultation on the website [www.asn.fr](http://www.asn.fr).



The members of the IRRS mission accompanied by the members of the ASN Commission and Director General – Paris from 29 March to 3 April 2009

decrees for final shutdown and decommissioning of the HAO (BNI 90), Chinon A3 (BNI 161), St-Laurent A1 and A2 (BNI 46) installations, authorisation decrees for the ICEDA and RJH installations, modification of the authorisation decree for the MELOX installation, delicensing of BNI 41 Harmonie and the decree concerning the administrative authority of the State with competence for environmental matters.

The Government envisages closing down the CCINB in 2010 and transferring its duties to the consultative council responsible for installations classified on environmental protection grounds.

## 2 | 4 | 2 The High Council for Public Health

The High Council for Public Health (HCSP), created by Act 2004-806 of 9 August 2004 concerning public health policy, is a scientific and technical consultative body reporting to the minister responsible for health and which since 2007 has replaced the French High Public Health Council. This assembly, under the authority of a commission of experts, of which the ASN Chairman is a member, comprises six specialist commissions.

The HCSP contributes to defining the multi-year public health objectives, reviews the attainment of national public health objectives and contributes to the annual monitoring process. Together with the health agencies, it provides the public authorities with the expertise necessary for managing health risks and for defining and evaluating prevention and health safety policies and strategies. It also anticipates future developments and provides advice on public health issues.

## 2 | 4 | 3 The High Committee for Transparency and Information on Nuclear Security

The TSN Act created a High Committee for Transparency and Information on Nuclear Security (HCTISN), an information, discussion and debating body dealing with the risks inherent in nuclear activities and the impact of these activities on human health, the environment and nuclear safety.

The High Committee can issue an opinion on any question in these fields, as well as on controls and the relevant information. It can also deal with any issue concerning the accessibility of nuclear safety information and propose any measures such as to guarantee or improve nuclear transparency.

Any issue concerning information about nuclear safety and its regulation or inspection can be referred to the High Committee.

It replaced the French High Council for Nuclear Safety and Information (CSSIN) which was set up in 1973. Its role was similar but less extensive and it was endowed with more modest means. The HCTISN's activities in 2009 are described in chapter 6.

## 2 | 5 Technical support organisations

ASN benefits from the expertise of technical support organisations when preparing its decisions. Of these organisations, the French Institute for Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety (IRSN, [www.irsn.fr](http://www.irsn.fr)) is the main one. For several years, ASN has been making efforts to diversify its experts.

### 2 | 5 | 1 The Institute for Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety

IRSN, created by Act 2001-398 of 9 May 2001 and by decree 2002-254 of 22 February 2002, was set up as an independent public industrial and commercial establishment, as part of the national reorganisation of nuclear safety and radiation protection regulation, in order to bring together public expertise and research resources in these fields. IRSN reports to the ministers for the environment, health, research, industry and defence.

The Institute conducts and implements research programmes in order to build its public expertise capacity on the very latest national and international scientific knowledge in the fields of nuclear and radiological risks. It is tasked with providing technical support for the public authorities with competence for safety, radiation protection and security, in both the civil and defence sectors.

IRSN also performs certain public service responsibilities, in particular monitoring of the environment and of populations exposed to ionising radiations.

IRSN manages national databases (national nuclear material accounting, national inventory of radioactive sources, file for monitoring worker exposure to ionising radiations, etc.), and contributes to information of the public concerning the risks linked to ionising radiations.

#### *IRSN budget*

The subsidy from the State's general budget allocated to IRSN is stipulated in action 11 "Research in the field of risk" of programme 190 "Research in the fields of energy and sustainable development and spatial planning" of the "Research and higher education" mission. Until 2009, it was included in programme 189 "Research in the fields of risk and pollution" action 3 "Evaluation and prevention of nuclear risks".



The members of the GPR in the Kashiwazaki-Kariwa plant in Japan from 12 to 16 October 2009, with their German, American and Japanese counterparts

The IRSN's state subsidy amounted in 2009 to € 244.8 million. The share of this budget corresponding to ASN support work amounted to € 78.1 million.

In its opinion of 22 October 2009 concerning its budget and that devoted to the IRSN expert appraisal work, ASN observed that the amount of the subsidy was renewed for 2010, but considered that the appropriations devoted to the expert appraisal work performed on its behalf were insufficient.

An agreement was signed by ASN and IRSN to define the dialogue methods and principles governing the technical support provided to ASN by the Institute. This agreement is clarified on a yearly basis by a protocol identifying the actions to be performed by IRSN to support ASN.

## 2 | 5 | 2 The Advisory Committees

When preparing its decisions, the ASN asks for opinions and recommendations from Advisory Committees (GPE). Until 2009, it also relied on the Standing Nuclear Section of the French Central Committee for Pressure Vessels (CCAP).

