

New build, new entrants and new members



As we begin preparations for the 50th anniversary celebrations of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), we also have the pleasure in welcoming four new OECD member countries and one new NEA member. Chile acceded to the OECD on 7 May 2010, Slovenia on 21 July 2010, Israel on 7 September 2010 and Estonia on 9 December 2010. The NEA's most recent member – Poland – officially joined on 18 November 2010. Slovenia has applied for NEA membership and a decision on its application will be taken in the second quarter of 2011. This active evolution in membership reflects the dynamic environment in which OECD and NEA work is being carried out.

It is also a particularly dynamic time for the nuclear energy sector in general. As several of the articles in this issue show, nuclear energy is increasingly being viewed as a pragmatic solution to the issues of security of supply, cost stability and climate change, and this is having effects in nearly all areas of development, deployment and follow-up.

The NEA has recently completed a study on the *Security of Energy Supply and the Contribution of Nuclear Energy*. It is the first time that the security of energy supply has been quantitatively verified with a set of coherent indicators, thus placing the study at the centre of the current energy debate (see page 4 for further details). The role of the Agency in examining these questions was also recognised when I was appointed in September to the World Economic Forum's Council for Global Dialogue on Energy Security.

With this increasing interest in nuclear energy, many questions evidently arise in terms of new build and new entrants. A first article looks at this issue from the regulatory perspective, highlighting the main challenges and considerations that need to be addressed by regulators in the current context, and placing special emphasis on the needs of new entrants. The article on new nuclear build and radiological protection stresses *inter alia* the importance of incorporating operational lessons learnt into new designs (see page 20).

As new build progresses, whether in countries with mature nuclear energy programmes or entirely new ones, stakeholder consultation and involvement will remain an essential element throughout the process. Site selection, nuclear safety, radiological protection of workers and the environment, and radioactive waste management are among the most common topics of public concern. As shown in many studies, including those of the NEA Forum on Stakeholder Confidence which has recently celebrated its 10th anniversary (see page 24), collaborative decision-making is the most effective means for adopting measures that are more broadly accepted and thereby more sustainable over the long run. Nuclear energy is a long-term investment which, handled with care, can reap clear benefits.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'L. Echávarri'.

Luis E. Echávarri
NEA Director-General