

Topical Peer Reviews (TPR)

Nuclear safety is an absolute priority for the EU

Of the 27 EU Member States, 13 operate nuclear power plants. It is crucial that this type of energy is generated in a safe and secure way. This is why **continuously improving nuclear safety is an absolute priority** for Euratom and its Member States.

Lessons learnt from the Fukushima accident in 2011 led to the revision of the Euratom Nuclear Safety Directive. Building on the 'stress tests' of European nuclear power plants, the revised Directive (2014/87/EURATOM) introduced a **European system of topical peer reviews (TPRs)** which started in 2017 and are set to take place at least every six years.

TPR is a way for EU Member States **to examine topics that are strategically important for nuclear safety**, to exchange experience and to identify opportunities to strengthen nuclear safety. Recognising the importance of peer review in continuously improving nuclear safety, the two-step TPR process comprises self-assessment and mutual peer review. The first TPR (2017-2019) covered the ageing management of nuclear power reactors and research reactors above 1 MWth. The topic of the second TPR (2022-2024) is fire protection at nuclear installations.

'Topical peer reviews reinforce Member States cooperation and strengthen nuclear safety in the EU.'

Marta Žiaková, Chair of ENSREG

The European Nuclear Regulators Group (ENSREG) with technical support from the Western European Nuclear Regulators Association (WENRA) has developed the TPR methodology and timeframe. They are **based on comprehensive factual expertise** built up by the national regulators

Transparency and public participation are integral to the process

Transparency is ensured throughout the TPR process, which **provides opportunities for public involvement and participation**. All relevant documents and reports are published on the ENSREG website.

Cooperation on nuclear safety between Member States is well established and can **help improve nuclear safety, transparency and openness towards European and international stakeholders**. The TPR aims to identify both general and country-specific improvements and to ensure follow-up for each country through national action plans, which will address the relevant findings and will also inform the future work of ENSREG.

ENSREG

ENSREG provides independent advice to the European Commission. It helps **put in place the right conditions to continuously improve and reach a common understanding on nuclear safety and radioactive waste management**, and to increase transparency in these areas. ENSREG not only develops, but also organises and oversees the TPR exercises.

TPRs involve cooperation between:

- EU Member States
- ENSREG
- TPR review team of experts
- European Commission
- WENRA
- national regulatory authorities
- operators
- other stakeholders