PUBLIC INFORMATION AND TRANSPARENCY

The TSN Act of 13th June 2006 constituted a significant innovation in that it defined transparency and the right to information in the nuclear field: *"Transparency in the nuclear field consists in the set of provisions adopted to ensure the public's right to reliable and accessible information on nuclear security"* (article L. 125-12 of the Environment Code, previously article 1 of the TSN Act). ASN is responsible for the correct implementation of the requirements of the TSN Act, particularly those concerning transparency.

ASN is intensifying its own actions with regard to transparency, through active communication with the general public, the media, the institutional public and professionals.

ASN ensures that the TSN Act is implemented by the stakeholders. It supports the measures taken by the Local Information Committees (CLIs) and the High Committee for Transparency and Information on Nuclear Security (HCTISN) to promote transparency.

In its nuclear licensee regulation and inspection activities, ASN intends to develop compliance with the transparency obligations stipulated by the TSN Act. The licensees are now required to release to anyone who so requests the information in their possession concerning the risks involved in their activities and the safety or radiation protection measures taken by them to prevent or mitigate these risks.

Each year ASN presents its report on the state of nuclear safety and radiation protection in France to Parliament. Discussions with its institutional, parliamentary and locally elected audiences enable ASN to be more effective in the fulfilment of its remit and the exercise of the independence conferred on it by the TSN Act.

The year 2011 was marked by the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant in Japan, following a violent earthquake that triggered a tsunami. Right from the beginning of the emergency, ASN deployed significant resources to monitor the technical and radiological development of the situation and to inform the public and the media with the greatest possible transparency and clarity.

1 DEVELOPING RELATIONS BETWEEN ASN AND THE PUBLIC

1|1 From public information to transparency

Informing the public about nuclear safety and radiation protection is one of ASN's fundamental duties. In order to fulfil this role and meet the expectations of the general and professional public, ASN is looking to change its working methods and its information media.

Since 2002, ASN has published the follow-up letters for all inspections carried out in basic nuclear installations (BNI). ASN extended this publication to include radiotherapy inspection follow-up letters in 2008 and small-scale nuclear activity inspection follow-up letters in 2010. Each year ASN thus posts more than 1,500 inspection follow-up letters on *www.asn.fr* for all the activities it inspects.

Since 1st October 2008, ASN has published the opinions and recommendations of its Advisory Committees on its website (see chapter 2 - 2|5|2).

As part of its transparency and public information approach, ASN aims to include the general public more extensively in its decision-making process, by developing public consultation via the *www.asn.fr* website. Thirteen consultations were posted online between 2010 and 2011. The latest public consultation concerned a draft circular relative to controlling activities around BNIs (October – December 2011).

A specific section in French and English on the Complementary Safety Assessments (CSA) run by ASN following the Fukushima accident, in response to the request by the French and European regulators, was also created on *www.asn.fr*. On it, the public can consult the methodology, schedules and licensee reports about the CSAs submitted on 15th September 2011, the IRSN report submitted to ASN in early November, and the opinions of the Advisory Committees for reactors and for nuclear laboratories and plants. The ASN report on the CSAs and its opinion n° 2012-AV-0139 can also be consulted on the site.

1|2 ASN's information media

Convinced of the need to act with complete transparency, by producing reliable and accessible information, ASN has set up an information policy based on complementary media, so that information is made accessible to its various audiences.

1|2|1 ASN's website, *www.asn.fr*

Today, ASN's main channel for informing the public is its website *www.asn.fr*, which presents the current situation of nuclear safety and radiation protection in France, and the action and stances of ASN within its areas of competence. Website visitors are informed about subjects as varied as nuclear facilities, radiotherapy, radioactive waste, radon, emergency situation management, industrial uses of ionising radiation, etc.

The website gives access to a unique documentary database on the life of the nuclear installations.

In order to meet the expectations and demands of the public, ASN has since 2011 added video recordings to its website (press conferences, thematic reports, etc.). The media and the public now have permanent access to ASN's various position statements. The public can also access information that is more direct and informative.

Nuclear accident at Fukushima Daiichi: exceptional mobilisation by ASN to guarantee information of the public

As of the beginning of the Fukushima accident in Japan (11th March 2011), ASN activated its emergency system in order to handle the intense interest it aroused from both society and the media.

All the ASN teams provided the general public with information that was both responsive and comprehensible.

The ASN media relations services were operational 24/7 for the first month of the emergency.

Between 12th March and 14th April, 17 press briefings were held for journalists from the French and international media in the ASN documentation centre, which was converted into a media centre for the occasion. They were attended by large numbers of journalists from the national and international media. The efforts made to respond to media queries as rapidly as possible, combined with the availability of the spokespersons and their thematic specialisation, means that virtually all requests were satisfied. In total, ASN issued 36 press releases and received about 1,500 queries from the national and international media.

To help improve information of the general public, ASN decided to set up a telephone call centre to provide a clear and responsive answer to the most complex questions. More than 1,100 calls were received between 24th March and 1st April 2011.

An emergency website, http://japon.asn.fr, *was opened on 13th March 2011, offering complete (maps, drawings, computer graphics, etc.) and responsive information (information notices, video press conferences, press releases) about the condition of the power plant. In the weeks and months following the event, the site received between 70,000 and 80,000 visits per day, for example providing the media with access to the ASN opinions and position statements regarding the condition of the facilities, presented at its press conferences. The site proposes regularly updated reports on the radiological situation in Fukushima, press releases, answers to frequently asked questions from the public, information to help understand the accident and videos of the ASN press briefings. ASN also deployed tools enabling the public to give their own opinions (300 messages posted on* contact@asn.fr *or on* Facebook*).*

With a view to further enhancing information to its various audiences, ASN also created an electronic newsletter presenting events as they developed.

In order to provide regular information about the Complementary Safety Assessments (CSA) that the licensees of nuclear facilities were required to perform following the Fukushima Daiichi accident, ASN issued press releases to provide the latest news about the subject and keep journalists informed of the ongoing process.

On this point, it also opened a new section on www.asn.fr *proposing full information about the subject. With regard to its transparency role, all the reports drafted by the licensees regarding the CSAs were made available to the public on* www.asn.fr *as of 15th September 2011.*

ASN Briefing on 16th March 2011

With this informative approach in mind, ASN has developed on its website the topic of the transport of radioactive substances in France, with a presentation of the regulations applicable to this field, the risks, the safety principles and what is done by ASN accordingly. A video also presents how a radioactive material shipment is organised.

RSS web feeds are also available for real-time monitoring of the latest news and updates to the ASN *Official Bulletin*.

In 2010, ASN created pages on the main social networks (Facebook, Twitter, Dailymotion) as well as on Google+ in 2011, in order to ensure a broader and more reactive dissemination of its news to a more varied audience. More than 700,000 Internet users consulted 3.7 million pages online in 2011.

Interest from the English-speaking world, from institutions in particular, grew significantly in 2011. ASN thus developed the

English version of its site, *www.french-nuclear-safety.fr*, which proposes information notices, press releases and a variety of specific editorial content. In 2011, the majority of the section devoted to the CSA process was proposed in English. Several issues of Contrôle magazine were translated in full and posted on-line.

1|2|2 The *French Nuclear Safety Authority's Newsletter*

Since 2009, ASN has supplemented its editorial offering for its audiences (members of Parliament, local elected officials, senior civil servants, CLIs, licensees and journalists) with the launch of the *ASN Newsletter*. With its one-page format printed on both sides, the newsletter develops selected fundamental topics in the "Enjeu" section, and publishes the latest news in brief. Ten issues are published per year, proposing regular sections devoted to ASN decisions and actions, and to news from the regulated sectors. It directs readers towards other ASN publications should they wish to further their understanding of a particular subject.

The newsletter is sent by post to nearly 2,000 addressees each month, and since 2010 an electronic version can be consulted and downloaded at *www.asn.fr*, or sent by electronic-mail on subscription. As at 31st December 2011, there were more than 4,500 subscribers to the newsletter.

1|2|3 *Contrôle* Magazine

Three issues of *Contrôle* magazine, produced by ASN, were published in 2011 and sent out to more than 10,000 recipients in France (national and local elected officials, media, HCTISN, CLI, associations, licensees, administrations, private individuals) and abroad (nuclear safety regulators of the countries with which ASN enjoys close ties): no. 190, in February, on the topic of radioactive waste, no. 191, in March, concerning extracts from the ASN report on the *state of nuclear safety and radiation protection in 2010*, no. 192, in July, on medical imaging.

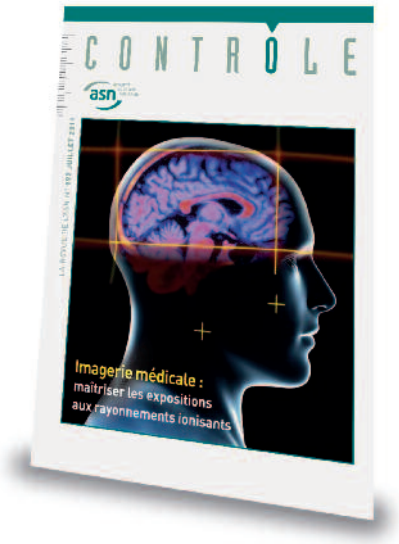
Contrôle comprises a detailed report on a specific subject concerning nuclear safety or radiation protection, entitled "Les dossiers de *Contrôle*", and a current affairs section entitled *"L'Essentiel"*, reporting on ASN activities, especially at regional level. The detailed report presents a given subject viewed from different angles so that readers can develop their own opinion. It presents the ASN viewpoint of the subject in question and gives various national and international players an opportunity to present their own views.

1|2|4 The ASN Report on the state of nuclear safety and radiation protection in France

The *ASN Report on the state of nuclear safety and radiation protection in France* is a reference document resulting from a collective analysis and synthesis of the status of the activities regulated by ASN in these two fields. It provides a means of extending the scope of reflection to projects and prospects relating on topical issues and to questions of particular importance at regional, national and international level.

Under the TSN Act, the annual *ASN Report on the state of nuclear safety and radiation protection in France* is presented each year to the President of the Republic, to the Government and to Parliament. It is also sent out to nearly 2,000 recipients: representatives of the administration, local elected officials, licensees and heads of regulated activities or facilities, associations, professional trades unions, learned societies, private individuals and so on.