Seven Advisory Committees (GPE) have been created and report to the ASN Director-General.

The GPEs are consulted by ASN concerning the safety and radiation protection of installations and activities within their particular field of competence. They in particular review the preliminary, provisional and final safety analysis reports for each of the BNIs. They can also be consulted about changes in regulations or doctrine.

For each of the subjects covered, the GPEs examine the reports produced by IRSN, by a special working group or by one of the ASN departments. They issue an opinion backed up by recommendations.

The GPEs comprise experts nominated for their individual competence. They come from university and associative backgrounds, as well as from the licensees concerned by the subjects being dealt with. Each GPE may call on any person recognised for his or her particular competence. It may hold a hearing of licensee representatives. Participation by foreign experts can help diversify the approach to problems and take advantage of experience acquired internationally.

With the goal of improving nuclear safety and radiation protection transparency, ASN publishes the documents relating to the meetings of these GPEs: ASN referral of a particular subject to the GPE, summary of the IRSN report, GPE opinion and ASN stance.

**Table 4: meetings of the “Advisory Committee for nuclear reactors” in 2009**

Topic	Date
CABRI – Restart of the modified facility (final meeting)	22 January
Information meeting devoted to OSIRIS / Site visit	9 April
Visit to the EPR construction site at Flamanville 3 (FA3)	23 April
EPR PWR – Information meeting on commissioning of FA3	7 May
PWR – Review of management of radioactive and chemical effluents from Electricité de France power plants	28 May
EPR – EPR reactor I&C	18 June
Severe accidents on reactors in operation – 7th meeting – Dispersal countermeasures	25 June
PWR – Requirements for evaluation of the radiological consequences of accidents (except severe accidents)	25 June
Meeting of the quadripartite working group in Japan	13 - 16 October
In-house meeting with renewal of members	3 December

**Table 5: meetings of the “Advisory Committee for laboratories and plants” in 2009**

Topic	Date
Saclay BNI 72 – Periodic safety review of the CEA/SACLAY solid waste management station	4 February
Visit to the STAR installation	19 June
Periodic safety review of the STAR installation and extension of the operating range to include reception, treatment and reconditioning of unused fuel	24 June
In-house meeting with renewal of members	16 December

### *The Advisory Committee for reactors (GPR)*

The Advisory Committee for reactors is chaired by M. Pierre Govaerts. It consists of experts nominated for their competence in the field of nuclear reactors.

In 2009, the GPR met eight times, visited one installation and took part in an international meeting with its German, American and Japanese counterparts.

### *The Advisory Committee for laboratories and plants (GPU)*

The Advisory Committee for laboratories and plants is chaired by Mr Philippe Saint Raymond. It comprises experts nominated for their competence in the field of laboratories and plants in which radioactive materials are used.

In 2009, the GPU met three times and visited one installation.

### *The Advisory Committee for medical exposure (GPMED)*

Chaired by Mr Yves Coquin, the GPMED comprises experts nominated for their competence in the field of

radiation protection of health professionals, the public and patients and for medical applications of ionising radiations, including legal medicine.

In 2009, the GPMED met three times.

### *The Advisory Committee for radiation protection (non-medical) (GPRAD)*

Chaired by Mr Jean-Paul Samain, the GPRAD comprises experts nominated for their competence in the field of radiation protection of workers (other than health professionals) and radiation protection of the public, for industrial and research applications of ionising radiations, as well as for natural ionising radiations.

In 2009, the GPRAD met three times.

### *The Advisory Committee for waste (GPD)*

The Advisory Committee for waste is chaired by Mr Pierre Bérest. It comprises experts nominated for their competence in the nuclear, geological and mining fields.

In 2009, the GPD met twice, visited one installation and organised a bipartite meeting with its German counterpart.



Table 6: meetings of the “Advisory Committee for waste” in 2009

Topic	Date
GPD / ESK meeting in Bure Visit to the Bure, Soullaines and Morvilliers centres then plenary session meeting	26 - 28 May
In-house meeting with nomination of the new Advisory Committee Presentation of modelling of transfer to biosphere phenomena (disposal site for intermediate and high level waste)	15 September
Visit to CSM at La Hague	25 November
Review of design file for long-term cover on the Manche repository	8 December

Table 7: meeting of the “Advisory Committee for transport” in 2009

Topic	Date
Conformity of the TN 117 package model for approval	13 October

Table 8: meetings of the Standing Nuclear Section of the CCAP and then the GPESPN in 2009

Topic	Date
Vibration fatigue of SG tubes	23 January
Meeting to appoint GPESPN members	15 December

### *The Advisory Committee for transport (GPT)*

The Advisory Committee for Transport is chaired by Mr Jacques Aguilar. It comprises experts nominated for their competence in the field of transport, in particular representatives from the French committee for certification of companies in training and monitoring of personnel working with ionising radiations.

