

1st General Assembly of SNE-TP

Opening Speech by Philippe Pradel, Chair

Check against Delivery!

Ladies and Gentlemen, Members of Parliament, Members of the European Commission, distinguished speakers and guests,

It is a great pleasure for me to welcome you in Brussels just over a year since our official launch conference. The General Assembly of a Technology Platform is a unique event where all the members of the platform can meet, where the Board, the Executive Committee and the different Working Groups can present their work to you. The event is open to the public, and I believe many of you today have come to learn about the Sustainable Nuclear Energy Technology Platform, and its contribution to the development of fission technologies to address Europe's energy challenges.

Already, with over 230 registered participants, from all over Europe and sometimes beyond, this first General Assembly is a success. But I would like to thank especially our guest speakers and session chairpersons today, Mr. Forsstrom from the IAEA, Mr Poncelet from AREVA who has been very active in the European Nuclear Energy Forum, Mrs Herczog from the European Parliament who has kindly

accepted our invitation to speak, as well as the participants to the 3rd session – the round table discussion on the very important topic of funding for nuclear fission research. I thank Mrs Hall from Platt EU News for moderator this afternoon session.

In the first session today, you will hear about the presentation of our Strategic Research Agenda, which has been prepared by over 100 scientists and engineers from the member organisations. A copy of the Executive Summary of the SRA has been distributed to you this morning, and you will be within a few weeks, able to download from the platform's website, the final draft document – which will be open for public review for a month. You will hear about the recommendations from our Deployment Strategy Working Group – and from the platform's Working Group on Education, Training and Knowledge Management.

The 2nd session is dedicated to the SET Plan. Most of you are aware that Europe is defining its new Energy Policy, and the SET Plan is providing us with the tools to accelerate the development and demonstration of key low carbon energy technologies. Nuclear fission is among them – and its role in addressing the 2020 challenges as well as the longer term goal of a low carbon energy mix will be illustrated by the different presentations. We will hear in particular about the European Industrial Initiative to accelerate the development and demonstration of Generation IV Fast Neutron Reactor technologies

with closed fuel cycles. This Initiative will be launched in the 2nd half of 2009, and represents an ambitious yet necessary thrust to give Europe a competitive and sustainable energy technology to complement renewables, and to maintain Europe's technological and industrial leadership in the face of growing world competition.

Finally, I would also like to invite you to spend some time during the different breaks to visit the poster session, with 28 contributions representing national R&D programmes, or European research projects funded under the Euratom Framework Programme.

I thank you for your attention, and without any further delay, I will hand over to Mr Hans Forsstrom, who will give us some perspectives from the IAEA on international developments towards sustainable nuclear fission.