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# **Long-term operation of nuclear power plants in the EU and Euratom law & procedures**

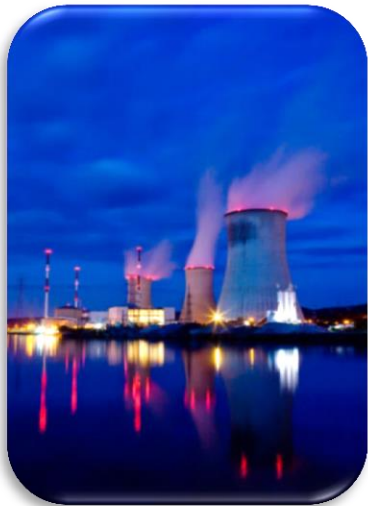
**Workshop on the application  
of the Espoo Convention to  
the Lifetime Extension of  
Nuclear Power Plants**

**28-29 May 2018, Geneva**

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## 1. The situation in the EU

- Most of the nuclear power plants were **built in the 1970s and 80s** with a planned lifetime of **30 or 40 years**
- Average age of the nuclear power plants in the EU is today around **30 years**
- Without Long-Term Operation (LTO), around **90%** of the existing reactors would finish operation **by 2030**
- Long-term operation/life-time extension is a **national decision**; licensing **procedures differ** between EU Member States
- **Highest safety standards** must be ensured by the operator under the control of the regulator.



## 2. The Euratom legal framework

- **Euratom Treaty:**

- All EU Member States are party to the Treaty which **remains a separate treaty** within the EU
- A major objective: to **establish uniform safety standards** to protect health
- Euratom law and EU environmental provisions **complement** each other
- Euratom **secondary legislation has been significantly strengthened** (safety, waste, radiation protection).



## 2. The Euratom legal framework (continued)

- **Key features of the Nuclear Safety Directive** (amended in 2014):
  - Licence holders must **re-assesses, at least every 10 years**, the safety of the nuclear installation
  - **Newly introduced safety objective** to prevent accident/mitigate their effects applied to the design of new installations; used as a reference for the *timely implementation of reasonably practicable safety improvements* to existing ones
  - **EU wide topical peer reviews** performed every 6 years (1<sup>st</sup> one on ageing management organised in May 2018)
  - **Cross-border consultations.**

### 3. Preparation of guidance on the application of the Espoo Convention

- A clear framework and process should be established for the preparation of key elements of a possible guidance by the next mid-term Meeting of the Parties (MoP) (February 2019)
- Some of the key questions to be addressed:
  - Power upgrades versus safety upgrades
  - Regulatory approaches to Life-time Extension (LTE) versus Long-Term Operation (LTO)
  - Screening before possible EIA.



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**THANK YOU FOR  
YOUR ATTENTION!**