



# Nuclear safety authority (ASN)

ASN was created by the 13th June 2006 Nuclear Security and Transparency Act. It is an independent administrative authority responsible for regulating civil nuclear activities in France. It also contributes towards informing citizens.

ASN is tasked, on behalf of the State, with regulating nuclear safety and radiation protection in order to protect workers, patients, the public and the environment from the hazards involved in nuclear activities.

ASN aims to provide efficient, impartial, legitimate and credible nuclear regulation, recognised by the citizens and regarded internationally as a benchmark for good practice.

# its roles, key figures, its organisation



competence  
independance  
rigour  
transparencie

## Its roles

### REGULATING

ASN contributes to drafting regulations, by giving the Government its opinion on draft decrees and ministerial orders, or by taking regulatory decisions of a technical nature.

### AUTHORISING

ASN examines all individual authorisation applications for nuclear facilities. It can grant all authorisations, with the exception of major authorisations for basic nuclear installations, such as creation and decommissioning. ASN also issues the licenses provided for in the Public Health Code concerning small-scale nuclear activities and issues authorisations or approvals for radioactive material transport operations.

### MONITORING

ASN is responsible for ensuring compliance with the rules and requirements applicable to the facilities or activities within its field of competence. Inspection is one of ASN's main means of monitoring, although it also has appropriate powers of enforcement and sanction.

### INFORMING

Primarily through its website [www.asn.fr](http://www.asn.fr) and its *Contrôle* magazine, ASN informs the public and the stakeholders (local information committees, environmental protection associations, etc.) of its activity and the state of nuclear safety and radiation protection in France.

### IN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

ASN assists the Government and in particular sends the competent Authorities its recommendations concerning the civil security measures to be taken. It monitors the steps taken by the licensee to make the facility safe. It informs the public of the situation.

### REGULATION AND MONITORING OF DIVERSE ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES

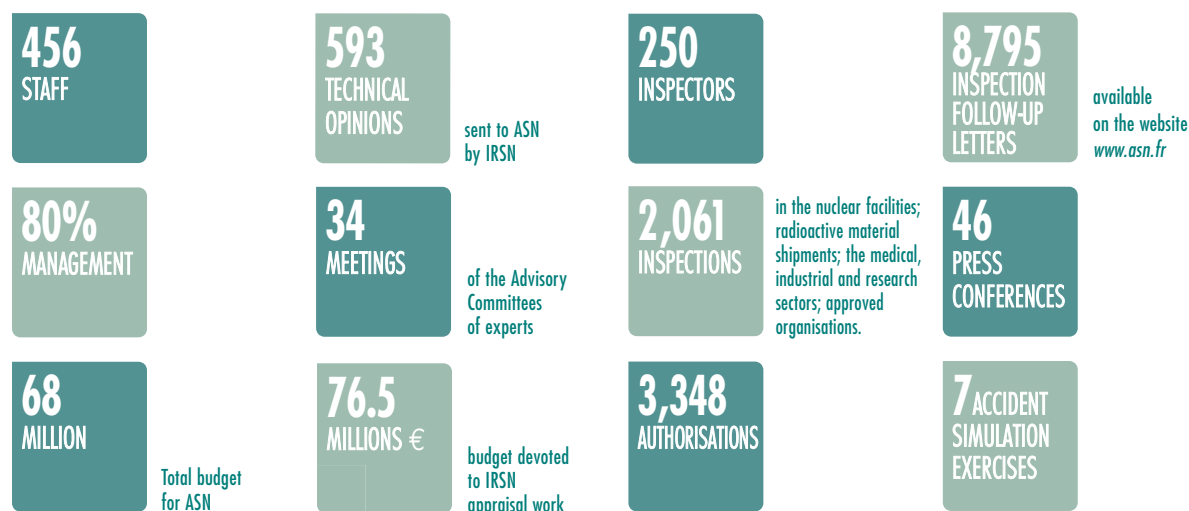
Nuclear power plants, management of radioactive waste, nuclear fuel shipments, radioactive material packages, medical facilities, research laboratories, industrial activities, and so on. ASN regulates a wide variety of activities and facilities. This regulation covers:

- 58 nuclear reactors producing nearly 80% of the electricity consumed in France, along with the EPR reactor currently under construction;
- all French fuel cycle facilities, from fuel enrichment to reprocessing;
- several thousand facilities or activities which use sources of ionising radiation for medical, industrial or research purposes;
- several hundred thousand shipments of radioactive materials made annually nationwide..

