

A stylized green graphic on a blue background. It features a globe-like structure on the left with intersecting lines, and a network-like structure on the right with three circular nodes connected by a thick green line. The nodes have white centers and blue outlines.

STRATEGY FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

2020-2025



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RELATIONS**
2020-2025

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Spanish Nuclear Safety Council (*Consejo de Seguridad Nuclear*, CSN) operates independently of the Spanish General Administration. It is accountable to the Spanish Parliament and is technically qualified in such a manner that its proposals and decisions are developed and adopted effectively, efficiently and transparently, in such a manner that they merit the trust of Spanish society and constitute a benchmark in the international arena. It is the competent body in Spain as regards the fields of nuclear safety and radiological protection, with further competences in physical protection.

Nuclear safety, radiological protection and physical security policy and activity at the international level revolve around five fundamental elements:

- i. The **development of standards, criteria and procedures for action** in the fields of nuclear safety, radiological protection and physical security through participation in groups of experts and committees created for this purpose within international organisations, as well as the promotion of good practices and recommendations.
- ii. The **exchange of information and experience** at the international level, contributing to the best possible performance of regulatory activities.
- iii. The **establishment of bilateral agreements**, memorandums of understanding or other commitments between counterpart organisations that allow for an agile and flexible exchange of experiences, information, work practices, personnel and participation in joint working groups or inspections.
- iv. The **participation** in international **research and development projects** in order to keep knowledge up to date and contribute to advances in technology, nuclear safety and radiation protection.
- v. The **participation in international assistance projects** that seek to improve the regulatory capacity of beneficiary countries.

The CSN Strategy for International Relations applies to all the workers of the regulatory body in the performance of their functions and responsibilities. As the CSN is a highly specialised technical organisation, the governing bodies of the organisation, the technical experts belonging to the Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection Technical Corps and to different areas of the organisation participate in numerous activities of an international nature.

This intense international activity, eminently of a technical nature, is a strength of the institution, as it allows it to constantly update and increase its knowledge in accordance with the highest regulatory standards.

The main returns from international activity are:

- the exchange of knowledge and experiences to improve the CSN's own activities and processes in accordance with its competencies.
- and the institutional representation that makes it possible to take part in and influence the decisions adopted in forums, groups and high-level meetings.

The Law creating the Spanish Nuclear Safety Council, as regards its international activity, establishes the following functions:

- to control and monitor the radiological quality of the environment throughout Spanish territory, in compliance with the international obligations of the Spanish State in this area, and without prejudice to the competence attributed to the different public administrations
- to maintain official relations with similar foreign organisations and participate in international organisations with competence in nuclear safety or radiological protection matters
- to collaborate with international agencies or organisations in nuclear safety and radiation protection assistance programmes, participating in their execution either directly or by contracting third parties or entities for this purpose, acting at all times in accordance with the conditions determined by such organisations

- to know from the Spanish Government and to advise the same with respect to commitments to other countries or international organisations in matters of nuclear safety and radiological protection, which shall be taken into account in the exercise of the functions conferred on the CSN by this Law.

In addition to these legal obligations, the CSN has other binding international commitments, some deriving from Spain's adherence to international treaties and conventions (mainly the Euratom Treaty, international conventions and certain working groups within the European Union, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA) of the OECD, and others assumed under agreements entered into by the CSN itself through bilateral agreements, memorandums of understanding, etc.).

However, the main source of the CSN's international activities is the result of the importance of maintaining a high level of technical knowledge so that its personnel can carry out their work in accordance with international standards and best practices. To that end, 90%¹ of international travel is of a technical nature.

Mention should also be made of those international activities that arise from the CSN's desire to improve the global nuclear safety and radiation protection regime or due to the existence of strong historical ties or national interests (especially the relations established with the United States of America, France, the rest of Europe, Latin America and North Africa).