ASN publications can be consulted and downloaded at www.asn.fr. *They are also available for consultation at the ASN's public information and documentation centre. It can also be sent free of charge, on request by letter to the following address: ASN Publications, 6, place du colonel Bourgoin, 75572 Paris Cedex 12.*



Contrôle **magazine issue 192 published in July 2011 about medical imaging (also available in English)**

1|2|5 ASN in-house publications

The second edition of *"Transparence"*, a magazine created in 2010 and more particularly aimed at ASN staff, was published this year. It is also issued three times a year to targeted external audiences such as operational partners, CLIs, members of Parliament and engineering schools. *Transparence* provides an informative analysis of ASN missions, its activities, its areas of professional expertise and its internal organisation. In March 2011, *Transparence* gave some first-hand accounts from inspectors in the field *("Dans les coulisses de l'inspection")*. In July, *Transparence* reviewed ASN's management of the emergency situation following the Fukushima disaster (Fukushima special report). Finally, in October, the magazine reviewed the situation regarding social dialogue within ASN, in the run-up to the 2011 trade union elections to be held throughout the civil service.

The third edition of the Activity Report was published in 2011. It is intended for all ASN staff, but can also be distributed to recruitment forums at which ASN is a participant. This report highlights information on subjects ranging from training or social dialogue to the quality management system and financial resources.

The ASN intranet, OASIS, is a prime channel for internal information, providing staff with documents about developments within the Authority and the performance of its occupational activities. OASIS is also the interface for the ASN information system, which provides a coherent organisation of the documentary base covering the main processes of the ASN sectors.

1|3 ASN's audiences

1|3|1 ASN and the general public

Nuclear safety and radiation protection concern the entire population.

ASN has a major role to play in access to information and compliance with the transparency principles laid out by the TSN Act. It aims to provide the citizens with information that is as clear, complete and accessible as possible.

ASN hopes to go further, by involving the public to a larger extent in the debate on nuclear safety and radiation protection issues, and in its own decisions. In this respect, ASN aims to initiate and take part in discussions with the public.

ASN actions aimed at the general public

The Public information and documentation centre

The Public information and documentation centre has been open to visitors in ASN's Paris premises since 2004 and manages queries and contacts from a variety of audiences: private individuals, professionals, students, associations, etc.

It offers more than 3,000 documents concerning nuclear safety and radiation protection for consultation.

It allows in-situ consultation of original administrative documents such as public inquiry files, impact assessments and the annual reports from the licensees which, pursuant to article L.125-16 of the Environment Code, deal with the environmental impact of each BNI.

The public has access to all ASN publications. It can also consult French and international publications on nuclear safety and radiation protection produced by the various stakeholders (CLIs, nuclear licensees, IRSN and other technical experts, radiology and radiation protection learned societies, professional associations, environmental protection associations and so on).

In 2011, the ASN's Public information and documentation centre answered more than 2,500 queries from various parties, a figure that was up on 2010, including requests for administrative documents, for environmental information, for transmission of publications, for documentary searches and for position statements on subjects with significant implications.

Exhibition: "Nuclear applications and society: from understanding to regulation"

ASN and the Institute for Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety (IRSN) organise a travelling educational exhibition, which aims to provide students and the general public with an informative presentation of the assessment and management of risks linked to ionising radiation and the corresponding means of control. This 250 m² exhibition comprises seven modules containing interactive models, films, panels, computer games, plus explanations given by representatives from the IRSN.

To coincide with this exhibition, the ASN regional divisions provide help with the conferences and with distributing information to the stakeholders.

In 2011, the exhibition took up residence in the Euréka gallery in Chambery (CCSTI Savoie) for eight weeks. It received nearly

ASN's information and documentation centre – 6 place du colonel Bourgoin Paris 12e

Iodine tablet distribution campaign follow-up

The fourth campaign for the distribution of stable iodine tablets around EDF nuclear power plants ran between June 2009 and March 2010. It concerned some 500,000 people situated in a 10 kilometre radius around the 19 French nuclear power plants. Thanks to a large-scale communication effort, the campaign enjoyed a particularly high profile (88% of those questioned had heard about it). However the collection rate remained stable (one in two of those concerned actually collected their tablets from a pharmacy).

In order to better identify the potential obstacles to the collection of iodine tablets, ASN carried out two opinion surveys. They revealed that this apathy on the part of the population could be attributable to over-confidence in the safety of the facilities or, on the contrary, doubts as to the effectiveness of the tablets in the event of a nuclear accident. ASN is therefore convinced of the need to reinforce the "risk culture" by making each citizen feel involved in his or her own protection. ASN and its partners will submit proposals accordingly in 2012.

4,000 visitors. The debates and scientific round-tables associated with the exhibition attracted nearly 390 participants.

A study is currently in progress to examine ways of making this exhibition more appealing to a local audience.

The information sheets

These sheets are distributed among the general public and the teaching sector on the major issues of nuclear safety and radiation protection.

They are available at the exhibitions and symposia in which ASN participates and are sent out to various information providers such as CLIs and the documentation centres for teachers.

The information sheet collection includes:
"Administration of stable iodine in the event of a nuclear accident";
"Radiation protection principles";
"Nuclear or radiological: which term to use?";
"Radiation protection values and units";
"The French nuclear fuel cycle";
"Radiological emergencies";
"Radon".

1|3|2 ASN and professionals

The objective of ASN's relations with its professional audience is to enhance knowledge of the regulations and nuclear safety and radiation protection culture in its technical, organisational and human aspects.

Over and above its professional contacts with the main nuclear licensees, ASN develops relations with the users of ionising radiation in the industrial and health sectors.

In addition to its website *www.asn.fr*, ASN produces publications intended specifically for them and organises or takes part in many symposia, seminars and other events.

Seminars and publications intended for professionals

ASN develops its relations with professionals through the seminars and symposia it organises. In this respect, it produces publications aimed at a professional audience to:
– raise awareness concerning the responsibilities and implications of radiation protection
– disseminate the regulations and promote their implementation
– encourage the notification of significant events and experience feedback.

• Raising awareness concerning the responsibilities and implications of radiation protection

In 2011, seminars were organised by the ASN divisions in Orleans, Bordeaux, Marseilles and Nantes on the topic of industrial radiography. A brochure was given out to the participants. This is the third topic for which a brochure has been produced, after radiotherapy quality management and radioactive material transport operations.

ASN thus published thematic media to illustrate the radiation protection issues, summarise the regulatory fundamentals, as well as ASN's messages and actions.

In July 2011, ASN held a press conference warning about the rise in the doses of ionising radiation delivered by medical imaging (see point 1|3|3). A summary sheet was sent out to the professionals on this occasion, to remind them of the obligations and responsibilities of the various medical players. The conclusions of the medical imaging seminar of 16th September 2010 were also published, along with three papers on external beam radiotherapy, interventional radiology and the organisational plans in medical radiation physics (POPM).

The papers are sectorial reports on the state of radiation protection, trends, progress and difficulties encountered from the technical, organisational and human standpoints.

• Disseminate the regulations and promote their implementation

Disseminating, understanding and implementing nuclear safety and radiation protection regulations is one of ASN's key objectives.

ASN has placed two collections of radiation protection texts online for the professionals, on *www.asn.fr*. A list of texts applicable to industrial radiography was also distributed at the COFREND conference of May 2011.

In the medical field, ASN proposes an analysis of the applicable radiation protection requirements, in its medical and dental radiological guide. In the same way as every year, these baseline requirements were updated and in October 2011 were made available to the visitors to the French Radiology Days (JFR) conference.

Industrial radiography: spotlighting a key radiation protection issue

The purpose of industrial radiography is to detect defects in parts and structures, in particular in weld beads, either when they are manufactured or during the course of maintenance operations. This is a priority radiation protection issue, given the hazardous nature of the processes (dose rates of several grays per hour), the difficult conditions of intervention on worksites and the efforts still required to reduce the number of incidents and optimise human exposure.

Since 2005, the French Non-Destructive Testing Confederation (COFREND) has, at the request of ASN, been working on good practices for industrial radiological inspections and on justification for the use of ionising radiation.

A guide concerning the justification of industrial radiography was presented at the COFREND 2011 conference in Dunkerque (24th to 27th May), attended by more than 500 participants.

For the first time, ASN had a stand at this tri-yearly professional non-destructive testing fair. It was an opportunity for many exchanges with equipment suppliers, ordering customers and industrial radiology contractors.

ASN maintains a strong local presence through its industrial radiography inspection programme (more than 100 inspections/year). It also carries out preventive work alongside the Retirement and Occupational Health Insurance Fund (CARSAT) and the Regional Directorates for Enterprises, Competition, Consumption, Work and Employment (DIRECCTE).

The ASN divisions regularly organise regional meetings with radiography firms in order to encourage the adoption of good practices tailored to the specific local situation. In 2011, four professional meetings were arranged in Orleans (7th April), Bordeaux (16th June), Marseilles (3rd November) and Nantes (16th November). An information brochure was put together to make the participants aware of the radiation protection issues and to promote the principles of justification and dose limitation.

Regional charters in Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, Haute-Normandie, Nord-Pas-de-Calais and Rhone-Alpes Auvergne, testify to the desire on the part of the firms to take greater account of radiation protection in their activities. A charter is also currently being prepared in the Pays de la Loire area.

In 2012, ASN will be continuing its work with the industrial firms concerned.

Control console of an unauthorised and nonconforming fixed industrial radiography installation – April 2011

The "ASN guides" collection was created as an educational tool for professionals. In 2011, it comprises 17 non-prescriptive guides. These documents clearly state ASN doctrine, specify its recommendations, propose methods for achieving the objectives presented in the texts and share methods and good practices derived from experience feedback from significant events.

- Encourage the notification of significant events and experience feedback

ASN promotes the notification of significant events, with the clear intention of reinforcing the safety culture.

With regard to radiotherapy, ASN and the AFSSAPS (French Health Products Safety Agency) together launched the *www.vigie-radiotherapie.fr* web portal in July 2011. This site can be used to meet the notification obligations regarding both radiation protection and equipment monitoring. It remedies the initial complexity of the notification process which could have put people off: access to the regulatory references and notification criteria, single notification form and identification of addressees of the notification according to the criteria identified.

ASN attaches considerable importance to sharing the lessons learned from significant events. In July 2011, together with the AFSSAPS, it published the second review of significant radiation protection events and equipment monitoring notifications in the field of radiotherapy, declared over the period 2008-2009.

The six-monthly electronic bulletin *"La sécurité des soins – Pour une dynamique de progrès"* (health care safety – building momentum for progress), co-signed by the radiotherapy learned

societies (SFRO / SFPM / AFPPE) and ASN, was launched in March 2011. The bulletin is an initiative of the working group looking at experience feedback from significant event notifications intended for health professionals. It presents the progress and experience sharing approach initiated by the radiotherapy centres to enhance health care safety. The first two issues, devoted to patient identification and the treatment preparation session, were published in March and November 2011.

