

Consultation on approaches for a possible EU legislative proposal on the management of spent fuel and radioactive waste

1. ABOUT YOU

Do you reply as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?	Organisation /Company
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Name
Gunnar Boye Olesen

Organisation name
International Network for Sustainable Energy - Eur

Telephone number
+45-86227000

E-mail address
ove@inforse.org

Kind of organisation/company	Non-governmental Organisation
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Region of residence	European Union
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Which European Union country?

2. YOUR PERCEPTION OF THE SITUATION IN YOUR COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE

2.1. Do you consider that the measures taken in your country of residence for ensuring the safe management of spent fuel and radioactive waste are sufficient?	No
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2.2. What are the main challenges related to the spent fuel and radioactive waste management with which your country of residence is still confronted?	Lack of political decisions Lack of political, solution oriented leadership Lack of a legislative framework providing appropriate arrangements for a high level of safety of spent fuel and radioactive waste management Lack of a permanent and safe solution for the disposal of low and intermediate level waste Lack of a permanent and safe solution for the disposal of high level waste and spent fuel Lack of adequate financial resources for implementing disposal solutions Insufficient involvement of the public in the decision-making process Lack of transparency
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3. GENERAL QUESTIONS ON THE PREFERRED APPROACH FOR EU LEGISLATION GOVERNING THE MANAGEMENT OF SPENT FUEL AND RADIOACTIVE WASTE

3.1. Do you consider that a common approach of all the 27 Member States at EU level is needed for tackling the challenges related to the spent fuel and radioactive waste management with which your country of residence might still be confronted?	No
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3.2. What would be your preferred instrument of Community intervention?	Non-binding recommendation
3.3. Do you consider that legal certainty would be enhanced if the principles of the IAEA Safety Fundamentals and the Joint Convention would become part of Community legislation?	Yes

4. POSSIBLE APPROACHES FOR BINDING EU LEGISLATION GOVERNING THE MANAGEMENT OF SPENT FUEL AND RADIOACTIVE WASTE

4.1. Option 1 consists in strengthening the internationally accepted principles and requirements laid down in the IAEA Safety Standards and the Joint Convention on the management of radioactive waste and spent fuel throughout the Community. It would include important requirements as to the national legislative and regulatory system and would require Member States to adopt national programmes for the management of spent fuel and radioactive waste. Which are the fundamental principles and requirements that Member States should comply with under this policy option?	<p>To effectively protect future generations from the dangers of ionising radiation</p> <p>To establish and maintain a national legislative, regulatory and organisational framework for spent fuel and radioactive waste ('national framework')</p> <p>To establish and maintain a competent regulatory authority in the area of spent fuel and radioactive waste management</p> <p>To ensure the effective independence of the regulatory authority</p> <p>To provide to the regulatory authority the necessary legal, human and financial resources in order to fulfil its functions</p> <p>To ensure verifications of compliance with legal obligations</p> <p>To ensure enforcement of legal requirements</p> <p>To ensure that the licence holder has the prime responsibility for the safety of radioactive waste and spent fuel management</p> <p>To establish and maintain a dedicated organisation at national level for the management of radioactive waste and spent fuel, if regarded as waste for direct disposal</p> <p>To apply the "polluters pay" principle</p> <p>To ensure adequate financial resources for the safe management of spent fuel and radioactive waste</p> <p>To ensure the establishment and implementation of quality assurance programmes</p> <p>To implement transparency arrangements</p> <p>To actively involve the public in the decision-making process</p>
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4.2. Option 2 would contain, in addition to option 1, specific requirements for the scope, contents and review of national programmes for radioactive waste and spent fuel management throughout the Community. Which elements (one more more) should be included in the national programme for spent fuel and radioactive waste management?	<p>Roles and Responsibilities</p> <p>Inventories of radioactive waste and spent fuel</p> <p>Disposal routes</p> <p>Skills and programmes for research and development</p> <p>Remedial actions for legacy waste</p>
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5. MEANS TO VALIDATE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF BINDING LEGISLATION

5.1. Which of the following requirements (one or more) would you consider as valuable options (one or more) for ensuring the implementation of binding EU legislation at the level of your country?	To submit national reports to the IAEA in the framework of the Joint Convention, that also cover the implementation of the legislative instrument
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6. POSSIBLE IMPACTS OF BINDING LEGISLATION

6.1. As to potential impacts, which of the following (one or more) would you expect?	Enhanced international cooperation
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7. ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS AND THOUGHTS?

7.1. Do you have additional suggestions or more specific thoughts on a potential legal EU instrument for spent fuel and radioactive waste management? (max. 1000 characters, no WEB links).

We are in favour of international regulation, covering all countries, guided by the principles of highest safety levels, the polluter pays principle, independent control and management of funds for radioactive waste and for decommissioning of nuclear power plants, safe disposal of nuclear waste with possibilities to retrieve the waste, as well as the national sovereignty to go beyond any internationally agreed safety levels, including any level set by the EU. We find that a non-binding EU recommendation for treatment of radioactive waste best can support this. Beside one of our member organizations have expressed concern of the foreign (in this case Russian) ownership of radioactive waste management companies, which the organization finds possibly leads to less control of the radioactive materials

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