DECOMMISSIONING: A SUCCESS STORY IN QUEST OF NEW ACHIEVEMENTS

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Since 1999 we see that the emphasis has shifted to provide increased attention to the general governance of decommissioning. The inventorying of liabilities, the establishment and running of funds, the formulation of proportionate regulation have taken a more central stage. There has been much talk about strategy as well, with some nations like Italy and France changing their stance and opting for prompt decommissioning.

The NEA, IAEA, and EC have overlapping membership but distinct mandates. Our programmes do receive a certain amount of co-ordination – through agreements and discussion amongst secretariats and through participation in each other activities. Co-ordination, however, starts at home, in the member countries, and in the end it is also in the hands of many in this audience. NEA is open for suggestions.

Overall we can conclude that much has been done in the field of decommissioning, especially in terms of techniques and in setting up institutional frameworks, and especially so in the more mature nuclear programmes. Depending on national circumstances both fine and less-fine tuning may be needed, however, in preparing for the bigger challenges that lie ahead due to the number of projects to be taken on and the magnitude of those projects in terms of both size and time. We do start on the solid footing provided by the work carried out so far, but the quest for new decommissioning achievements is still on.