The first lessons learned from significant radiation protection events in nuclear medicine were presented to the French Association of nuclear medicine technicians (AFTMN) conference in Toulouse, from 22nd to 24th May 2011. A double-sided sheet was published and also handed out to the participants at the regional seminars in Nantes, Chalons and Lyon.

Partnerships with institutions, associations and professional organisations

• ASN support for the PCR networks

The Labour Code requires the appointment of a Person Competent in Radiation protection (PCR) when the presence, handling, utilisation or storage of a radioactive source or electrical generator using ionising radiation creates a risk of exposure of the staff of an establishment or of outside contractors intervening in an establishment performing a nuclear activity.

ASN, together with the General Directorate for Labour, supports the PCR networks with a view to breaking down the barriers between industrial and medical PCRs. After an external audit in 2008 to evaluate the working of the PCR networks, ASN asked a consultant in early 2011 to examine ways of promoting the creation, management and coordination of the networks. At the meeting of 7th October 2011, the nine regional networks signed the founding coordination charter for the PCR networks. With the help of ASN, they produced a brochure designed to present the network approach to the PCRs and to the other radiation protection stakeholders. It was distributed for the first time on the ASN stand at the French Radiology Days annual conference in October 2011. Pages were also devoted to the PCR networks on *www.asn.fr*.

Table 1: the collection of ASN guides

Number	Title
1	Disposal of radioactive waste in deep geological formations
2	Transport of radioactive materials in airports
3	Recommendations for drafting annual information reports for the public concerning basic nuclear installations
4	Auto-assessment of risk exposure of patients receiving external radiotherapy
5	Management of radiotherapy safety and quality of treatment
6	Final shutdown, decommissioning and delicensing of basic nuclear installations in France
7	Requests for shipping authorisation and approval of package models or radioactive materials for civil use transported on the public highway
8	Evaluation of nuclear pressure vessel conformity
9	Definition of a BNI perimeter (to be published in 2012)
10	Local involvement of CLIs in the 3rd ten-year inspections of the 900 MWe reactors
11	Notification and codification of criteria related to significant radiation protection events (excluding BNIs and radioactive material transport operations)
12	Notification and codification of criteria related to significant safety, radiation protection or environmental events applicable to BNIs and radioactive material transport operations
13	Protection of BNIs against off-site flooding
14	Acceptable complete clean-out methodologies in BNIs in France
15	Safety management policy in BNIs
16	Significant radiation protection event affecting a radiotherapy patient: declaration and classification on the ASN-SFRO scale
17	Studying hazards in transport infrastructures concerned by the transport of radioactive materials
18	Disposal of effluents and waste contaminated by radionuclides, produced in facilities licensed under the public health code

• Collaboration with institutions and learned societies

ASN conducts an active policy of collaboration with institutions and learned societies, with a view to ensuring constant improvement of the radiation protection of patients and workers. This cooperation is given form by conventions or framework agreements and mainly concerns regulations, quality assurance, training, or experience feedback from radiation protection events.

With regard to radiation protection in the medical field, ASN has signed conventions with five institutions to make it easier for them to perform their respective duties and carry out joint or complementary work: the General Directorate for Labour (DGT), the General Directorate for Health (DGS), the High Authority for Health (HAS), the French Health Products Safety Agency (AFSSAPS) and the French Health Monitoring Institute (InVS).

Three medical learned societies have also signed framework agreements with ASN: the French Society for Radiation Oncology (SFRO), the French Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging Society (SFMN) and the Professional Council of French Radiology (G4). In 2011, they were joined by the French Association of Electroradiology Paramedical Staff (AFPPE) and by the French Society of Medical Physics (SFPM). Joint ASN / SFPM work led to recommendations on the role, duties and staffing levels in medical radiation physics for imaging, as well as a guide for the organisational plans in medical radiation physics (POPM).

ASN is also working with the Commission for the radiation protection of veterinarians and, since 2011, with that for dentists.

More generally, the ASN regional divisions take part in professional meetings such as the regional seminars held by the Regional Union of private-practice physicians and the regional assemblies of health professionals (radiotherapists, radiation physicists, radiologists, oncologists, dental surgeons, stomatologists, etc.) and in continuing education training courses, in particular for biomedical engineers or radiology operators, and for Persons with Competence for Radiation protection (PCR) as defined by the regulations.

The presence and contributions of ASN at such events, both regional and national, are a valuable means of informing the professionals and ensuring closer relations with them - particularly in the small-scale nuclear sector - with a view to improving application of the safety and radiation protection principles.

Professional symposia

ASN is also developing relations with professionals through the symposia it organises and through its participation in the events they organise. These events are also opportunities for ASN to share ideas and experience with its foreign counterparts.

• The ASN divisions reaching out to the professionals in the small-scale nuclear sector

Twelve regional professional seminars were organised by the ASN divisions in 2011, or nearly twice as many as in 2010.
This figure is clear evidence of the commitment of ASN's divisions to four main topics:

– Nuclear Medicine in Nantes (7th October), Châlons (4th November) and Lyons (5th December) with three core messages: worker radiation protection, management of contaminated waste and effluents and notification of significant radiation protection events / experience feedback.
– Industrial radiography in Orleans (7th April), Bordeaux (16th June), Marseilles (3rd November) and Nantes (16th November) as part of the regional work on the good practices charters.
– Radiotherapy in Paris (17th May) and Marseilles (13th December) around two topics: sharing experience about health care safety and a review of ASN inspections.
– Organisation of radiation protection: conference of Persons Competent in Radiation protection (PCR) in Nantes (20th September) and of approved radiation protection organisations in Lyon (3rd November).

In 2011, ASN underlined its concerns regarding dose optimisation in medical imaging. In addition to holding a press conference, ASN devoted an issue of its Contrôle magazine to this subject and organised a first meeting of interventional radiology professionals in Marseilles on 17th June 2011.

• The main professional events in 2011

The Assises des déchets national waste conference (14th-15th September)

ASN is a long-standing partner of the Assises des déchets conference held every two years, under the aegis of the Ministry for Ecology, Sustainable Development, Transport and Housing.

On 15th September, together with ANDRA, ASN organised a round table on very low level (VLL) waste. The workshop was an opportunity to recall the fundamental principles applied in France, as enshrined in the national radioactive materials and waste management plan (PNGMDR), as well as the VLL waste management doctrine based on BNI zoning.

The participants (CEA, AREVA, the mayor of Soulaines, the FNE association and NEA) agreed that the system was functioning correctly but that there was a need to look for means of optimisation to avoid saturating the VLL waste repository too quickly. The subject of the possible recycling of waste within the nuclear industry was broached and its advantages and limitations discussed.

Meetings with radiation protection professionals

ASN took an active part in the events organised in 2011 by the French Radiation Protection Society (SFRP).
At the SFRP national conference (20th-23rd June), ASN co-chaired three sessions on the radiation protection of patients, in a professional environment and in an incident/accident or post-accident situation. It was present in the exhibitors area and presented three posters on the post-accident management of a nuclear accident, the "radon plan" and the radiological water survey. ASN was a member of the programme committees for the two SFRP days, devoted respectively to:

– a review of the use of ionising radiation sources and future prospects linked to technical and regulatory changes (15th -16th November);
– radiation protection of patients in medical imaging (13th December).

ASN was in contact with radiological physicists, medical radiation technologists and radiologists as an exhibitor at three fairs organised by the learned societies:

– the conference of the French Society of Medical Physics (8th-10th June) to coincide with its work on the organisation of medical physics;

– the conference of the French Association of Electroradiology Paramedical Staff (AFPPE, 17th-19th March);
– the French Radiology Days (JFR, 21st-25th October), with presentations focusing on risk management and dose optimisation in imaging and interventional radiology.

ASN was also present at the 13th International Hospital and Healthcare Quality Conference (JIQHS, 28th-29th November).

Industrial radiography

ASN had a stand at the COFREND conference in Dunkerque (24th to 27th May) to promote the principles of radiation protection and justification in industrial radiography.

1|3|3 ASN and the media

Press relations

ASN press relations help strengthen the organisation's credibility and legitimacy within its fields of competence.

ASN maintained close ties with the media throughout the year.

The year was marked by the Fukushima Daiichi accident in Japan. This ushered in a new era of ASN media relations, with a clear distinction between before and after Fukushima.

The ASN media service managed this lengthy media crisis and responded to the many queries from the media (see box on the Fukushima Daiichi accident).

The impact of this emergency was both visible and significant throughout 2011:
– numerous approaches on a variety of topics related to incidents that occurred in nuclear facilities, requests for explanations and clarifications about the ASN decisions, opinions and inspection follow-up letters, requests for ASN inspection follow-ups in the field.

ASN was subject to intense media pressure regarding topical and strategic subjects: the day-to-day safety of nuclear facilities, the EPR reactor construction site at Flamanville, the continued operation of the nuclear power plants, in particular Fessenheim, the level of safety of the new reactors being built around the world.

Since March 2011, many queries have concerned the complementary safety assessments (CSA) in France and the stress tests carried out on the nuclear facilities in Europe. ASN has provided explanations about the content of these topics, their schedule, how they are performed, the progress made and the outlook for 2012. The CSAs and the stress tests were also covered by specific press briefings to inform the journalists of how they were progressing. ASN held a press conference in mid-September to coincide with the submission to ASN of the licensee reports on the CSAs in the French nuclear facilities. In November, following the submission to ASN of the IRSN's analysis report on the post-Fukushima CSAs and the meetings of the Advisory Committees for reactors and for laboratories and plants, ASN held a press conference with the IRSN and the Chairman of the Advisory Committee to review the current situation regarding this subject. On 3rd January 2012, ASN submitted its report to the Prime Minister, for subsequent forwarding to the European Commission.
– a rise in the number of queries from international journalists contacting ASN on various subjects concerning nuclear safety in France, the steps taken to reinforce it, the complementary safety assessments, the stress tests and ASN safety initiatives around the world.

ASN welcomed journalists from Brazil, India and Eastern Europe and presented the institution and its policy of information to a variety of audiences.

It also held press conferences with international organisations (see point 1|4).

Briefing by Marie-Pierre Comets, Commissioner, and Olivier Gupta, Deputy Director General, during the Fukushima emergency – March 2011

In addition to the Fukushima accident, ASN kept journalists informed throughout the year by means of more than thirty national and regional press briefings on a variety of topics: nuclear waste management, post-accident management after a nuclear accident or radiological emergency (CODIRPA), the medical inspections report and management of exposure to ionising radiation.

With regard to the radiation protection of patients, the working of radiotherapy centres and the ASN recommendations to improve the quality of treatment safety were subjects that interested journalists.