This document complies with the provisions of the CSN management procedure *PG.II.02 on International Relations of the Spanish Nuclear Safety Council (CSN)*, by virtue of which the Presidency of the CSN will

1 Of the 376 trips abroad that CSN staff make on average per year, more than 90% are linked to technical activities, with less than 10% being trips of an institutional nature or participation in senior management bodies made by senior management officials. These data were collected between 2012 and 2019, with 2020 and 2021 being excluded from these statistics due to the special circumstance of the COVID-19 pandemic which prevented international travel.

receive the proposal for the International Relations Strategy of this organisation from its Technical Cabinet, identifying priorities, objectives and expected results as well as a periodic follow-up of the same. The President shall submit the proposal to the Board of Commissioners for discussion and, if appropriate, approval.

The *CSN strategy for international relations* shall be a dynamic document, i.e., open to periodic revisions that may reflect changes in priorities depending on the evolution of the international and political context.

COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic had a very significant impact on international relations of the CSN in 2020 and 2021, and will most likely change the dynamics of work over the next few years. The number of face-to-face working meetings will be reduced, giving way to increased online activity, although this will not diminish the firm commitment towards nuclear safety and radiation protection or preclude acting with independence, neutrality, professional excellence and technical rigour.

2. INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITY

The CSN's international policy and strategies are translated into a set of technical and institutional activities carried out in four areas:

- The **international conventions** that have been ratified by Spain and in which the CSN participates, within its scope of competence, through the application of the commitments acquired.
- The **European Union**, of which Spain is a member, participates in international meetings on nuclear safety and radiation protection under the Euratom Treaty.
- Multilateral relations within **international organisations** such as the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA) of the OECD and the **associations of regulators** of which the CSN is a member by its own decision (INRA, WENRA, FORO, HERCA, ENSRA).
- **Bilateral relations** which are normally carried out under technical cooperation agreements with counterpart organisations, including the agreements signed with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and with the French Nuclear Safety Authority (ASN).

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS

- Convention on Nuclear Safety
- Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management
- Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident and Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency
- Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and its 2016 Amendment
- OSPAR Convention. Radioactive Substances Committee

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS OF REGULATORS

- International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
- Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA/OECD)
- International Nuclear Regulators' Association (INRA)
- Western European Nuclear Regulators Association (WENRA)
- Ibero-American Forum of Radiological and Nuclear Regulatory Agencies (FORO)
- Heads of the European Radiological Protection Competent Authorities (HERCA)

2.1. INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS

International conventions are agreements between subjects of international law (States or international organisations), whether they consist of a single instrument or of two or more related instruments, whatever their denomination, and governed by international law. They usually refer to specific fields and, through them, States voluntarily undertake to adopt the legislative, regulatory and administrative measures within the scope of their national legislation, as well as any other measures that may be necessary to comply with the obligations arising from the specific terms of each convention.

The Spanish Constitution assigns exclusive competence for international relations to the Spanish State. It also establishes how the consent of the Spanish State is given and how a validly concluded treaty becomes part of the domestic legal system.

Within the sphere of nuclear safety and security and radiological protection, Spain complies with the commitments made through its adherence to various conventions to which it is a Party. The CSN, in accordance with its own competences, participates in the fulfilment of conventions.

EUROPEAN UNION

- Atomic Questions Group of the Council of the European Union.
- European Nuclear Safety Regulators Group (ENSREG).
- Assistance projects. Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation (INSC)

BILATERAL

- Cooperation and information exchange:
 - U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC).
 - French Nuclear Safety Authority (ASN).
 - Other regulators (Japan, Portugal, Canada, Germany, etc.)



Convention on Nuclear Safety

The Spanish Nuclear Safety Council is the institution that is established as the national point of contact and is therefore responsible for coordinating compliance.

The objectives of the Convention on Nuclear Safety are to achieve and maintain a high level of nuclear safety worldwide through enhanced national measures and international cooperation, to establish and maintain safety measures at nuclear facilities against potential radiological hazards in order to protect people, society and the environment, and to prevent accidents with radiological consequences and mitigate such consequences should they occur.

At three-yearly intervals, the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety shall prepare and submit a report on the measures taken to fulfil their obligations, which is subject to the examination of the other Contracting Parties to the Convention during a peer review process.

Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Nuclear Fuel Management and the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management

This convention addresses the safety of radioactive waste and spent fuel management, establishing as its main objectives to achieve and maintain a high level of safety in spent fuel and radioactive waste management worldwide through improved national measures and international cooperation, to ensure that effective measures against potential radiological hazards are in place at all stages of spent fuel and radioactive waste management, to protect people and the environment, both now and in the future, and to prevent and mitigate accidents with radiological consequences.

At three-yearly intervals, the Contracting Parties to the Joint Convention must prepare and submit a report on the measures taken to fulfil their obligations, which is subject to the scrutiny of the other Contracting Parties to the convention during a peer review process.

Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (OSPAR)

The fundamental objective of the OSPAR Convention is to preserve marine ecosystems and human health and, as far as possible, to protect and restore marine areas that have been adversely affected by human activities through the prevention and elimination of pollution.

The CSN participates as Spain's representative on the OSPAR Convention's Radioactive Substances Committee (RSC). The CSN prepares and submits annual reports with data on radioactive effluent releases.

OTHER CONVENTIONS

Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and its 2016 Amendment

The Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material was signed by Spain on April 7, 1986. By virtue of this convention, the Contracting States undertake to ensure the protection of nuclear material within their territory or on board their ships or aircraft during international transport.

Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident

The Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident was signed by Spain on September 26, 1986. The Spanish Nuclear Safety Council (CSN) is the competent authority designated in Spain as the point of contact and alert both with the affected States and with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), performing these functions via its Emergency Room.

Convention on Mutual Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency

The Convention on Mutual Assistance in the Case of Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency was signed by Spain on September 26, 1986. The CSN collaborates with the National Directorate-General for Civil Protection and Emergencies in the development of the commitments required by this Convention.



Nuclear energy civil liability conventions

Spain is a contracting party to the Paris and Brussels Conventions on Third-Party Liability in the Field of Nuclear Energy, which were signed on July 29, 1960 and January 31, 1964 respectively and have since been amended on several occasions. These Conventions establish and limit the scope of the liability of the operator of the facility in which a nuclear incident takes place and its obligation to cover it by means of insurance or financial guarantees.

Specific objectives for the Conventions

- Attend the 7th review meeting of the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management, to be held in June 2022.
- The 8th review meeting scheduled for 2020 was postponed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Coordinate the joint drafting of the 8th and 9th national report on the Convention on Nuclear Safety and Q&A phase during the 2021-2022 period, and participate in the peer review process and present the National Report at the 8th and 9th review meeting to be held in 2023.
- Act as the national point of contact for conventions where the CSN has been designated to do so.
- Participate in the follow-up and coordination meetings of the conventions and their working groups.
- Defend the Spanish position, and especially that of the CSN, in meetings related to the development of the conventions.
- Encourage the designation of CSN experts to occupy prominent positions in convention review meetings

2.2. EUROPEAN UNION

Among the fundamental treaties that form the backbone of the European Union is the Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom) which addresses, among other issues, the basic regulatory framework in the field of nuclear safety and radiological protection. Due to their fundamental nature, the international activities and initiatives deriving from the Euratom Treaty are of special relevance for the CSN.

Particularly significant among these activities is the participation and advisory work provided by the CSN to the Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge (MITERD) and to the Permanent Representation of Spain to the European Union in the context of the EU Council's Atomic Questions Group (AQG). The presidency of the AQG is rotated by country each semester.

Furthermore, the CSN participates in the European Nuclear Safety Regulators Group (ENSREG), set up in 2007 to advise the EU Council, the Parliament and the Commission on nuclear safety and the safe management of radioactive waste. ENSREG is an independent advisory group made up of experts from the regulatory authorities of the Member States.

As regards regulatory assistance activities, the CSN participates in assistance projects for third countries financed by means of the European Commission's Instrument for International Cooperation in the field of Nuclear Safety (INSC).

In addition, the CSN advises the competent authorities on physical security matters at the European level.

Finally, the CSN has representatives on the committees of experts on different articles of the Euratom Treaty itself (articles 31; 35 and 36; and 37) and participates in other initiatives, committees and working groups of a technical nature deriving therefrom.

