

Monitoring, mitigating the impacts of COVID-19

- Current crisis represents a significant test of resilience of all energy sectors including nuclear, and supply of medical radioisotopes
- The European Commission and EU Member States in their fields of competence, monitoring the evolution of the situation, anticipating and mitigating possible impacts
- Paramount importance of maintaining nuclear safety
- EC ensuring continuity of its activities (nuclear safeguards, ECURIE, EURDEP, monitoring nuclear fuel supplies [ESA])
- Facilitating information exchange amongst European nuclear safety regulators

Survey of European nuclear safety regulators (ENSREG)

- Business continuity plans - continuity of operations, maintaining safety
- Initial priority - facilities for electricity production
- Defined minimum staff presence for operations and maintenance as set out in licence conditions
- Regulatory oversight continuing, including through teleworking, where appropriate
- Some licensees, re-scheduled outages for refuelling and maintenance to minimise impacts
- Organisational factors, changes to work process, communication means, safety systems inspections
- Ensuring continuity of nuclear emergency and response arrangements

Medical radioisotope supply in Europe

- Security of Supply Emergency Response Team of Nuclear Medicine Europe
 - monitoring impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Mo-99 and other radioisotope production
- Medical radioisotopes production slowed but has continued, no reported disruptions due to impacts on personnel
- Gradual return to pre-COVID production patterns now. Medical radioisotope supply is expected to be sufficient to meet increases in demand
- Significant efforts were made to find alternative transport solutions due to earlier difficulties with air transportation - reliance on scheduled airlines

Common issues across the energy sectors

- EU Energy Ministers – by video-link 28 April 2020 – discussed pandemic response and recovery - noted the resilience of the energy sector, and the central role it would play during the post-crisis economic recovery
- Energy sector has remained resilient given the good preparations, but vigilance needed
- Based on MS's experiences across sectors - 'Commission Staff Working Document, Energy Security: good practices to address pandemic risks' [SWD(2020)104 final, 2.6.2020]
- Amongst the risks and challenges: availability and movement of critical workers, access to medical testing, access to specialist components equipment, cybersecurity, resilience of workforce, impacts of delaying maintenance
- EC adopted guidelines aiming to facilitate the free cross-border movement of critical workers and to ensure the availability of goods [C(2020) 2051 final, 30.3.2020]
- Importance of cooperation, information sharing, coordination