In July, ASN held a press conference on the increased doses of ionising radiation delivered by medical imaging, primarily computed tomography and interventional radiology.

About twenty press releases, a hundred or so information notices and numerous interviews were an opportunity for ASN to inform the media and to clarify aspects of nuclear regulation and radiation protection in France, as part of its transparency approach.

ASN also held press conferences in which other institutions and working groups participated on various subjects. In November, with contributions from the pluralistic working group on leukaemia in children living near BNIs, it presented the recommendations of this working group, set up in 2008.

ASN also has regular institutional meetings with journalists to present the organisation, its development, and its priorities and strategic orientations:
– each January, ASN presents its New Year greetings to the journalists of the national and international press;
– at the end of March, when it presents its *Report on the safety of nuclear safety and radiation protection in France* to the OPECST (French Parliamentary Office for the Evaluation of Scientific and Technological Choices), with about twenty journalists present. The 2010 Report was presented to the OPECST on 30th March 2011 in the presence of both members of Parliament and journalists.

At the local level, the eleven regional divisions present the ASN report by organising 19 regional conferences. In 2011, they presented a summary of the activities of each division, discussed local issues and provided information about the Fukushima Daiichi accident.

The press expressed their interest in ASN's assessment of the state of the nuclear installations, the results of the inspections in radiology departments, and its status and powers of sanction. Field reporting assignments enabled the media to understand the various steps in ASN's regulation and inspection work and inform their audiences of the measures taken to guarantee treatment safety.

ASN and the media in emergency situations

Article L. 592-32 of the Environment Code assigns clear duties to ASN in emergency situations. It must "inform the public of the safety state of the installation that caused the emergency situation […] and of the possible releases into the environment and their risks for personal health and the environment".

ASN must in particular be capable of responding to media queries should a nuclear event occur. For this reason, some of the ten or so emergency response exercises organised each year include media pressure. This media pressure, simulated by journalists, is designed to assess and improve the responsiveness of ASN when faced with the media, as well as the consistency and quality of the messages put across by the various stakeholders, be they licensees or authorities, both nationally and locally.

TO BE NOTED IN 2011

The ASN barometer

In 2011, in collaboration with the TNS SOFRES institute, ASN repeated its survey (barometer) of the organisation's image and profile. This barometer is designed to measure ASN's recognition level and the degree of satisfaction of two sample populations of the public with regard to its information actions. It enables ASN to adapt its information policy to its various audiences.

The seventh wave of this opinion survey took place between October and December 2011 with a representative sample of the general public and a sample representing the more informed and professional public (in particular consisting of journalists, elected officials, association managers, administrators, CLI chairmen, health professionals and teachers).

Owing to its many declarations following the accident at the Fukushima nuclear power plant in March 2011, ASN is more visible and more well-known.

Among the general public, ASN's overall profile has risen 13 points in relation to 2010 (37%). The same applies to the more informed public. ASN's overall familiarity rating is 88% at the end of this year (+ 9 points in relation to 2010). 61% have heard about ASN's actions (+ 15 pts over 2010) and 72% have heard it talk about the Fukushima accident.

Among those who heard ASN talk about Fukushima, a majority (70% of the general public and 77% of the more informed public) are satisfied with what they heard.

Knowledge of ASN's roles is increasing among the general public. The vast majority of the French population is thus able to mention inspection and monitoring of nuclear facilities and activities in France (81%, + 2 pts in relation to 2010). The regulatory role is also better known (mentioned by 20%, + 8 pts in relation to 2010) as is that of information (10%, + 3 pts).

In 2011, much of the work done by the ASN media service was devoted to the nuclear accident at Fukushima.

Other emergencies entailing numerous international media queries also took place in 2011 requiring a ramp-up in resources so that the media could be informed in real-time. In September, ASN activated its emergency centre following the accident that occurred in the CENTRACO nuclear facility (low-level waste processing and packaging centre) in the *commune*[1] of Codolet near the Marcoule site (Gard). The licensee activated its on-site emergency plan following an explosion in a furnace used to melt low level and very low level radioactive metal waste. The accident led to the death of one person and injured 4 others (see chapter 16).

Training in communication and media relations

With the aim of issuing high-quality, clear and understandable information, stripped of any technical vocabulary, ASN offers all of its staff training in spoken and written communication and emergency management. This training is tailored to their various responsibilities. With a view to better responding to journalists' demands and expressing clear views, ASN spokespersons are trained in public speaking and communication with the media.

ASN inspectors receive training in written communication (drafting of information memos and press releases).

1. Smallest administrative subdivision administered by a mayor and a municipal council

1|3|4 ASN and elected representatives

ASN is also active in an institutional sector that comprises a large number of stakeholders: elected representatives, public authorities, HCTISN (French High Committee for Transparency and Information on Nuclear Security).

ASN organises discussions with this institutional audience in order to report on its activity and duties and to tie relations with the Government players in order to be more effective in carrying out its duties:

– on 2nd February 2011, the ASN Chairman was called before the Commission for Economic Affairs at the French Parliament's hearings devoted to the nuclear sector;
– On 30th March, ASN presented its Annual Report on the state of nuclear safety and radiation protection in France to the OPECST.
– on 7th July, ASN was called to one of the French Public Accounts Office (Cour des comptes) hearings concerning the cost of the nuclear sector.
– on 7th December, ASN was heard by the "Energies 2050" Commission.

Both nationally and regionally, ASN also took part in numerous debates with other institutional organisations on topics concerning nuclear safety and radiation protection and the notion of risk.

In a different context, ASN presented the national radioactive materials and waste management plan (PNGMDR) to the OPECST in June.

Presentation of the ASN 2010 annual report to the OPECST, Lamartine room of the National Assembly – April 2011

TO BE NOTED IN 2011

Parliamentary Mission on nuclear security, the current position and future of nuclear energy

After the Fukushima accident, the OPECST was, in March 2011, asked jointly by the Bureau of the National Assembly and by the Senate's Commission for the economy, sustainable development and planning, to undertake a study of "nuclear security, the current position and the future of nuclear energy".

ASN played a significant role and assisted this parliamentary mission. It was thus heard on a number of occasions by the OPECST:

– on 16th March: ASN took part in the hearing on "The nuclear emergency in Japan";

– on 5th May March: hearing open to the press on post-nuclear emergency management during the ASN seminar on this same subject,

– on 13th May: the ASN Douai division was called to the hearing on "nuclear accident emergency management";

– on 19th May: ASN hearing on incorporating natural hazards into the protection of nuclear facilities;

– on 24th May: the ASN was heard on "defence in depth mechanisms" as part of the hearing devoted to protection of the core and the vital systems of a reactor;

– on 31st May: public hearing on the organisation of nuclear safety, with a talk by the ASN Chairman, André-Claude Lacoste, who presented the specifications for the audit and the safety assessments of the European NPPs;

– on 16th June: the ASN spoke about transparency at a hearing devoted to the transparency of nuclear safety.

ASN also assisted the Parliamentary mission with its visits to the regions, at Nogent-sur-Seine (9th May), Gravelines (13th May), Flamanville - La Hague (20th May), Tricastin (27th May), Belleville-sur-Loire (10th June), and Fessenheim (10th June). The ASN regional divisions presented ASN's nuclear safety and radiation protection roles, informed the members of parliament about the safety of the nuclear facilities they were visiting and discussed subjects relating to nuclear control and monitoring (emergency management, transparency, etc.).

The OPECST mission's interim report on nuclear safety, the current position and future of nuclear energy was published on 30th June 2011.

At a regional level, the full ASN Commission, or some of its members, met members of the National Assembly and members of the Senate. The discussions focused essentially on improving transparency and the debate on nuclear questions.

ASN will continue to develop its relations with its institutional audiences in 2012.

1|4 ASN's international communication actions

The post-nuclear accident seminar (May)
On 5th and 6th May 2011, ASN organised the second edition of the international post-nuclear accident seminar, with the support of the OPECST. The seminar attracted 300 national players, experts from 20 foreign countries and numerous journalists in the premises of the National Assembly. It was preceded by a public hearing of the Parliamentary mission chaired by the OPECST, following the nuclear accident at Fukushima.

The seminar was an opportunity to review progress in French doctrine, for which the first baseline requirements should be published in 2012: the "emergency phase exit guide", currently being trialled in volunteer préfectures and communes and the guidelines of the "transition" and "long-term" phases (see chapter 7).

ENSREG European conference on nuclear safety (June)
ASN was heavily involved in organising the first European conference on nuclear safety. This event took place on 28th and 29th June 2011 in Brussels, at the initiative of ENSREG (European Nuclear Safety REgulators Group), which associates these regulators with the European Commission.

The event, which brought to light the emergence of a common vision of nuclear safety in Europe, built around the technical work done by WENRA, was a success, attracting more than 450 participants: safety regulators, nuclear licensees, international organisations, European Commission and NGOs.

A press conference was held with Mr Lacoste, his Spanish counterpart, Mrs Carmen Martinez Ten and the Chairs of ENSREG and WENRA, Andrej Stritar and Jukka Laaksonen. (see chapter 7).

The MDEP conference (September)
On 15th and 16th September, more than 120 experts from nuclear regulatory authorities and the nuclear industry met in Paris to discuss the progress made by the Multinational Design Evaluation Programme (MDEP) and the future of overall nuclear safety. This conference was held against the highly sensitive backdrop of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear accident.

A press conference was held by André-Claude Lacoste, Chairman of ASN and of the MDEP Strategic committee, his American counterpart from the NRC, Gregory Jaczko, and with the participation of the NEA (Nuclear Energy Agency) and Mr Nakamura Koichiro, Deputy Director General of the Japanese nuclear safety regulator. It was an opportunity to review the MDEP, launched in 2007 to pool the resources and know-how of the safety regulators responsible for evaluating the design of new reactors (see chapter 7).

The rating scales for nuclear incidents and accidents and radiotherapy radiation protection events

The need to inform the public of the severity of nuclear events, especially following the Chernobyl accident (1986), led to the development of rating scales. The first scale was created in 1987 by the CSSIN (French High Council for Nuclear Safety and Information). ASN played a vital role in the creation in 1991 of the International Nuclear Event Scale (INES) published by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). In 2002, ASN proposed a new scale to take account of radiation protection events (irradiation, contamination), in particular those affecting workers, regardless of the location of the incident.

In July 2007, ASN - together with SFRO - produced a scale for rating radiation protection events affecting patients undergoing a radiotherapy procedure, which was published in 2008.

In July 2008, IAEA published a revised INES scale taking greater account of events occurring in the transport sector or entailing human exposure to radioactive sources.

In September 2008, ASN also invited HCTISN to take part in the task on which it has been working since 2007 with a view to creating an index for measuring radioactivity in the environment.