Specific objectives for the European Union

- Promote the participation of the CSN in EU decision-making groups related to the organisation's activities, especially in those in which it is not represented.
- Participate in regulatory development processes related to nuclear safety and radiation protection.
- Participate as far as the CSN can in technical assistance activities, giving priority to neighbouring regions (North Africa and Eastern Europe) and Latin America.

- Assist the European Commission with verification missions to national facilities and activities by participating in the review teams of missions to other countries of technical or strategic interest.
- Coordinate with other national organisations (mainly MITERD, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Ministry of the Interior and the Permanent Representation) to present initiatives to the European Commission and the Council of the EU, notably regarding the drafting of regulations, research projects and assistance programmes on nuclear safety, radiological protection and physical security.
- Propose national experts and encourage their candidacies for positions of responsibility in the European Union institutions.
- Internally coordinate the participation of the CSN in the activities of the European Union institutions (ENSREG, Art. 31, 35, 36 and 37 of Euratom).
- Continue to provide assistance to the Permanent Representation of Spain to the European Union, mainly within the framework of the Working Group on Atomic Questions of the Council of the European Union.
- Participate in the process of defining research framework programmes, cooperate and support other national institutions in Spanish participation in programmes and projects, and analyse the results of research projects of interest to the CSN.

2.3. INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS OF REGULATORS

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is a body within the United Nations system and its mission is to advance the contribution of nuclear energy to peace, health and prosperity in the world. One of its fundamental objectives is the development and promotion of high standards of safety and security in the peaceful applications of nuclear energy in its Member States, which it advocates through the preparation of international standards and guidelines of a recommendatory nature, which are in fact the fundamental normative reference in the framework of nuclear, radiological protection and physical security.

The CSN actively participates in IAEA activities, including participation in the Agency's management bodies and in technical committees and working groups in the field of safety and safety, and in IAEA scientific and technical meetings and international missions, as well as actively participating in working groups and committees for the development and review of IAEA standards and reference guides in the field of nuclear safety, radiological protection and physical security.

The IAEA coordinates international review missions based on standards, requirements or good practices in the field of nuclear safety as well as radiological and physical protection in the Member States. The CSN supports the development of peer review missions to other countries through participation in CSN expert review teams, at the request of the IAEA.

Specific objectives for the IAEA

- Collaborate with the Spanish government in the drafting of Spain's statement at the IAEA General Conference, which is held annually.
- Implement the actions derived from the recommendations of the combined IRRS-ARTEMIS Mission that was carried out to Spain in 2018.
- Promote IPPAS missions in coordination with the competent authorities.
- Carry out the follow-up mission concerning the 2018 IRRS-ARTEMIS Mission (originally expected for 2021/2022).
- Maintain high-level participation in the Commission on Safety Standards and its committees in order to present the CSN's position in a coordinated manner.
- Participate in technical assistance activities and host fellows and scientific visits as far as the CSN can, prioritising the regions of Latin America and North Africa.
- Participate in regulatory verification missions to other countries as far as the CSN can, prioritising those of the greatest technical or geostrategic interest.
- Continue with the extra-budgetary contributions defined by the CSN budget, prioritising those destined for the regions of Latin America and North Africa and technical projects of special interest for the CSN.

- Coordinate with other national organisations (mainly MITERD, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, the Ministry of the Interior and the Permanent Representation) to promote Spain's influence on the IAEA's strategic agenda.
- Propose Spanish experts and support their candidacy for positions of responsibility at the IAEA.
- Internal coordination of the CSN's position in IAEA activities.
- Participate in seminars, conferences and workshops of interest to the CSN.

Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA/OECD)

The mission of the Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA) of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) is to assist Member States in developing and maintaining the scientific, technological and legal bases necessary for the peaceful, safe, economical and environmentally sound use of nuclear energy.