### THE HELP OF EXPERTS

When taking certain decisions, ASN calls on the expertise of technical support bodies. This is primarily the case with the Institute for Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety (IRSN). ASN also requests opinions and recommendations from scientific and technical Advisory Committees of experts.

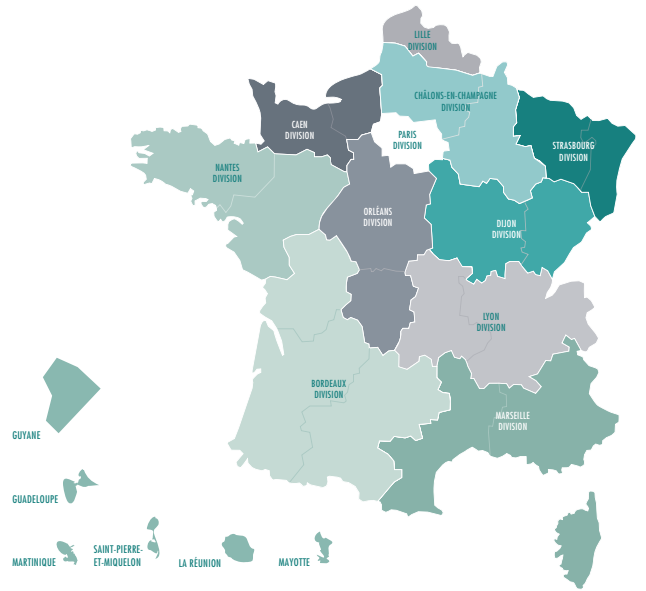
## Key figures in 2011



# Its organisation

## ORGANISATION

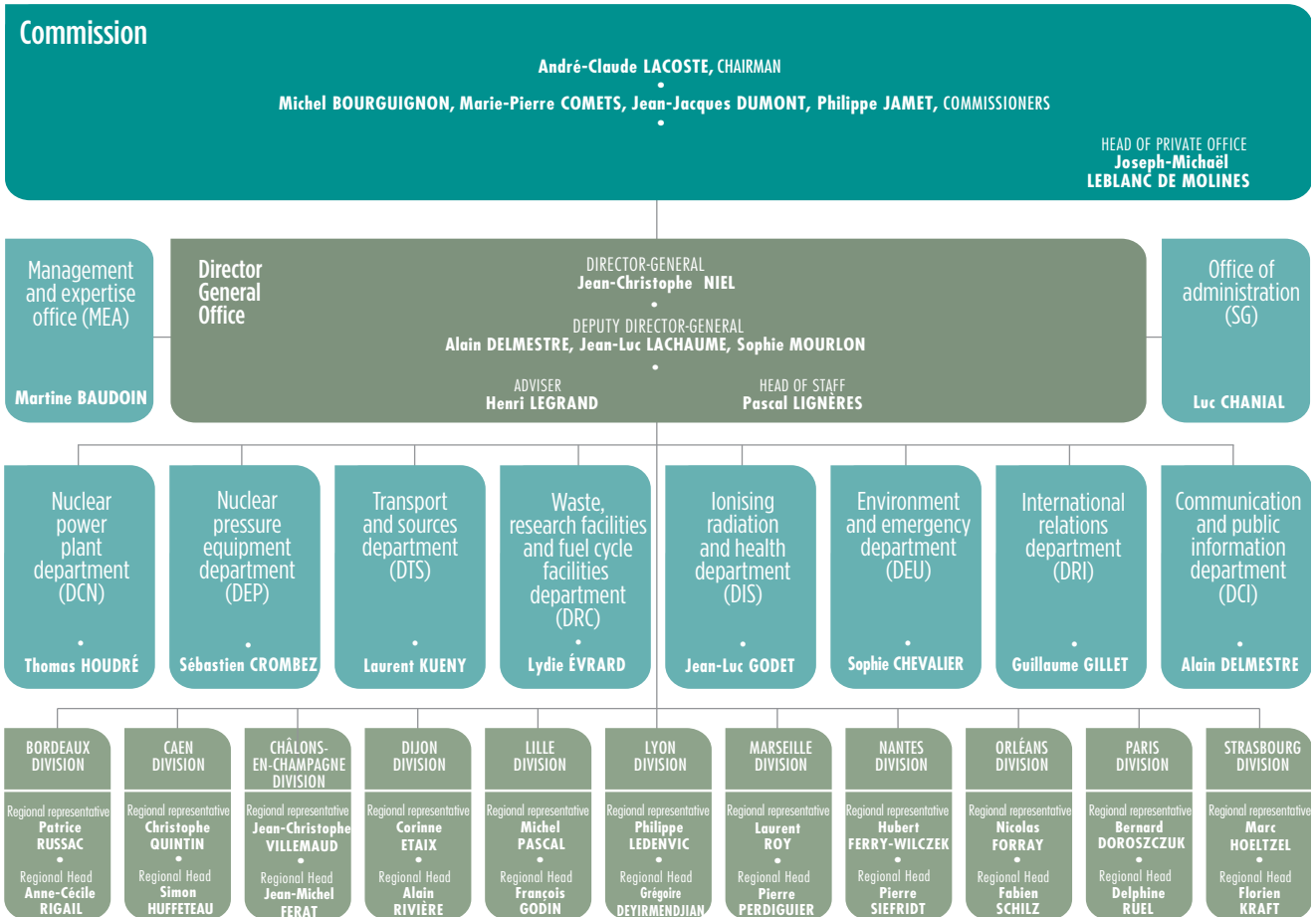
ASN comprises head office departments and eleven regional divisions with competence for one or more administrative regions. This organisation enables ASN to carry out its regulation and monitoring duties over the entire country and in the overseas territories of France.