The INES scale

The INES scale is based on both objective and qualitative criteria. It is used by sixty countries and its purpose is to facilitate media and public perception of the scale of any nuclear incidents and accidents. It is not a tool for assessing or measuring nuclear safety and radiation protection and cannot constitute a basis for either compensation or sanction. The INES scale is not designed for international comparisons and in particular cannot be used to establish a cause-and-effect relationship between the number of incidents notified and the probability of a severe incident occurring on a given installation at a later date.

• Nature of the events rated on the INES scale
The INES scale enables ASN to rate all events occurring in civil basic nuclear installations and during radioactive material transport operations, according to their importance. It has also been possible, since 1st July 2008, for the INES scale to be used by the 60 member countries of IAEA to rate radiation protection events (excluding events affecting medical patients) resulting from the use of radioactive sources in medical, industrial or research installations.

• Use of the INES scale in France
All significant nuclear safety events must be notified to ASN by the licensees within 48 hours, with a proposed INES scale rating. ASN retains sole responsibility for the final rating decision.

Using the INES scale enables ASN to select those events and incidents which are sufficiently important for it to issue a communication:
– incidents rated level 0 are not the subject of an incident notification, unless they are of particular interest;
– events rated level 1 are systematically the subject of an incident notification published on www.asn.fr.

Incidents rated level 2 and above are also the subject of a press release and a notification to IAEA.

International transport incidents concerning a foreign country are also notified to IAEA as of level 1. In the event of loss of a radioactive source, this notification is made as of level 0.

The ASN-SFRO scale

The purpose of the ASN-SFRO scale is to inform the public about radiation protection events affecting patients undergoing a radiotherapy procedure.

The scale was drawn up in July 2007 by ASN, jointly with SFRO, and was tested over a 12-month period. After joint evaluation with SFRO and the SFPM (French Medical Physics Society), the final version of the scale was published on www.asn.fr, *in July 2008.*

• Presentation of the ASN-SFRO scale

Events are rated on eight levels on the ASN-SFRO scale:
– levels 0 and 1 are used to rate events with no clinical consequences for the patient(s) concerned;
– levels 2 and 3 correspond to events categorised as "incidents";
– levels 4 to 7 correspond to events categorised as "accidents".

The severity of the effects is assessed with reference to the international clinical classification (CTCAE[2] grades), already used by the practitioners.

2. CTCAE: *Cancer Therapy Evaluation Program*, August 2006, *http://ctep.cancer.gov*

The effects considered in the notification to ASN are unexpected or unforeseeable effects due to inappropriate doses or irradiated volumes. Side-effects are not taken into account, whatever their grade, when resulting from the treatment strategy adopted by the practitioner in consultation with the patient and which are unrelated to any error in the volume irradiated or the dose delivered (notion of accepted risk).

For patients affected by a radiotherapy event, the resulting appearance of effects or complications may not be immediate. An event may therefore be temporarily rated at a given level which can then be subsequently modified according to the changes in the patient's state of health.

Unlike the INES scale, the "defence in depth" criterion (assessment of the level of safety of the radiotherapy activity) is not used in this rating, in order to avoid any confusion between the seriousness of a medical condition and a failure of the installation or breakdown in the organisation of a department.

• Classification criteria

As with the INES scale, the criteria for rating an event on the ASN-SFRO scale concern not only the confirmed consequences but also the potential effects of events. When several patients are affected by the same event, the rating level adopted corresponds to the most severe observed or anticipated effects. In the case of confirmed effects, the number of patients exposed is generally taken into account.

Information of the public and international relations

ASN's Communication and Public Information Department (DCI) is running a 2 year cooperation mission (2011-2012) to help the Ukrainian safety regulator (SNRIU) to consolidate its public information policy, drawing on the best European practices. The Finnish (STUK) and Italian (ISPRA) representatives are also taking part in this project, financed by the European Commission.

In order to share their experience of information of the public, the communication teams from ASN and their Spanish counterparts from the CSN (Consejo de seguridad nuclear) held a bilateral meeting on 20th and 21st September 2011 in Madrid.

Finally, ASN is an active member of the NEA (OECD) WGPC (working group on public communication). This is a working group comprising communication heads from the nuclear safety regulators, to enable them to share their experience and their good practices, for example on topics related to nuclear safety and management of emergency situations. ASN takes part in the corresponding actions.

Table 2: rating of significant events on the INES scale in 2011 (see chapter 4)

Level	Pressurised water reactor	Other basic nuclear installations	Transport	Small-scale nuclear activities	Total
3 et +	0	0	0	0	0
2	1	0	0	1	2
1	66	23	2	15	106
0	680	168	25	81	954
Total	**747**	**191**	**27**	**97**	**1,062**

2 ENHANCING THE RIGHT TO NUCLEAR SAFETY AND RADIATION PROTECTION INFORMATION

The TSN Act contains a number of extremely important provisions with regard to public information. As information regarding nuclear matters is a component of environmental information, nuclear activities are now among those which require the highest level of transparency.

The law in particular guarantees the "public's right to reliable and accessible information on nuclear security as defined in article L. 591-1" (article L. 125-12 of the Environment Code previously paragraph 4 of I of article 1 of the TSN Act). The right to information on nuclear safety and radiation protection concerns all fields of ASN activity, in particular:
– 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.

ASN is responsible for ensuring application of these measures, which apply not only to itself, but also to the licensees subject to its regulation and monitoring. As the applicable rules are still recent and questions regarding their implementation can arise, ASN endeavours to facilitate communication between all the stakeholders regarding any difficulties encountered and the best practices to adopt.

Examples of licensee reports

The environmental radioactivity index

Since 2008, ASN has been coordinating a pluralistic working group tasked with defining an environmental radioactivity index comparable with the pollution measurement scales. It is intended that this index should complement the INES scale of radiological incident or accident severity by providing information on environmental radioactivity levels independently of any situation occurring in a nuclear installation.

The following objectives have been set:
– qualify the information relative to the levels of radioactivity in the environment by enabling the information to be put into perspective, with a rating that depends on the required population protection actions;
– be rapidly determined on the basis of radioactivity measurements and estimates;
– must be usable everywhere and at all times, regardless of an incident or accident situation and the situations managed by the emergency plans.

The work continued in 2011 and led to a draft index comprising three levels, which can be determined by a simple calculation based on concentrations measured in the air and water.

This draft was presented to the steering committee of the national environmental radioactivity monitoring network (RNM) in May 2011 and to the HCTISN during its 16th June 2011 session, and was the subject of a paper at the International Conference on Radioecology and Environmental Radioactivity (ICRER) which was held in Hamilton (Canada) in late June 2011.

As a member of RNM's pluralistic working groups, ASN also undertook work to produce communication tools aimed at a variety of audiences (index presentation brochure, technical guide, etc.). These documents will enable trials of the index to be run in 2012, with a view to using it to support the measures specified in the RNM and during emergency exercises.

UNDERSTAND

2|1 Information released by the licensees

2|1|1 Information circulated on the initiative of the licensees

The main licensees of nuclear activities operate a proactive public information policy.

They are also subject to a number of legal obligations, either general (such as the environmental report required by the Commercial Code for joint stock companies), or specific, such as those pertaining to the nuclear sector.

All BNI licensees must therefore establish an annual report on their situation and the steps they take with respect to nuclear safety and radiation protection.

ASN produced a writing guide for these reports so that they conform to the objectives of the Act and deliver information to the general public that is as complete and as accessible as possible. After in-depth discussions with the CLIs, a new version of the guide was issued at the end of 2010.

Each year ASN analyses the licensees' reports, and the main conclusions for 2010 are summarized below.

As in the previous years, ASN considers the results of the analyses to be on the whole positive. The reports were produced on-time and comply with the obligations of the TSN Act with regard to the topics to be covered.

Efforts were continued in order to produce appropriate media for the general public and all the reports are now posted on-line (on the licensees' websites).

A certain number of shortcomings are still however apparent.

Generally speaking, the reports deal only with the topics explicitly mentioned in L. 125-15 of the Environment Code (previously paragraphs 1 to 5 and 8 of article 21 of the TSN Act) but without tackling related subjects that would be useful in providing the public with an overview of the impact of the site. Many of the reports contain few or no strategic orientations, long-term objectives or comparative data covering several years.

In general, the reports contain no qualitative or quantitative elements concerning public information (number of queries, types, response times, etc.).

Finally, ASN would like to see the licensees adopt a more instructive and informative approach in the reports they draft every year in accordance with articles L. 125-15 and L. 125-16 (previously article 21 of the TSN Act), on the public's right of access to information, in particular the right created by article L. 125-10 of the Environment Code (previously I of article 19 of the TSN Act).

ASN therefore aims to continue working with the licensees to share good practices and areas for progress.

In order to consolidate the position of these annual public information reports, and as part of the general process to overhaul the regulations applicable to BNIs, ASN plans to cancel a certain number of other reports required by the prior regulations, provided that the information they were to contain is from now on incorporated into the annual public information reports created by the TSN Act. This incorporation is not yet effective in the majority of cases, which means that the licensees still have to produce these various specific reports.

More precisely, the following observations concern the reports drafted by the main licensees.

ANDRA

The reports follow the standard layout recommended by ASN. The topics mentioned in article L. 125-15 of the Environment Code (previously paragraphs 1 to 5 and 8 of article 21 of the TSN Act) (nuclear safety & radiation protection, incidents & accidents, radioactive and non-radioactive discharges and radioactive waste) are on the whole dealt with satisfactorily.

The CHSCT recommendations are the subject of a separate opinion, positioned after the conclusion in the two reports. These opinions include the CHSCT's views of the annual report and underline the quality of these reports.

The reports all follow a common graphic charter and can be easily read by all publics (text, graphics, numerous illustrations, etc.). They are easily accessible and have been widely distributed, for example via the websites of ANDRA and the CLI concerned.

One possible improvement could be to add a presentation of the steps taken as a result of the requests and undertakings made further to the periodic safety reviews.

AREVA

As in previous years, ASN observes that the annual public information reports on the installations of the AREVA group are readily accessible and understandable. The report follows the standard layout recommended in the ASN guide, the graphic charter and the volume of the documents are uniform, and a chapter is dedicated to communication and informing the public.

The question of public access to information could however be given greater coverage. The presentation of subjects relating to transport could also be improved.

As a general rule, the data presented could be given greater perspective and objectives should be identified.

CEA

Just as in 2010, the annual public information reports on the facilities operated by CEA are on the whole good informative documents intended for the general public and deal with all the topics mentioned in article L. 125-15 of the Environment Code (previously paragraphs 1 to 5 and 8 of article 21 of the TSN Act). The language is understandable for the public and some explanations are included. The reports are organised according to the same layout, but without always fully adhering to that recommended by ASN.