The CSN participates actively in the NEA Steering Committee and the main standing technical committees, which comprise different working groups and supervise international research projects and databases in their respective thematic area. The CSN currently participates in seven standing committees and many of their subgroups:

- The Committee on the Safety of Nuclear Installations (CSNI)
- The Committee on Nuclear Regulatory Activities (CNRA)
- The Radioactive Waste Management Committee (RWMC)
- The Committee on Decommissioning of Nuclear Installations and Legacy Management (CDLM)
- The Committee on Radiation Protection and Public Health (CRPPH)
- The Nuclear Science Committee (NSC)
- The Nuclear Law Committee (NLC)

The CSN also participates in numerous international research and development projects and programmes coordinated by the NEA, and contributes to the development and management of international databases, both technically and financially.

Objetivos específicos para la NEA

- Participate with MITERD in the NEA Steering Committee.
- Continue to participate in the activities of the standing technical committees and analyse the benefits of CSN participation in the working groups, endeavouring to orient the objectives and work programmes of the same towards the specific interests of the CSN.
- Analyse the benefits of the CSN's technical participation and economic contributions to research projects, prioritising those of special interest for the institution.
- Propose Spanish experts and support their candidacy for positions of responsibility in the NEA.
- Internal coordination of the CSN's position in NEA activities.
- Coordinate with other national agencies (mainly MITERD, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, the Ministry of the Interior and the Permanent Representation) to promote Spain's influence on the NEA's strategic agenda.

Associations of regulators

Within the multilateral framework, the CSN is a member of several associations of regulators, freely constituted to cooperate in addressing global regulatory policy issues and challenges and to identify and explore opportunities to improve the regulation of nuclear safety, radiological protection and physical security.

International Nuclear Regulators Association (INRA)

This association brings together the most experienced regulatory bodies in the field of nuclear regulation (Canada, France, Germany, Japan, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States of America). The terms of reference of the association establish an open dialogue where topics of shared interest and generally of a strategic nature are discussed in depth.

Western European Nuclear Regulators Association (WENRA)

The WENRA association comprises the regulatory authorities of countries with operating or decommissioned nuclear power reactors in the EU, Switzerland and Ukraine. The main objective of this Association is to harmonise the main technical standards in the field of nuclear



safety among its member countries, contributing to the continuous improvement of safety.

The high-level representatives appointed by the national regulators meet twice a year at the Plenary, the association's decision-making body. In addition, WENRA has two permanent working groups dedicated to the harmonisation of reactor nuclear safety requirements (RHWG) and to the safe management of radioactive waste and decommissioning activities (WGWD). The CSN participates both in the meetings of the WENRA plenary group and in its technical working groups.

Ibero-American Forum of Radiological and Nuclear Regulatory Bodies (FORO)

The FORO is an association comprising the radiological and nuclear safety regulatory bodies of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Spain and Uruguay. Its main objective is to promote a high level of safety in all practices that use radioactive materials or nuclear substances in the Ibero-American region.

FORO develops a technical work programme inspired by regional needs and priorities to improve radiological and nuclear safety and security, and has proven to be an excellent example of sustainable collaboration in a large region, with its own funding and with the support of the IAEA as scientific secretariat. This technical programme is coordinated by a steering committee and is developed on the basis of specific activities and projects.

Heads of European Radiological Protection Competent Authorities (HERCA)

The objective of this association is the analysis of the practical application of European directives and regulations concerning radiological protection, with a view to promoting harmonised working practices. The CSN participates in the meetings of the HERCA plenary group, as well as in the working groups of that association.

European Nuclear Safety Regulatory Authorities (ENSRA)

The CSN participates in the European Nuclear Safety Regulators' Association (ENSRA), which is independent of the European Commission and was set up in the interest of the members themselves as a forum for the safe exchange of information and experience on the application of different physical protection practices at nuclear power plants and other nuclear facilities.

ENSRA presents and discusses best practices in the numerous areas that influence physical protection, including (but not limited to) the national safety regulatory framework, the threats considered in the design of physical protection plans, nuclear safety culture and contingency planning.

Specific objectives of Regulator Associations:

- Analyse the benefits of CSN participation in the forums and their working groups, opting to occupy positions of responsibility in their steering committees and working groups.
- Internal coordination of the CSN's participation in these associations and in their working groups.
- Promote the orientation of the objectives and work programmes of these associations to obtain the greatest benefits, verifying that they do not duplicate efforts with other multilateral activities.

