



SNETP Reaction to the Fukushima Nuclear Accident

The Sustainable Nuclear Energy Technology Platform (SNETP) is a European Technology Platform established in 2007 with the endorsement of the European Commission. It is a forum grouping nearly 100 stakeholders from industry, research, safety organisations, universities and non-governmental organisations, dedicated to promote research, development and demonstration of nuclear fission technologies necessary to achieve Europe's Strategic Energy Technology Plan (SET-Plan) goals.

SNETP expresses its solidarity with the people of Japan so strongly affected by the recent devastating earthquake and tsunami and its support to TEPCO and the Japanese authorities in their efforts to limit the consequences of the resulting nuclear accident.

SNETP supports the common EU-level approach to analyse the implications of the Japanese nuclear events, and to develop a common framework to re-assess the safety of nuclear power plants without delay. In this respect, we welcome the European Commission's proposal to conduct a voluntary 'safety and risk evaluation' in order to re-assess the safety margins of nuclear power plants across Europe.

While we understand uncertainties and emotions that go with the nuclear events in Japan, we strongly believe that, until the current situation has been brought fully under control and the root causes of the events have been understood, we need to refrain from making any premature policy decisions that could have significant implications for Europe's energy future and climate change policy.

SNETP gives nuclear safety the highest priority in its vision and research agenda. European technical safety organisations (TSOs) are involved in the activities of the Platform's governance and working groups. SNETP promotes safety-related research and harmonisation at EU level, for current and future generations of nuclear fission technologies.

The Platform's Governing Board has decided today to set up a dedicated task force to assess the lessons learned from the Fukushima accident, in order to identify appropriate adaptations of SNETP's work programme.

Nuclear energy is and will need to remain a key element in meeting Europe's needs for security of energy supply, competitiveness, and fight against climate change.

The SNETP Governing Board
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