In 2009, the GPT held one meeting.

### *The Advisory Committee for nuclear pressure equipment (GPESPN)*

Since mid-2009, the GPESPN has replaced the Standing Nuclear Section (SPN) of the CCAP. The GPESPN is chaired by Mr Philippe Merle and comprises experts nominated for their competence in the field of pressure equipment.

In 2009, the GPESPN held its first meeting following its creation. The SPN had also already met once.

### *The CCAP*

The Central Committee for Pressure Equipment (CCAP), created by Article 26 of decree 99-1046 of 13 December 1999 concerning pressure equipment, is a consultative organisation reporting to the minister responsible for industry.

It comprises members of the various administrations concerned, persons chosen for their particular competence and representatives of the manufacturers and users of pressure equipment and of the technical and professional organisations concerned. It is chaired by Mr Pierre Palat.

It can be called on by the Government and by ASN for all issues concerning the legislative and regulatory aspects of pressure equipment. Accident reports are also forwarded to it.

## 2 | 5 | 3 ASN's other technical support organisations

To diversify its expertise and take advantage of other specific skills, ASN also has its own credit allocation, amounting to € 750,000 in 2009.

A significant part of this budget is allocated to subjects concerning exposure of the population to radon in the home, as well as to the work of the Steering Committee for managing the post-accident phase (CODIRPA).

In 2009, ASN continued its cooperation with:

- the Nuclear Protection Evaluation Centre (CEPN): Core health project and support for the work of the CODIRPA;

Table 9: meetings of the “GPMED” in 2009

Topic	Date
Review of the conclusions of the “mini-beams” WG report and various information subjects	10 February
Information meeting, including presentation of standard NFC 15-160: Installations for the production and use of X-rays	24 March
Opinion on draft technical decisions concerning the list of electrical devices generating X-rays for which possession with a view to utilisation is subject to notification, the list of information enclosed with the notification, and the conditions for exercising the role of a PCR from outside the establishment	2 October

Table 10: meetings of the “Advisory Committee for radiation protection” in 2009

Topic	Date
Review of orientations adopted for preparation of the draft technical decision concerning extension of source life on the one hand, and the draft order concerning ion detectors, on the other	3 February
Information meeting on various radon-related subjects	31 March
Review of draft Euratom directive on basic radiation protection standards	26 November

- the Bureau Veritas: definition of check-points and criteria for radiation protection appraisal of X-ray generators used in the industrial, veterinary and research sectors;
- the pluralistic experts group for the Limousin mines (GEP Limousin) which assists the public authorities on issues concerning the rehabilitation of the former uranium mining sites;
- the Nord-Cotentin radio-ecology group which assists the public authorities with regard to the environmental and health consequences of the BNIs operated on the peninsula.

### 3 OUTLOOK

The regulation of nuclear safety and radiation protection concerns all State structures:

- Parliament, in particular the OPECST, for definition of the main long-term options;
- the Government, in particular the ministers responsible for nuclear safety and radiation protection, who are given general regulatory and decision-making powers concerning the creation of a BNI;
- ASN, which in particular contributes to drafting technical regulations and to monitoring and regulation of activities;
- the consultative bodies, which provide an outside view of the important decisions concerning nuclear safety and radiation protection;
- the *préfets*, who are in charge of protecting the population.

In 2009, which was ASN's third full year as an independent administrative Authority, the various arrangements provided for by the 13 June 2006 Act on nuclear transparency and security continued to be put into place.

For ASN, this year was an opportunity to consolidate its legitimacy and draft its new strategic plan for the period 2010-2012, with the aim of strengthening the effectiveness and quality of its regulation and inspection of nuclear safety and radiation protection, together with the

other State stakeholders and with its European neighbours, in order to confirm its position and its responsibilities.

In line with its policy of continuous progress, ASN welcomed an IRRS international audit mission which considered that it had responded satisfactorily to the vast majority of the recommendations and suggestions made following the first audit in 2006.

For the performance of its actions and in line with its independent status, ASN maintains strong ties with the other stakeholders involved in regulating or providing information about nuclear safety, radiation protection and protection of the environment. In particular, ASN in 2009 developed its relations with Parliament.

As in 2009, ASN's staff, operating and intervention budget will be part of action 9 "Regulation of nuclear safety and radiation protection" of programme 181 "Risk prevention". ASN also has access to resources within three other programmes. These resources enable ASN to perform most of its responsibilities. However, ASN considers that a simpler budget structure could be put into place giving greater visibility and flexibility in financing the regulation of nuclear safety and radiation protection.