2.4. BILATERAL RELATIONS

For the CSN, relationships with counterpart regulatory bodies in other countries are of great importance. Along these lines, the CSN has signed several bilateral cooperation agreements, the main objective of which is to lay the foundations for co-development and the exchange of technical information and regulatory experience. The most important of these are currently those contracted with the regulatory agencies of the United States of America and France, due to the amount of information exchanged and the regular bilateral meetings. The same applies to the German regulator due to its use of KWU technology.



It is considered to be in the strategic interest of the CSN to maintain an adequate level of activity under the existing bilateral agreements and to establish new bilateral agreements motivated by technical and institutional interest..

Specific objectives for bilateral relations

- Maintain or strengthen bilateral technical and institutional collaboration with the regulatory bodies of countries of technical or geo-strategic interest, and particularly with those from which the technology of Spanish nuclear facilities originates, or those at the forefront of the regulation of radioactive facilities.
- As far as possible, maintain and promote collaboration with neighbouring countries regarding cooperation in the event of emergencies and environmental radiological monitoring.
- Review the bilateral agreements (starting with those of the greatest interest) in order to homogenise the texts, include issues of interest for the CSN and renew those that have expired but are still of interest to the organisation.
- Analyse the advisability of entering into new bilateral agreements based on the technical and strategic interest of the CSN.
- Internally coordinate the participation of the CSN in activities of a bilateral nature through the administrators of the agreements.
- Encourage the exchange of personnel and participation in cross inspections.

3. INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

3.1. RELATIONSHIP WITH THE CSN STRATEGIC PLAN

The CSN strategy for international relations has been developed in line with the **CSN Strategic Plan for the period 2020-2025**, which establishes that:

- *“The Vision of the Spanish Nuclear Safety Council will be to continue to be a reference regulator, through the application of the best national and international practices.”*

Similarly, this strategic document is in line with the Spanish Nuclear Safety Council in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for the year 2030, as stated in its Strategic Plan.

The Strategic Plan mentions:

- Within **strategic objective 1**, “maintaining effective supervision of the actions of the licensees of the facilities or activities, focused on the most relevant aspects for safety”, **activity 11**, which refers to:
 - continuing to collaborate with counterpart regulatory agencies and international organisations to contribute to the continuous improvement of the regulatory framework and processes. Maintaining the commitment to supplement Spanish regulations by implementing those from Euratom and Community Directives and Regulations, positions/criteria issued by international associations of regulatory bodies WENRA, HERCA, INRA, FORO, IAEA basic standards, including the best international practices.

- Within **strategic objective 2**, which is *“to increase efficiency and effectiveness in the performance of the CSN’s functions and competences”*, the following reference is made as regards international activities:
 - Strengthening the coordination of the CSN with other national organisations and institutions as regards the defence of common positions in the international arena.
 - Ensuring that the returns obtained in the performance of the international activities in which the CSN participates are applicable to the functions and competences of the regulatory body.

3.2. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (OERI)

The CSN Strategy for International Relations shall be understood to be the generic guidelines for action to achieve certain specific objectives (strategic objectives); this document establishes the goals to be achieved at international level by the CSN during the period covered by the current Strategic Plan 2020-2025.

Strategic objectives in international relations are considered to be those that frame international activity in accordance with the functions attributed to the CSN and that therefore define the lines to be followed:

International Relations Strategic Objective 1 (OERI1): Promotion of international activity

Promote international activity as a strategic tool for the continuous improvement of the professional activity of CSN workers, based on knowledge, technical rigour and experience, aimed at optimum compliance with the mission, vision and values defined in the Strategic Plan of the regulatory body.

Priorities for achieving OERI1:

1. To support the technical training of CSN experts at international level.
2. To promote the active participation of the Spanish Nuclear Safety Council in international working groups and activities to share experiences and leadership in the field of nuclear safety, radiological protection and physical security.
3. To promote the participation and influence of the CSN in the decision-making groups and steering committees of the most relevant international organisations in relation to nuclear safety, radiological protection and physical security.
4. To promote coordination between the CSN and other national organisations and institutions in the defence of common positions in the international arena, aligning the CSN's international activity with Spain's priorities and foreign policies.