## THE ASN ORGANISATION CHART

The departments are organised thematically and manage national affairs concerning the activities for which they are responsible. The ASN regional divisions operate under the authority of the regional representatives, appointed by the ASN Chairman. They are ASN's representatives in the regions and contribute to the ASN's public information role. The divisions carry out most of the direct inspections on

nuclear facilities, radioactive material transport operations and small-scale nuclear activities. In emergency situations, the divisions assist the *préfet* of the *département*, who is in charge of protection of the populations, and monitor operations to safeguard the installation on the site, provided that it is accessible and does not constitute a hazard.



## ASN COMMISSION

**André-Claude LACOSTE**  
CHAIRMAN  
appointed on 8th November 2006 for a term of 6 years

**Michel BOURGUIGNON**  
COMMISSIONER  
appointed on 8th November 2008 for a term of 6 years

**Jean-Jacques DUMONT**  
COMMISSIONER  
appointed on 15th December 2010 for a term of 6 years

**Philippe JAMET**  
COMMISSIONER  
appointed on 15th December 2010 for a term of 6 years

**Marie-Pierre COMETS**  
COMMISSIONER  
appointed on 8th November 2006 for a term of 6 years

**The Commission** defines ASN general policy regarding nuclear safety and radiation protection.

Appointed by  
the President of the Republic

Appointed by  
the President of the Senate

Appointed by the President  
of the National Assembly

**85**  
SESSIONS

**34**  
OPINIONS

**50**  
DECISIONS

**9**  
DEBATES

### Impartiality

The Commissioners perform their duties in complete impartiality and receive no instructions either from the Government or from any other person or institution.

### Independence

The Commissioners perform their duties on a full-time basis. Their mandate is for a six-year term. It is not renewable. The duties of a member can only be terminated if a majority of the Commissioners sitting on the Commission rule on his or her incapacity or accept his or her resignation. The President of the Republic may also terminate the duties of a member of the Commission in the event of a serious breach of his or her obligations.

### Competences

The Commission takes decisions and publishes opinions in ASN's *Official Bulletin*. It defines ASN external relations policy both nationally and internationally.

It defines ASN regulatory policy. The Chairman appoints the nuclear safety inspectors, the radiation protection inspectors, the conventional safety inspectors for the nuclear power plants and the staff responsible for verifying compliance with the requirements applicable to pressure vessels.

The Commission opens inquiries following incidents or accidents. It presents the ASN Report on the state of nuclear safety and radiation protection in France. Its Chairman reports on ASN activities to the relevant commissions of the French Parliament's National Assembly and Senate as well as to the Parliamentary Office for the Evaluation of Scientific and Technological Choices.

It drafts ASN internal regulations and appoints its representatives to the High Committee for Transparency and Information on Nuclear Security.