Efforts must still be made to bring out the trends and performance of the BNIs by putting the data, experience feedback and objectives into perspective.

The risks and detrimental effects that are not specifically mentioned in article L.125-15 of said code (microbiological risk, noises, odours, etc.) are never addressed, even though they contribute to the overall impact of the installation.

Public information measures are presented infrequently and unequally.

EDF

As in previous years, the annual public information reports on EDF's nuclear facilities meet the requirements of article L. 125-15 of the Environment Code (previously paragraphs 1 to 5 and 8 of article 21 of the TSN Act).

These reports are clear and well-organised enough to be comprehensible to the general public. The data collection efforts accomplished make for easier comparisons between the sites.

Improvements could however be made to more clearly situate the information contained in the reports in a more general context, whether in terms of group strategy, its objectives or the rest of the NPP fleet. There is also a lack of perspective through historical comparisons (lack of multi-year data series). The reports could contain more graphics.

The annual reports for all the BNIs are available in the ASN public information and documentation centre.

2|1|2 Access to information in the possession of the licensees

With entry into force of the TSN Act, the nuclear field has a unique system of public access to information.

Hitherto, access to nuclear information had been regulated by two general texts:
– Act 78-753 of 17th July 1978 containing various measures to improve relations between the administration and the public and various administrative, social and fiscal measures, in particular institutes freedom of access to administrative documents: for instance, the administration must communicate to anyone who so requests the administrative documents in its possession, under certain conditions.
– chapter IV of part II of book I of the environment code stipulates that the public authorities and the persons responsible for a public service duty relating to the environment must communicate the information they have concerning the environment to whoever requests it.

These two general texts are obviously applicable to the nuclear field, with a few specific adaptations. Their common feature is that they place the obligation for communication on the shoulders of the public authorities mentioned in article L. 124-3 of the Environment Code or the organisations acting on their behalf.

The TSN Act innovated widely by creating a right of information concerning nuclear safety and radiation protection that is directly binding on the licensees. They are thus required to communicate to anyone who so requests, the information in their possession, whether it is produced by themselves or received from elsewhere, concerning risks linked to exposure to ionising radiation that could stem from this activity and concerning the safety and radiation protection steps taken to prevent or mitigate these risks or this exposure.

This arrangement is consistent with the principle of the prime responsibility of the licensee: as the licensee has overall responsibility for the safety of its facility, it is also responsible for communicating on the risks created by its facility and the steps it takes to prevent or mitigate their consequences.

In accordance with the general regime concerning the right of access to environmental information mentioned earlier, the TSN Act comprises provisions for protecting public safety or commercial and industrial secrecy.

The procedures governing disputes following a refusal to communicate information are similar to those applicable under the general regime: in the event of refusal by a licensee to communicate information, the applicant can refer the matter to the Committee for Access to Administrative Documents (CADA), an independent administrative authority, which gives its opinion on the justification for the refusal. Should the interested parties not follow the opinion of the CADA, the dispute would be taken before the administrative jurisdiction in order to rule on whether or not the information in question should be communicated.

The creation of this new right binding on the licensees represents a significant change to the legal framework of transparency. Currently, there is no equivalent applicable to other fields.

The right to information on nuclear safety and radiation protection is today enforceable both on BNI licensees and on those in charge of radioactive material transport operations, when the quantities involved are higher than thresholds, in accordance with article L. 125-10 of the Environment Code (previously I of article 19 of the TSN Act).

ASN is monitoring the implementation of this new right. The information collected shows that, as in previous years, it remains under-used. Some organisations have however had recourse to this right, in particular on the subject of the plants in the South-West or that at Fessenheim. ASN also contacted those licensees that had refused to communicate environmental information, to encourage them to adopt a more flexible interpretation of the notion of commercial and industrial secrecy. ASN also offered to provide CADA with technical opinions, as and when necessary, on whether or not the information referred to this Committee should be released. However, since this right came into force, only a very few cases have been referred to the CADA.

2|2 Public consultation about projects

2|2|1 Public consultation procedures
(also see chapter 3)

Article 7 of the Environment charter stipulates the principle of participation, by virtue of which everyone has the right of access to the environmental information in the possession of

the public authorities and everyone has the right to take part in the preparation of public decisions with an impact on the environment.

The TSN Act and its implementing decree 2007-2557 of 2nd November 2007 reinforced public information and participation concerning BNI-related procedures. The authorisation decree and the final shutdown and decommissioning authorisation for a BNI are therefore now always subject to a public inquiry. These procedures are also subject to the approval of the *Conseil général*[3], the municipal councils concerned and the CLI (Local Information Committee). The draft ASN prescriptions concerning water intake, effluent discharges into the ambient environment and the prevention or mitigation of detrimental effects of facilities on the public and the environment are also presented to the CLI and Departmental Council for the Environment and for Health and Technological Risks (CODERST).

ASN aims to ensure that these consultations enable the public and the associations concerned to express their views, in particular by verifying the quality of the licensee's files and by developing the CLI's resources so that they can express an independent opinion on the files (e.g. by consulting experts other than those of the licensee and ASN).

If this system is to work well, the public must obviously have as much information as possible. Although there are certain restrictions on the communication of environmental information legitimately provided for in articles L. 124-1 to L. 124-6 of the Environment Code, in particular to protect public security or commercial and industrial secrecy, ASN ensures that any rejection or refusal to communicate is effectively justified and notified to the applicant by a written decision giving full reasons and laying out the appeal procedures and deadlines.

2|2|2 Developing public consultation
(also see chapter 3)

Following a proposal from ASN, the Government included a new requirement in the 12th July 2010 Act constituting the national environment undertaking (article 243 of the "Grenelle 2" Act which supplements II of article 29 of the TSN Act) stipulating consultation of the public for any project to modify the facility or its operating conditions (without however constituting any significant modification of the facility) liable to lead to a significant rise in its water intakes or discharges into the environment. This procedure will become mandatory for projects submitted to ASN as of 1st July 2012.

Moreover, to enhance the participation of public representatives in the decision-making process, the ASN Commission has decided from now on to propose that representatives of the CLI come and present their committee's observations when it examines certain important files concerning a BNI.

Over and above the application of the legal and statutory public consultation procedures, ASN considers that information campaigns and suitable forms of public debate should be organised to help the public understand and assimilate certain important issues.

2|3 The Local Information Committees and the National Association of Local Information Commissions and Committees (ANCCLI)

2|3|1 Local Information Committees for the Basic Nuclear Installations

The CLI operating framework

Creation of the CLIs began in 1981 in application of a circular from the Prime Minister Pierre Mauroy, and was generalised by the TSN Act of 13th June 2006 (article 22). The broad role of the CLIs is to monitor, inform and be a channel for discussion on questions of nuclear safety, radiation protection and the impact on the populations and the environment of the nuclear activities of installations on the site(s) that concern(s) them.

The CLI operating rules and requirements are specified in decree 2008-251 of 12th March 2008 concerning BNI Local Information Committees.

The CLIs, whose creation is incumbent upon the President of the *Conseil général*[3], comprises various categories of members: representatives of *Conseils généraux*[4], of the municipal councils or representative bodies of groups of *communes*[5] and *Conseils régionaux* concerned, Parliament members elected in the département, representatives of associations for the protection of the environment or economic interests, representative employee and medical profession union organisations, and qualified personalities. The representatives of Government departments, including ASN, and of the licensee have an automatic right to participate in the work of a CLI, in an advisory capacity.

The CLIs are chaired by the President of the *Conseil général* or by an elected official from the *département* designated by him for this purpose.

The CLIs receive the information they need to function from the licensee, from ASN and from the other Government departments. They may request expert assessments or have measurements taken on the installation's discharges into the environment.

CLIs are financed by the regional authorities and by ASN. In 2011, ASN devoted about 600,000 euros to CLIs and the CLI association. Once again ASN suggested that the Government implement a provision of the TSN Act to top-up the budget of the CLIs with association status (there are about ten of them) with funds from the BNI tax, but this provision has not yet been implemented. The increased budgetary resources of ASN should however enable it to increase its CLI subsidies to a million euros in 2012, even if this does not meet the CLI's wishes in full.

ASN support for the CLIs is not restricted simply to financial aspects. ASN considers that correctly functioning CLIs contribute to safety by regularly questioning those in charge, and that this is an important factor in "ecological democracy". ASN also aims to ensure that the CLIs receive information that is as

3. *département*-level elected council
4. Regional–level elected council
5. Smallest administrative subdivision administered by a mayor and a municipal council

complete as possible. With the agreement of the licensees, it also invites CLI representatives to take part in inspections.

Apart from its direct support, ASN takes steps to ensure that a favourable environment is created for them. It encourages BNI licensees to facilitate CLI access - as early as possible - to the procedure files for which the opinion of the CLIs is required, so that they have sufficient time to produce a well-founded judgment. Similarly, ASN considers that the development of a diversified range of expertise in the nuclear field is essential if the CLIs are to be able to base their opinions, when needed, on the work of experts other than those called on by the licensee or ASN itself.

All BNI sites now have a CLI, except for IONISOS in Dagneux in the Ain département and GAMMASTER in Marseilles. A CLI should moreover be created in the near future for the COMURHEX site at Malvesi (Aude *département*), where part of the installation has been reclassified as a BNI (also see chapter 16).

At the end of 2011 there were 36 CLIs created under the TSN Act. To this must be added the local information and monitoring committee (CLIS) of the Bure underground laboratory (Meuse *département*), created pursuant to article L. 542-13 of the Environment Code, along with about fifteen information committees created around defence-related nuclear sites, pursuant to articles R.1333-38 and R.1333-9 of the Defence Code. For the Valduc site (Côte-d'Or *département*), there is also an advisory structure with association status: the Valduc information exchange structure (SEIVA).

CLI activity

The CLIs conduct their activity through plenary meetings, some of which are open to the public, and the specialised commissions they set up.

The annual public information report drawn up by the licensee was presented to the CLI in at least half of all cases. Significant events are also generally presented to the CLI.

Ten or so CLIs were consulted about licensees' projects in accordance with the procedures of the new BNI system. A similar number had appraisals carried out as provided for in the TSN Act, for example on the occasion of the third ten-year inspections of the 900 MWe reactors (for instance, the Fessenheim CLIS and the Gravelines CLI).

More than half of the CLIs have their own website or pages on the site of the local authority that supports them. Nearly twenty CLIs publish a newsletter (sometimes taking the form of an insert into the bulletin of a local authority) or published an information brochure in 2011.