International Relations Strategic Objective 2 (OERI2): CSN Representation

To maintain and strengthen Spain's representation in the international arena, in addition to ensuring compliance with international obligations and commitments, in line with other national organisations and institutions, in the defence of common positions.

Priorities for achieving OERI2:

1. To support the Spanish government in complying with its obligations in relation to international conventions and community standards by preparing national reports and participating in the review processes provided for therein.
2. To promote the participation of CSN experts in international missions of the International Atomic Energy Agency and other international organisations and associations.
3. To actively participate, with the appropriate level of institutional representation, in the associations of regulators, promoting cooperation in specific regions of the world of strategic importance for Spain and for the CSN (Europe, Latin America and North Africa).

- 
4. To participate in cooperation and technical assistance projects for regulatory agencies of countries of geo-strategic interest to establish and improve their regulatory capabilities in nuclear safety, radiological protection and physical security, thus contributing to the improvement of the global safety regime

International Relations Strategic Objective 3 (OERI3): Relations with counterparts

To maintain and extend relations with counterpart organisations in order to achieve a high level of knowledge regarding standards and best regulatory practices in nuclear safety, radiological protection and physical protection.

Priorities for achieving OERI3:

1. To promote, coordinate and develop bilateral activities under the agreements reached with the CSN's priority regulatory bodies (especially those of the United States (NRC) and France (ASN)).
2. To promote the signing of Memorandums of Understanding with counterpart regulatory agencies of technical and institutional interest for the exchange of information and experience in the field of nuclear safety and radiation protection.

International Relations Strategic Objective 4 (OERI4): Returns of activity

To promote the application of the returns obtained during performance of international activities in which the CSN participates to activities and processes of the regulatory body and of other Spanish institutions.

Priorities for achieving OERI4:

1. To optimise the attainment and use of the returns from the international activity as a whole.
2. To promote CSN participation in the decision-making groups, endeavouring to orient their objectives and work programmes towards the specific interests of the CSN.
3. To ensure that CSN participants at international meetings produce an attendance report and guarantee its wide internal distribution within the CSN.
4. To identify issues of interest to the CSN at international level and promote the attendance of its representatives to acquire knowledge and share it within the regulatory body.



4. COMPLIANCE MECHANISMS

This strategic document prioritises those international activities of the greatest relevance to the regulatory body, bearing in mind that participation in them will also be affected by the workload and available resources.

In order to channel the objectives described above, the Technical Cabinet of the Presidency will promote, assume and coordinate the following responsibilities in compliance with the functions and responsibilities assigned to it in the current CSN Organisation and Operation Manual:

- To propose to the Presidency the CSN strategy for international relations with respect to multilateral conventions, bilateral agreements with counterpart organisations, technical assistance projects and programmes for the reception of experts in areas within the CSN's area of competence.
- To inform and advise regarding commitments, positions, cooperation and technical assistance projects and international events, and to support the preparation and participation of CSN representatives in international technical and institutional activities.
- To advise and assist the members of the Board of Commissioners in the corresponding international activities.
- To collaborate and coordinate regarding international matters with the Spanish Nuclear Safety Council and the bodies of the Spanish General State Administration with which it shares common interests, such as the Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge or the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation, among others.
- To act as a point of contact with international organisations, counterpart agencies, Permanent Representations of Spain before them and, where appropriate, with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation, and Spanish or foreign diplomatic representations.

Assurance of compliance with the CSN Strategy for International Relations will be done in two ways.

The first is the **Annual Work Plan**, which makes it possible to plan and monitor the CSN's activities in line with its Strategic Plan, and which in section 9 and Annex VII includes the international activities carried out in the four areas described above: international conventions, multilateral relations within the scope of international organisations and regulatory associations, the European Union and bilateral relations.

In addition, it is proposed to set up an **International Strategy Monitoring Committee** made up of the Board of Commissioners, the Secretary General, the Technical Directors, the Director of the Technical Cabinet of the Presidency and the Head of International Relations to annually review the state of compliance with the strategic objectives of international activity.

