



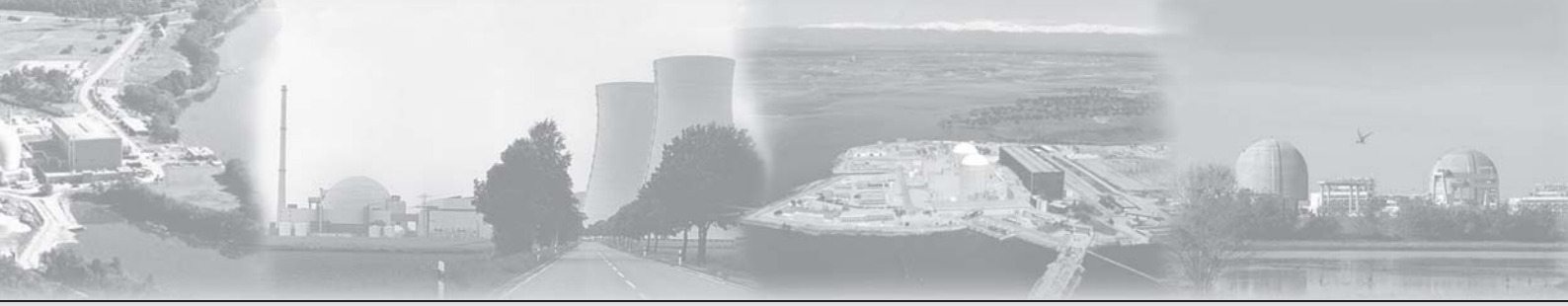
## The need for cleaner energy



At the G8 summit in Heiligendamm, heads of states from the world's leading economies unanimously agreed on the importance of combating climate change. Although consensus was not reached on binding, numerical commitments, it is worth noting that progress has been achieved. In particular, participants agreed to pursue negotiations, under UN auspices, to establish a new global agreement on climate policy by 2009. This agreement could form the basis of a more widely accepted successor to the Kyoto Protocol, which expires in 2012. Plans are also being formalised to bring together the world's largest emitting countries, including China and India, to set a series of national goals for reducing emissions.

Climate change thus appears to be receiving consideration as it never has before. Given the potential role of nuclear energy in helping to alleviate climate change, the NEA was requested to provide a written contribution to the documentation prepared for the G8 summit. Readers may access the NEA contribution at [www.nea.fr/html/general/press/](http://www.nea.fr/html/general/press/). The article entitled "What role for nuclear energy?" provides an overview of the main issues that policy makers should be taking into account when considering the role of nuclear energy in their energy mix.

Based on such considerations, many countries are looking either to introduce nuclear energy or to expand its current use. In such cases, NEA member countries strongly share the view that where nuclear energy is used, it must be done so responsibly, ensuring the highest levels of safety. One of the objectives of the NEA programme on nuclear safety and regulation is to identify generic issues and trends that may affect the safety of nuclear



installations, and to anticipate problems of potential safety significance. The work that the Agency is carrying out on ageing management contributes to achieving this objective. The article on page 18 describing the NEA project on stress corrosion cracking and cable ageing provides an illustration of one of the ways in which this can be done.

In terms of radioactive waste management, member countries are also very active and are paying increasing attention to the concerns and questions that the public may have in this regard. The work of the NEA Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (RWMC) and the Forum on Stakeholder Confidence (FSC) are prime examples (see pages 10 and 13 for further details).

In these ways and others, the NEA membership is doing its utmost to keep nuclear energy clean, affordable and safe. It is only in this way that nuclear will be able to contribute to the well-being of this generation and those to come.

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