

**Speech by the Minister of Economic Affairs, Henk Kamp,  
on the Occasion of the Presentation of the  
Draft IAEA Report**

***Thursday, 13 November 2014 at 10.00,  
Veegenszaal, Ministry of Economic Affairs***

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me start by thanking the IRRS team for their dedication and hard work over the past few weeks. I heard that you all worked together very amicably on this review. I hope your stay in the Netherlands has been pleasant, even though I'm told you worked in the evenings and over the weekends as well. It will not have been an easy task to scrutinise the structures, cultures and methods of our organisations. As far as I'm concerned, it was worth the effort: the draft report contains many valuable recommendations and suggestions. I'd also like to thank the staff of the regulatory body for their hard work and input.

I can't respond to the substance of your report today, for two reasons. One is that the fruits of your labour deserve a more detailed response than I would be able to give right now. The other is that I am not in a position anymore to make any substantive statement. Although I am receiving this report in my

capacity as minister responsible for nuclear safety and radiation protection, I'll soon be handing over those powers to the Minister of Infrastructure and the Environment. As you know, this was decided at the IAEA's recommendation, prior to your mission. There are a few things I'd like to say, but I will keep it brief. After all, I don't want to get in my colleague's way.

Nuclear safety and radiation protection are vitally important. To guarantee them, firstly they must be given priority over other concerns, like commercial interests. A second requirement for nuclear safety is a strong and independent regulatory body, which is why, more than a year ago, I took the initiative to form the Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection Authority, the ANVS. This authority will bring together the government's knowledge and expertise in these areas. Our current system is vulnerable, due to the fragmentation of tasks, responsibilities, powers, skills and resources. Other impeding factors are low critical mass and complex and burdensome coordination.

Clearly you've noticed all these weak points. I'm very pleased that you support the course we have charted so far, based on our self-evaluation. The key point is the establishment of the ANVS. Another is that radiation protection, which will remain the task of several ministries, requires special attention. And I understand that the IRRS mission has concluded that there are

no alarming gaps in our legislation. I am, of course, glad to hear that.

There is no reason to delay the new pooling of knowledge and resources. The ANVS will start work on 1 January 2015 as a single authority. I have also prepared a bill which will make the ANVS an autonomous administrative authority within the domain of the Minister of Infrastructure and the Environment, and will set out its tasks and powers. As a matter of fact, this bill will be discussed in the Council of Ministers tomorrow. This legislation is due to enter into force on 1 January 2016.

In setting up the ANVS, we will consider many of the findings from the self-evaluation, but above all we will take on board your recommendations and suggestions. The IRRS mission couldn't have come at a better time for the Netherlands. Your efforts will contribute to the way we shape the new organisation and prioritise tasks. This includes establishing and formalising procedures and improving legislation. But also improving how we communicate with the public.

Other action points from the self-evaluation have already been taken up by the Dutch competent authority. They include drafting a national document with the policy outlines for nuclear safety and radiation protection, creating and implementing a

management system, protocols, strategies and – not least – safety requirements for building new nuclear installations. Many of these things were already in place, but were in need of review and improvement.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As I have said, the Netherlands sets great store by radiation protection and nuclear safety, so I have taken the recommendations I've received from the IAEA over the past year to heart. And you may rest assured that your report will carry equal weight. After all, when we invited the IRRS mission here, our sole aim was to benefit from the IAEA's expertise. The talks with the experts and the IAEA's recommendations will help us optimise our nuclear safety and radiation protection. The government will make full use of them.

Thank you.