

Doel 3: Safety Authorities Meet in Brussels

The nuclear safety authorities met on Thursday 16 August in Brussels on the initiative of the FANC. Beside delegates from the FANC, this technical meeting was attended by experts from the USA, France, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Germany, Spain, Sweden and United Kingdom.

This meeting was aimed at taking stock of the situation at Doel 3. The attending safety authorities were also informed on the additional inspections asked by the FANC and its technical subsidiary Bel V. Furthermore, this international contact made it possible to share expertise on reactor vessel integrity and inspections.

A second meeting of the nuclear safety authorities will be held in October (the date is yet to be confirmed) at the FANC. For further information on the situation at Doel 3, please visit our [Q&A page](#).

Read here the full statement to the media of Willy De Roovere :

Statement of Willy De Roovere, FANC Director General, to the media

Brussels, 16 August 2012, 4.00 pm

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The purpose of the technical meeting was to give information on the situation at Doel 3 and not to make a decision about its future. Regarding the next steps for Doel 3, the additional investigations will be completed at the end of September.

These investigations will then be presented to the Agency, its Scientific Council and during an international expert forum in October (the date is yet to be confirmed) in order to take action in a completely unbiased manner about the future of Doel 3.

Thereafter, a second meeting of the nuclear safety authorities will be held at the FANC in October (the date is also to be confirmed).

Contrary to what has been written in some medias, the Belgians nuclear reactors are submitted every 12 to 18 months to complete controls and inspections to be sure that they can continue to operate properly. It is precisely thanks to these rigorous inspections at Doel 3 that we detected flaw indications deserving further examination. We are considering these flaw indications very seriously

and they were the focus of the international meeting of the nuclear safety authorities held today. Therefore, it is thanks to these regular inspections that we could detect these flaw indications.

Furthermore, the Tihange 2 reactor has been shut down today for its planned outage. It will undergo the same kind of inspections as those conducted at Doel 3, since its reactor vessel was forged by the same manufacturer (RDM) in the 1970s. Depending on the results of the examination, the Tihange 2 unit will be (or not) integrated in the discussion. I wish to point out that Doel 3 and Tihange 2 are currently in shutdown mode and as such, there is no danger for the population, the workers and the environment.