

Report of the 6th meeting of the EU-Belarus Coordination Group

The 6th meeting of the European Union-Belarus Coordination Group took place in Brussels on 12-13 December 2018 and allowed for open and constructive discussions on the state of play of bilateral relations, including on the next steps towards finalising negotiations on the EU-Belarus Partnership Priorities and the Visa Facilitation and Readmission Agreements.

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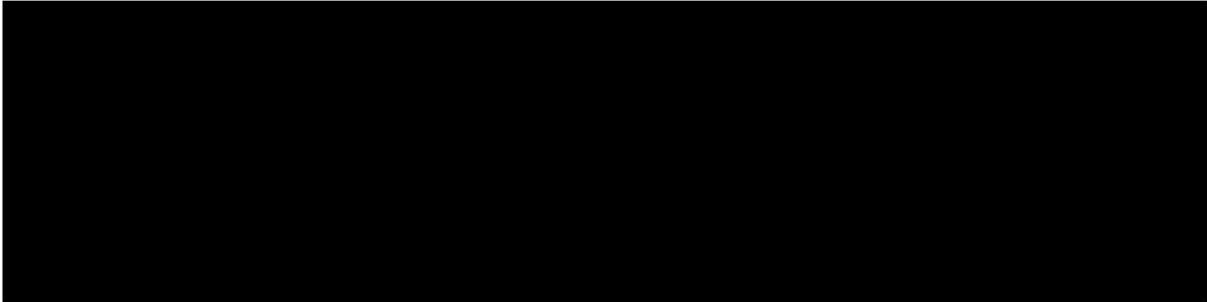


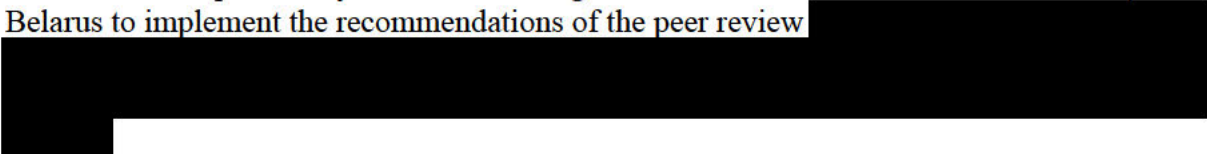
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[REDACTED] **Nuclear safety** remained a key priority for the EU and its Member States and therefore the EU welcomed Belarus voluntarily participation in the stress test peer review exposing the Ostrovets nuclear power plant (NPP) construction project to the scrutiny of all EU nuclear safety regulators and the civil society. It further highlighted the importance of continued cooperation in the next steps of the process, including the swift preparation (before the end of year) of the National Action Plan (NAP) for implementation of the peer review recommendations. The EU underlined that such an Action Plan needs to foresee timely implementation of safety improvement measures in accordance with their safety significance and include the associated schedules. The EU also recalled the invitation to the Belarusian regulator to become observer in the European Nuclear Safety Regulators Group (ENSREG), and recalled that the next meeting of the ENSREG plenary was planned for 25 March 2019. It also suggested to Belarus to become a member of the European Radiological Data Exchange Platform (EURDEP) and European Community Urgent Radiological Information Exchange (ECURIE).

Belarus side stressed that nuclear safety was also their priority and noted in this context the regular and constructive cooperation with the IAEA. Belaru [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] indicated its intention to continue cooperation with ENSREG in this context and to implement the stress test peer review recommendations. It highlighted that the nuclear power plant is planned to be commissioned at the end of next year and that, for obvious reasons, including the nature of some of the recommendations, it was impossible to implement all peer review recommendations before the commissioning of the NPP. Belarus side stressed that it expected to be treated in the same manner as EU MS in terms of the next steps following

the stress test peer review. The EU side confirmed that the next steps of the process remain voluntary and that Belarus was expected to engage in the same actions as was applied following the EU stress tests in 2012 (e.g. submission of the NAP for ENSREG review and its endorsement by the ENSREG Plenary, possible on-site visits). It was clarified, that responsibility of all decisions (e.g. on implementation of the stress test recommendations) remained the responsibility of the Belarus regulator. The EU recalled that the EU MS expected Belarus to implement the recommendations of the peer review



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