The CLIs were particularly active in the wake of the Fukushima disaster. Some of them held specific meetings after the accident. At the invitation of ASN, 75 CLI members took part as observers in the targeted inspections carried out by ASN. Finally, the CLIs at Chinon, Civaux, Dampierre, Fessenheim, Golfech, Gravelines, Saint-Laurent and the three Cotentin CLIs sent observations to ASN on the complementary

TO BE NOTED IN 2011

23rd Conference of Local Information Committees

23rd CLI conference

The 23rd Conference of Local Information Committees brought together 225 participants on 14th December 2011 in Paris at the initiative of ASN and in partnership with ANCCLI.

CLI mobilisation was significant: 122 participants represented 34 different CLIs, a record level of participation.

As in previous years, the conference brought together CLI representatives, members of the HCTISN, representatives of the Conseils généraux *and the* préfectures *of* départements *with CLIs, the Government departments concerned, associations and licensees of nuclear installations.*

The conference debated the first lessons learned from the Fukushima accident, for example with regard to the safety of nuclear facilities and information and protection of the public in the event of an accident. As a preamble, ASN and ANCCLI touched on a few topical subjects and the President of the HCTISN presented the High Committee's activity for 2011.

The conference was preceded by an "inter-CLI meeting" organised by the ANCCLI, which included a debate between the representatives of the CLIs and ASN on the resources available to these committees.

12th December 2012 was set as the date for the 24th annual CLI conference.

safety assessment (CSA) reports produced by the licensees. These observations were incorporated by ASN into its opinion of 3rd January 2012.

The CLIs can have special advisers, generally on a part-time basis. They are members of staff of the local authorities or, for those CLIs with association status, employees of the association itself. If these special advisers are in place, this clearly helps the CLIs adopt a more proactive attitude.

More detailed information on the action of some of the CLIs is given in chapter 8.

2|3|2 The Federation of Local Information Committees: the National Association of Local Information Commissions and Committees

The TSN Act provides for the constitution of a federation of CLIs, and the decree of 12th March 2008 sets forth certain provisions that this federation must adhere to. This federation became the National Association of Local Information Commissions and Committees (ANCCLI). It is chaired by Mr Jean-Claude Delalonde.

The activity of ANCCLI in 2011

The ANCCLI is active in supporting the CLIs and in contacts with the CLI's institutional partners.

It has a website (*www.anccli.fr*) and an electronic newsletter sent out to about a thousand recipients.

As in 2010, the question of CLI financing occupied much of ANCCLI's time.

It took part in about twenty national, European and international events, to present CLI activities and their viewpoints on various topical subjects.

The ANCCLI authorities

The ANCCLI comprises a number of bodies, which continued their work in 2011.

• The ANCCLI Scientific Committee
This committee comprises independent unpaid experts from different backgrounds.

In 2011, it in particular focused on management of water resources by nuclear power plants in periods of drought, on epidemiological surveys conducted around nuclear sites (on which it drafted a summary report) and on the training of CLI members (for which it makes a number of proposals). It also examined a number of specific subjects.

It met six times in 2011.

• The ANCCLI permanent groups and consultative committee
ANCCLI has three "advisory committees":
– the "Radioactive materials and waste" advisory committee, which in 2011 worked on the topic of low-level, long-lived waste (LLW-LL);
– the "Territories – Post-nuclear accident" group which, together with IRSN, worked on defining a tool for raising the awareness of local stakeholders to the post-accident issue (OPAL); this tool was presented at the inter-CLI meeting preceding the 23rd annual CLI conference;
– the "Safety of nuclear facilities" advisory committee which, after focusing initially on the EPR reactor project, is to be reactivated in 2012.
The ANCCLI also has a "consultative committee" which examines the ANCCLI's strategic orientations for the coming years.

• The ANCCLI special advisers club
In 2010, ANCCLI created the CLI special advisers club to generate a dynamic current between the CLI coordinators and technicians, and provide a forum to discuss experiences, areas of progress and difficulties encountered by each CLI, in order to ensure common ground for work and reflection.

This group is working on the complete overhaul of the ANCCLI website and on training of the CLI members.

ANCCLI partnerships

ANCCLI enjoyed particularly regular discussions with ASN and takes part in several working groups set up by it (PNGMDR, CODIRPA, "tritium" action plan monitoring committee, working groups on the distribution of iodine tablets, on controlling urban development around BNIs, etc.).

The ANCCLI signed a cooperation agreement with the IRSN, under the terms of which it, for example, runs the OPAL project mentioned above. Two joint seminars were also held in the autumn to discuss safety issues related to the Fukushima accident.

At a European level, since it was created in 2007, the ANCCLI has played an active role in the European Nuclear energy Forum (ENEF). It for example intervened at the plenary session held in Prague in May 2011. The ANCCLI is a member of the "Transparency" working group set up following the first plenary session of the forum; this group held four meetings in 2011.

• The ACN initiative launched by ANCCLI
The Aarhus Convention and Nuclear (ACN) is an initiative launched by ANCCLI and the European Commission in 2008 with the aim of progressing with the practical implementation of the Aarhus Convention in the nuclear field. After an inaugural European workshop bringing together about a hundred participants from some fifteen member countries in June 2009, national round tables were set up in about ten countries.

Under the auspices of the HCTISN and ANCCLI, the French round table will in early 2012 make recommendations on the following themes: LLW-LL waste disposal site selection process, public access to information and participation in decision making, skills-building and access to the expertise necessary for truly active participation.

In parallel with the national work, thematic round-tables are organised at a European level; in January 2011, the ANCCLI and IRSN thus coordinated a meeting on the topic of access to expertise and skills-building. In February 2012, a new event will be organised with ASN on access to information and CLI participation in accident and post-accident situations.

The final conference of the ACN approach should be held in March 2013, under the aegis of the European Commission and the Secretariat of the Aarhus Convention.

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

The High Committee for Transparency and Information on Nuclear Security (HCTISN) created by the TSN Act is a body that informs, discusses and debates on nuclear activities, their safety and their impact on health and the environment.

The High Committee is chaired by Mr Henri Revol, former senator for the Côte-d'Or *département* and former Chairman of the French Parliamentary Office for the Evaluation of Scientific and Technological Choices (OPECST). It comprises forty members appointed for six years by decree, including:
– two MPs appointed by the National Assembly and two senators appointed by the Senate;
– six representatives of the CLIs (local information committees);
– six representatives of environmental protection associations and approved health system users associations;
– six representatives of persons in charge of nuclear activities;
– six representatives of representative employee labour organisations;
– six personalities chosen for their scientific, technical, economic or social competence, or for their information and communication expertise, including three appointed by OPECST, one by the Academy of Science and one by the Academy of Moral and Political Sciences;
– the ASN Chairman, a representative of the Institute for Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety and four representatives from the ministries concerned.

The Chairman of the High Committee is appointed by decree from among members of Parliament, representatives of the local information committees and personalities chosen for their competence.

In 2011, the HCTISN held four ordinary plenary meetings and two extraordinary meetings concerning the Fukushima accident; it also ran several working groups.

It drafted a report entitled "Transparency and secrecy in the nuclear field" and another on the process to search for a disposal site for low level, long-lived waste (LLW-LL).

As requested by the Prime Minister, the High Committee is associated in all steps of the process, run by ASN, to assess the safety of nuclear facilities in the light of the Fukushima accident. The specifications for these Complementary Safety Assessments (CSA) were thus the subject of consultations with the High Committee, which issued a favourable opinion on 3rd May 2011. A working group, chaired by Mr Gilles Compagnat, was set up to examine various questions linked to experience feedback concerning the Fukushima accident, in particular with regard to the use of subcontracting.

The elements presented and debated at HCTISN meetings can be consulted on its website, *www.hctisn.fr.*

ASN considers that the HCTISN plays an important role in consultation and debate at national level, and contributes actively to its work.

2|5 Information released by the other stakeholders

Nuclear safety and radiation protection are complex areas in which many parties are involved.

Given the diversity of available information, the public can now make up its own mind, in particular by consulting the websites of the main organisations concerned. The information they make available varies in nature, from the most general to the most scientific, aimed at an audience ranging from the layman to the informed professional.

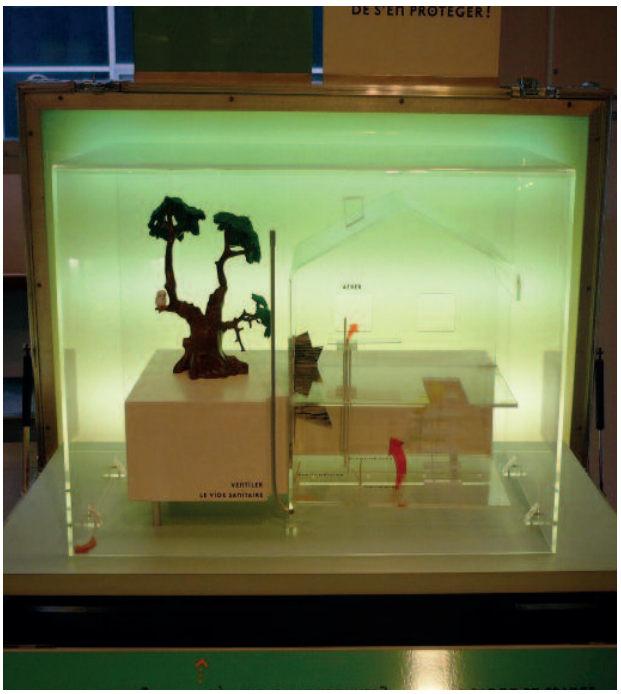
2|5|1 IRSN

IRSN produces an annual report of its activities, which it officially communicates to its supervisory Ministers and the HCTISN, the French High Public Health Council (HCSP) and the Working Conditions Guidance Council (COCT).

The 2010 version of this activity report is available in French and in English on the IRSN website and can be obtained on request, in paper format (French version) and/or on a CD-Rom (English version), from the Institute's communication department (IRSN, BP 17, 92262 Fontenay-aux-Roses Cedex).

In accordance with the requirements of the decree that created it, IRSN published the results of its R&D programmes, except for those concerning defence.

IRSN applies an information and communication policy that is consistent with the objectives defined in the objectives contract signed with the State. Some of its information actions are carried out jointly with ASN. This in particular concerns transparency and the "Nuclear applications and society" exhibition.



ASN-IRSN exhibition "nuclear applications and society: from understanding to regulation" at the *Ecole supérieure des mines in Saint-Etienne*

In line with its public information duty, the IRSN was extensively mobilised to answer questions from the media and the public during the Fukushima disaster in Japan.

