

Regulatory Updates

Nuclear safety...

Mr Jean-Luc Lachaume appointed ASN Commissioner

December 2018



Further to a proposal from the President of the National Assembly, Jean-Luc Lachaume was appointed ASN Commissioner for a six-year term by decree of the President of the Republic dated 21 December 2018.

Born on 25th June 1959 in Limoges, Jean-Luc Lachaume graduated as an Engineer from the French Naval Academy and as a Nuclear Engineer from the EAMEA (Military Nuclear Energy Applications Engineering School).

Having entered the French Naval Academy in 1980, he began his career in the French Navy as Naval Officer. Between 1983 and 1991 he performed several tours of duty on the submarines Agosta, Diane, L'Inflexible and Le Terrible. He subsequently occupied a position of expert at the Nuclear Security Office of the Naval Staff in Paris from 1992 to 1998.

In 1998 he integrated the corps of civil administrators and joined ASN to take charge of a sub-directorate tasked with crisis management, inspection organisation and the environment. In 2004 he was appointed Deputy Director-General, responsible for oversight of the nuclear installations operated by Areva, the CEA and ANDRA, and of small-scale medical and industrial nuclear activities.

From 2014 to 2017 he also chaired the Regulatory Cooperation Forum, tasked with assisting the nuclear regulators of countries starting a nuclear power production programme.

In 2017 he joined the French Institute for Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety (IRSN) as Director Delegate for crisis management, reporting to the director general.

 [For more information
www.french-nuclear-safety.fr](http://www.french-nuclear-safety.fr)

ASN renews the Advisory Committees for nuclear safety and creates a new Advisory Committee for “Decommissioning”

December 2018

In the exercise of its duties, ASN coordinates technical investigations which lead to resolutions and opinions. These investigations draw on internal and external expertise, this latter being primarily the responsibility of IRSN, in its capacity as the ASN technical support organisation.

For the more complex subjects, ASN also has recourse to Advisory Committees of experts (GPE) reporting to the ASN director general.

Each GPE has about thirty members. In order to ensure the competence of these Committees, ASN calls on various expert assessment organisations, licensees, manufacturers and carriers, university research laboratories, inspection agencies, civil society organisations and national and foreign administrations, with the aim of identifying and proposing candidate experts.

ASN renewed the composition of the five Advisory Committees for nuclear safety for a period of four years, their mandates having expired:

- The Advisory Committee for Nuclear Reactors (GPR),
- The Advisory Committee for Laboratories and Plants (GPU),
- The Advisory Committee for Waste (GPD),
- The Advisory Committee for Transports (GPT),
- The Advisory Committee for Nuclear Pressure Equipment (GPESPN).

In total, just over half the experts appointed are new members.

ASN also wished to set up a new GPE for activities related to decommissioning (GPDEM), to deal with the growing challenges of the decommissioning of nuclear facilities, which are distinct from those concerning the operation of facilities in service or the management of nuclear waste. Its members were appointed for a four-year mandate by decision of the director general dated 30 October 2018.

In addition, there are two other GPE reporting to the ASN director general: one for medical exposure (GPMED) and the other for environment and radiation protection (non-medical - GPRADE). The mandate of their members, appointed in 2016, runs until 2020.

Mr Bernard Doroszczuk appointed ASN Chairman

November 2018



By decree of the President of the Republic, dated 13 November 2018, Bernard Doroszczuk was appointed Chairman of ASN for a period of 6 years.

The professional career of Bernard Doroszczuk has been entirely devoted to the oversight of high-risk activities and installations, in both the public and private sectors, where he has held several positions of responsibility directly related to nuclear safety and radiation protection.

In particular, in 1997, he joined ASN, taking charge of internal coordination of the second periodic safety review of the EDF 900 MWe reactors.

After spending time in the central administration managing the Regional Directorates for Research and Industry (DRIRE), he was appointed head of the DRIRE Centre in 2003 and then of the DRIRE Ile-de-France in 2008. In these two positions, he acted as ASN regional representative for nuclear safety oversight of the NPPs in the Centre region and on the French Alternative Energies and Atomic Energy Commission (CEA) centres of Saclay and Fontenay-aux-Roses. In this capacity, he also oversaw the monitoring of radiation protection in the medical and industrial sectors, as well as on sites and soils contaminated by radioactive materials in the Ile-de-France region.

In 2010, he was tasked with setting up the Regional and Inter-departmental Directorate for the Environment and Energy for the Ile-de-France region. He ran this new Directorate until 2013 and then joined the French Accreditation Committee (COFRAC) as CEO.

