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### RADIOACTIVE WASTE: THE SEMINAR ON THE NATIONAL REPOSITORY KICKS OFF

- **The opening plenary session of the National Seminar, attended by the Undersecretary of State at the Ministry of Ecological Transition Vannia Gava, took place today in live streaming.**
- **During the Seminar, which will end on December 15<sup>th</sup>, the technical aspects of the CNAPI and of the National Repository project will be discussed in depth.**
- **All the sessions will be broadcasted via live streaming on the dedicated web site: [seminariodepositonazionale.it](http://seminariodepositonazionale.it).**

**Rome, 7 September 2021** – The opening plenary session of the National Seminar, which aims at deepening the analysis of the technical aspects related to the National Repository for radioactive waste and Technological Park project with all interested parties, was held today. The National Seminar follows the publication, on January 5<sup>th</sup>, of the National Map of Potentially Suitable Areas (CNAPI).

Today's session was opened by **Vannia Gava**, Undersecretary of State at the Ministry of Ecological Transition and by Sogin CEO **Emanuele Fontani**. The following speakers attended the conference, moderated by **Iolanda Romano**, Founder of Urban Adventure and expert in participatory processes and public debate: **Maurizio Pernice**, Director of the National Inspectorate for Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection (ISIN); **Christophe Xerri**, Director of the Fuel Cycle and Waste Technology Division at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA); **Massimo Garribba**, Deputy Director-General at the Energy Department of European Commission; **Roberto Zanino**, Professor of Nuclear Plants at the Polytechnic of Turin; **Patrice Torres**, Director of the Aube French National Repository; **Philippe Dallemagne**, Vice President of the Department of l'Aube and Mayor of Soulaïnes-Dhuys, a municipality in the area that hosts the l'Aube French National Repository; **Alessandro Dodaro**, Director of the Fusion and Technology for Nuclear Safety and Security Department at Enea; **Fabio Chiaravalli**, Director of the National Repository and Technology Park of Sogin.

Today's plenary session ended with a live response to 14 questions collected on the subject during the meeting. This method of discussion will be replicated in the next working sessions.

*“The localization process of the National Repository must take place with the utmost transparency and completeness of information towards citizens, - stated **Vannia Gava**, Undersecretary of State at the Ministry of Ecological Transition - clearly explaining the reasons why Italy, like other countries affected by the same problems, must take charge of the safe management of its radioactive waste. Therefore, - she concluded - the location of the National Repository will arise only from a wide participatory procedure, which includes the concerted evaluation of every radiological, territorial and environmental element, useful for optimally selecting the site”.*

*“Today - Sogin CEO **Emanuele Fontani** commented – represents a part of the first public consultation that takes place in Italy on an infrastructural project of national significance, which*

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*will allow the country to close its nuclear cycle and to optimize the management of radioactive waste, including the waste produced every day in nuclear medicine, industry and scientific research, in a sustainable and safe way”.*

*“This event is a crucial moment of transparency and confrontation– said **Maurizio Pernice**, Director of the National Inspectorate for Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection - which will see ISIN’s commitment to guarantee the rigorous and proper application of national and international regulations, so that the general interest is achieved in full compliance with the territories’ rights”.*

*“Our community was at first against the Repository” – said **Philippe Dallemagne**, Vice President of the Department of l’Aube and Mayor of Soulaines-Dhuys. “We feared health risks and economic losses. The confrontation allowed us to understand what this was all about and to change our opinion. Today the Repository is accepted by people and it supports regional development”.*

During the National Seminar, various issues related to the repository will be explored, with a specific focus on the compliance of the Potentially Suitable Areas identified in the CNAPI with the international requirements established by the IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) and the national ones identified by the ISIN (National Inspectorate for Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection).

The aspects related to the safety of the workers, of the population and of the environment will also be illustrated, as well as the economic and local development benefits associated to the infrastructure and to the planned compensatory measures.

The National Seminar will consist of nine meetings, broadcasted in live streaming on the [seminariodepositonazionale.it](http://seminariodepositonazionale.it) website. In addition to the opening and closing plenary sessions, seven sessions are scheduled, a national one and six dedicated to the potentially suitable areas belonging to the regions involved: Piedmont, Tuscany, Lazio, Puglia and Basilicata, Sicily, Sardinia.

The National Seminar will end on December 15th, with the publication of the overall report of the sessions, which will end on November 24th.

After the publication of the documents, a second phase of the public consultation will start, lasting thirty days, during which further observations and technical proposals, in view of the preparation and publication of the National Map of Suitable Areas (CNAI), may be sent. At the end of this phase, the Regions and local authorities may express their non-binding statements of interest to further investigate the subject.