As of 12th March, the Institute's website regularly published bulletins on the condition of the damaged plant and on the environmental and health consequences of the accident. Special arrangements were made for virtually real-time dissemination of the results of radioactivity monitoring in metropolitan France and overseas France.

Again in 2011, and continuing the transparency approach initiated in 2010 jointly with ASN, the IRSN also began publishing on its website certain technical opinions it produces at the request of the Authority.

In 2011, the "Nuclear applications and society" exhibition was presented at the Euréka gallery in Chambery (Savoie *département*) for 8 weeks, attracting nearly 4,000 visitors, plus 390 who attended debates and round-tables. Consideration is currently being given to possible changes to the existing exhibition, to make it more adaptable.

For all information concerning the travelling exhibitions: *http://expo.irsn.fr/expo/*

SELECTION OF WEBSITES OF THE VARIOUS STAKEHOLDERS

Below ASN provides a non-exhaustive list of the main websites dealing with nuclear matters:

- **International organisations and bodies**
  - http://ec.europa.eu (site of the European Commission);
  - www.iaea.org (site of the International Atomic Energy Agency);
  - www.icrp.org (site of ICRP, the International Commission on Radiological Protection);
  - www.nea.fr (site of the Nuclear Energy Agency);
  - www.unece.org (site of the UNECE Aarhus Convention on access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters);
  - www.unscear.org (site of UNSCEAR - *United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation*);
  - www.who.int/en (site of the WHO, the World Health Organisation).

- **Government sites**
  - www.debatpublic.fr (site of the National Public Debates Commission: "first off" EPR public debate, Cotentin-Maine VHV line, HLW-LL nuclear waste public debate);
  - www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr (site of the Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development, Transport and Housing);
  - www.toutsurlenvironnement.fr/ (Public services environmental information portal);
  - www.statistiques.developpement-durable.gouv.fr (site of the French Environment Institute, statistical department of the Ministry for the Environment);
  - www.industrie.gouv.fr (site of the Ministry for the Economy, Finance and Industry);
  - www.interieur.gouv.fr (site of the Ministry for the Interior, Overseas Territories, Territorial Collectivities and Immigration);
  - www.ladocumentationfrancaise.fr (site of La Documentation française, the reference public documents publishing house);
  - www.legifrance.gouv.fr (site of Légifrance, a public service for online legal publishing, under the editorial responsibility of the Government General Secretariat (SGG);
  - www.sante.gouv.fr (site of the Ministry for Health);
  - www.sites-pollues.developpement-durable.gouv.fr (Polluted sites portal of the Ministry for Ecology, Energy, Sustainable Development, Transport and Housing, dedicated to (potentially) polluted or radiation-contaminated sites and soils (MIMAUSA inventory);
  - www.vie-publique.fr (service provided by La Documentation française as part of its general duty to provide information and documentation about political, economic, social and international current affairs).

- **Parliamentary assemblies (report from the French Parliamentary Office for the evaluation of scientific and technological choices, bills, work done by committees, etc.)**
  - www.assemblee-nationale.fr (site of the National Assembly);
  - www.senat.fr (site of the Senate);
  - www.senat.fr/opecst/(section devoted to the Parliamentary Office for the Evaluation of Scientific and Technological Choices).

- **Health agencies, technical experts and authorities**
  - www.anses.fr (site of the French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health Safety);
  - www.afssaps.sante.fr (site of the French Health Product Safety agency);
  - www.curie.fr (site of the Institut Curie);
  - www.has-sante.fr (site of the French National Authority for Health);
  - www.ineris.fr (site of the French National Institute for the Study of Industrial Environments and Risks);
  - www.invs.sante.fr (site of the Health Monitoring institute);
  - www.irsn.fr (site of the Institute for Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety);
  - www.mesure-radioactivite.fr (site of the French national network of environmental radioactivity monitoring: roles, operations, laboratories, etc.).

- **Learned societies and think tanks**
  - www.aidn-sf.org (site of the International Nuclear Law Association (INLA));
  - www.e-cancer.fr (site of the French Health and Scientific Agency for Cancerology);
  - www.sfpm.asso.fr (site of the French Society of Medical Physics);
  - www.sfro.org (site of the French Society for Radiation Oncology (INCa));
  - www.sfrp.asso.fr (site of the French Radiation Protection Society);
  - www.sfr-radiologie.asso.fr (site of the French Radiology Society).

- **Local Information Committees (CLIs), High Committee for transparency and information on nuclear security (HCTISN) and information committees**
  - www.hctisn.fr (site of HCTISN);
  - www.ancli.fr (site of the national association of local information commissions and committees (ANCCLI);
  - www.clis-bure.com (site of the Bure CLIS);
  - www.cli-cadarache.fr (site of the Cadarache CLI);
  - www.cligolfech.org (site of the Golfech CLI);
  - www.cli-gravelines.fr (site of the Gravelines CLI);
  - www.commission-hague.org (site of the La Hague CLI);
  - www.cli-gard-marcoule.fr (site of the Marcoule CLI);
  - www.seiva.fr (site of the Valduc Seiva).

• **Patients associations**
  – www.hesperios.org (site of Hesperios, an association for people who have lost someone close as a result of a medical accident);
  – www.leciss.org (site of the CISS, Collectif Inter associatif Sur la Santé (inter-associations health collective));
  – www.aviamfrance.org (Association for help to victims of medical accidents and their families);
  – www.ligue-cancer.net (The Ligue Contre le Cancer is a private and independent source of funding for cancer research in France).

• **Higher education establishments and research centres (engineering colleges, universities, university hospitals, etc.)**
  – www.ensi-bourges.fr (site of the Bourges École nationale supérieure, offering a specialised Masters' degree in nuclear safety and security);
  – http://graduateschool.paristech.org (site of the École Nationale Supérieure des Arts et Métiers ENSAM, offering a specialised Masters' degree in nuclear safety);
  – www.mines.net (site for the four engineering schools of Albi, Alès, Douai, Nantes with those of Nancy, Paris and Saint-Etienne, constituting the Groupe des écoles des mines (GEM);
  – www.polytechnique.fr (site of the École Polytechnique);
  – www.ujf-grenoble.fr (site of Joseph Fourier University in Grenoble, offering a Masters' degree in Engineering, Traceability, Sustainable Development, nuclear safety specialisation).

• **Professionals**
  – www.afppe.net (site of the French Association of Electroradiology paramedical staff);
  – http://aftmn.free.fr (site of the French Association of Nuclear Medicine Technicians AFTMN);
  – www.polenucleairebourgogne.fr (site of the Burgundy companies, research centres and training centres cluster).

• **Scientific popularisation**
  – www.laradioactivite.com (general public science information site produced by CNRS researchers and CEA engineers);
  – http://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Accueil (site of the Wikipedia on-line encyclopaedia, created in 2001. It is multilingual, freely accessible and written by web users).

• **Associations**
  – www.acro.eu.org (site of the Association for the Control of Radioactivity in the West, "ACRO");
  – www.cepn.asso.fr (site of the Nuclear Protection Evaluation Centre);
  – www.criirad.com (site of the Committee for Independent Research and Information on Radioactivity);
  – www.dissident-media.org/infonucleaire;
  – www.ecolo.org (site of the "Association of Ecologists for Nuclear Power", AEPN);
  – www.fne.asso.fr (site of the French federation of nature and environmental protection associations);
  – www.global-chance.org (site of the "Global Chance" association);
  – www.greenpeace.org/france (site of Greenpeace);
  – http://nucleaire-nonmerci.net;
  – http://resosol.org/Gazette (The GSIEN Gazette, a publication of the Group of Scientists for Information on Nuclear Energy);
  – www.robindesbois.org (site of the "Robin des bois" association);
  – www.sfen.fr (site of the French Nuclear Energy Society);
  – www.sortirdunucleaire.org (site of the "Sortir du nucléaire" association).
  – www.wise-paris.org (Wise site).

• **Licensees (industry and research organisations)**
  – www.andra.fr (site of the National Agency for Radioactive Waste Management);
  – www.dechets-radioactifs.com (educational site on radioactive waste published by ANDRA)
  – www.areva.com (official site of the AREVA group);
  – www.areva-nc.fr (formerly COGEMA);
  – www.areva-np.com (formerly Framatome-ANP, manufacturer of the French nuclear reactors);
  – www.cea.fr (site of CEA - the French Alternative Energies and Atomic Energy Commission);
  – http://france.edf.com (official site of EDF);
  – www.in2p3.fr (site of the National Institute for Nuclear Physics and Particle Physics);
  – www.iter.org (site of the international ITER project).

• **Trade union**
  – www.fnem-fo.org (site of the national energy and mines federation - FO).

3 OUTLOOK

Informing the public about nuclear safety and radiation protection is one of ASN's fundamental roles. This role was conferred on ASN from its inception, and was reinforced by the Act of 13th June 2006 relative to transparency and safety in the nuclear field. The Act, which makes it a duty for ASN to inform the public, defines transparency in the nuclear field as "all the measures taken to guarantee the public's right to reliable and understandable information concerning nuclear safety".

This duty to inform takes the form of numerous actions carried out at international, national and regional level. These actions are characterised by the multitude and diversity of the themes developed, of the audiences targeted (general public, media, institutional and professional audiences), and of the information means used (press relations, events, publications, Internet, etc.).

In 2012, ASN will continue to enhance transparency and information on the subjects under its responsibility, together with the other players and stakeholders.

It aims to make technical information more accessible and comprehensible to the general public.

It will improve its publications in order to more closely match the expectations of the audiences and will release more informative and educational videos on its website.

ASN will also continue to consult the public by means of online channels.

Developing exchanges with elected officials and stakeholders will also be one of the focal points of its public information actions.

In 2012, ASN will also continue actions to develop application of the requirements of the TSN Act concerning licensee transparency and procedures relating to nuclear activities.

It will contribute to the revision of the procedures for public consultation – where nuclear activities are concerned – provided for in the act on the national environment commitment ("Grenelle 2" Act): this chiefly concerns reforming the public inquiries and the institutionalisation, further to an ASN proposal, of a procedure for consulting the public about projects that could lead to a significant increase in water intake or discharges into the environment from a BNI, but which does not fall under the public inquiry procedure.

ASN will continue to ensure correct application of the provisions concerning access to the information in the possession of the BNI licensees, and the recent extension of these provisions to cover those in charge of the main radioactive material transport operations. It will initiate consultation with a view to applying these arrangements, as stipulated by the Act, to other nuclear activity categories with an impact on the public and the environment.

Finally, ASN will continue to support CLI activities. With ANCCLI and in agreement with the licensees, it will establish rules of good practice to make it easier for the CLIs to perform their duties. It will reiterate its proposals to the Government with a view to ensuring that the CLIs are given the resources they need.