Bernard Doroszczuk holds the status of *ingénieur général au corps des mines*, the State's elite engineering corps, and he is a Knight of the National Order of Merit.

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www.french-nuclear-safety.fr](http://www.french-nuclear-safety.fr)

ASN delivered its opinion on the overall consistency of the nuclear fuel cycle in France

October 2018

ASN monitors the overall consistency of the industrial choices made concerning fuel management which could have an impact on safety. In this context, ASN periodically asks EDF to submit a "Cycle Impact" file prepared jointly with the fuel cycle players, presenting the consequences for each step of the fuel cycle of EDF's strategy for using the different types of fuel in its nuclear reactors.

On 18 October 2018, ASN delivered its opinion after completing its review of the "2016 Cycle Impact" file for the 2016-2030 period considering several scenarios for the development of the energy mix. ASN considers that this file provides a satisfactory overview of the consequences of the various nuclear fuel cycle development scenarios on the nuclear facilities, transport operations and waste management. However, the consequences of contingencies that could affect the fuel cycle must be examined in greater depth.



ASN underlines the need to anticipate any strategic change in the functioning of the fuel cycle by at least ten years so that it can be designed and carried out under controlled conditions of safety and radiation protection. It is a question of ensuring that - given the incompressible development times for industrial projects - the needs, for example, for new spent fuel storage facilities or for new transport packaging designs are addressed sufficiently early.

In this framework, in the longer term it will be necessary either to have new storage capacities that are significantly greater than the current and projected capacities, or to be able to use MOX fuel in reactors other than the 900 MWe reactors, which are the oldest. The time frame required for the design and production of these options is about ten years. ASN therefore asks the industrial players to start examining these two options without delay.

 [For more information
www.french-nuclear-safety.fr](http://www.french-nuclear-safety.fr)

ASN authorised commissioning and operation of the Flamanville EPR reactor pressure vessel in certain conditions

October 2018

On 9th October 2018, ASN authorised the commissioning and operation of the Flamanville EPR reactor pressure vessel, subject to the performance of a test programme to monitor the thermal ageing of the steel in the residual carbon positive macro-segregation zone, plus specific inspections during operation of the facility.



As the current state of knowledge does not enable the feasibility of these inspections to be confirmed for the vessel closure head, ASN set a service life limit at end of 2024 for the existing vessel closure head.

This authorisation is based on the conclusions of the ASN opinion of 10th October 2017 concerning the anomaly in the chemical composition of the steel of the vessel closure and bottom heads of the Flamanville EPR reactor, as well as on the additional data transmitted by Framatome in its authorisation application of 13th July 2018.

The examination of this additional information by ASN did not compromise the conclusions of the 2017 opinion. Moreover, ASN verified compliance with the technical and regulatory requirements other than those concerning the chemical composition of the steel in the reactor vessel closure and bottom heads.

The ASN draft resolution was opened to public consultation on its website in September 2018. Following this consultation and that of the Standing Sub-committee for Pressure Vessels of the High Council for the Prevention of Technological Risks, ASN supplemented its resolution in order to clarify certain points underpinning the requirements of article 2 of the resolution, concerning the thermal ageing programme and the technical feasibility of the pressure vessel closure head replacement operation.

 [For more information
www.french-nuclear-safety.fr](http://www.french-nuclear-safety.fr)

ASN hosted the 22nd HERCA Board meeting

October 2018



On 30-31 October 2018, ASN hosted the 22nd meeting of the Heads of European Radiation protection Competent Authorities (HERCA), gathering 45 participants from 25 countries.

At this meeting, all six HERCA Working groups (WG) presented their on-going and future activities in the fields of medical and veterinary application, research and industrial sources and practices, natural radiation sources, education & training and emergencies.

Furthermore, the Board approved the publication of country fact sheets on national frameworks in Emergency Preparedness and Response and of the Statement on the Justification and use of hand-held X-Ray equipment.

Board members also discussed the benefits and future activities of HERCA on the basis of HERCA Board contributions and approved HERCA budget for 2019.

The 23rd HERCA Board meeting will be organised on 15-16 May 2019 in Liverpool, UK. It will be kindly hosted by the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR). ASN is highly involved in HERCA activities by chairing the WG on medical applications, by ensuring the association and the WG on natural radiation sources secretariats and by participating in each WG and task force. Participation in these European fora remains a top priority for ASN.

 [For more information
http://www.herca.org/herca-news.asp?newsID=71](http://www.herca.org/herca-news.asp?newsID=71)

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