COUNTRY FACT SHEET

FRANCE

- France has been a producer, importer, consumer and exporter of natural uranium

- From 1948 – 2001, France produced nearly 76,000 tonnes of uranium from its own mines.

- In 2001, the last mine closed. Today, France produces around 3-5 tonnes of uranium as a side-effect from rehabilitation activities at the Herault mines.

- Currently 58 nuclear reactors are operating, supplying close to 80% of France’s electricity needs

- Has one conversion facility, Malvési

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Convention</th>
<th>Signed / entered into force</th>
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<td>Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT)</td>
<td>--/1992 (accession)</td>
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<td>Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM) and 2005 Amendment</td>
<td>1980 / 1991 2013 (amendment approval)</td>
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<td>Convention on Assistance in Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency</td>
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Legislation

2006 Law on Nuclear Transparency and Security (referred to as the TSN Law) institutionalized the Nuclear Safety Authority (ASN) as an independent administrative authority, separating the activities of promotion and of control of nuclear.


IRSN, a public authority with industrial and commercial activities, was set up by Article 5 of French Act No. 2001-398 of May 9, 2001, and enacted through Order No. 2002-254 of February 22, 2002. This Order was amended on April 7, 2007.

Decree No 2007-1557 of 2 November 2007 on basic nuclear installations and control, nuclear safety, transport of radioactive substances (link in French)

A first stage was the codification of the regulation on the protection of nuclear material against acts of malevolence in the Defence Code in 2005. The rules to be followed are defined in the Defence Code in its Articles L. 1333-1 to L. 1333-14.

Decree No. 2007-830 of 11 May 2007 on the classification of nuclear base installations (INB), which states that installations involving radioactive substances in the form of uranium ore, residuals, or products issuing from the treatment of the ore are not INB. Malvesi, where most of the imported natural uranium is stored, is therefore not an INB but an 'Installation Classified for the Protection of the Environment' under prefect authorization ('SEVESO' infrastructure). In 2009, ASN requested that part of the Malvesi plant should be classified as an INB, but this request was related not to the part of the plant where natural uranium is processed, but to the effluent treatment basins. The re-classification process is still pending.

Euratom Treaty established the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom) which captures France’s commercial nuclear programme under regional non-proliferation safeguards.

Actors

Nuclear Safety Authority (ASN)

ASN is tasked with regulating nuclear safety and radiation protection in order to protect workers, patients, the public and the environment from the risks involved in nuclear activities. It also contributes to informing the citizens. It is accountable to both the Ministry for Industry and the Ministry of Environment.

Institute for Radioprotection and Nuclear Safety (IRSN)

IRSN is the authority in nuclear and radiation risks, including environment and radiological emergency response, human radiation protection, prevention of major accidents, nuclear reactor safety and safety in plants and laboratories, transport and waste treatment and nuclear defence. IRSN is placed under joint authority of the Ministries of Defence, Environment, Industry, Research and Health.

Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs
Responsible for following the implementation of agreements signed by France and for promoting France’s efforts and activities regarding non-proliferation, arms control and disarmament.

The Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy plays a role in defining France’s energy and nuclear policy.

The Ministry of Defence plays a role in controlling nuclear materials and the elaboration of France’s non-proliferation policy.

The Atomic Energy and Alternative Energies Committee (Commissariat à l’énergie atomique et aux énergies alternatives) is a public body established in October 1945 by General de Gaulle. It conducts research, development and innovation on technological research. The CEA also has defense activities related to France’s nuclear deterrent, as well as activities in the field of nanotechnologies or biotechnologies.

The High Civil Servant for Defence (Haut-Fonctionnaire de Défense, HFDS) reports to the Minister of Energy and oversees a small administration, the Service for the Security of Economic and Nuclear Infrastructures. It is responsible for delivering general authorization for handling nuclear material, their follow-up and accountancy. It is also responsible for issuing transport authorizations. (link to French site)

The Comité Technique EURATOM (CTE) is composed of experts from the Commission for Atomic Energy and Alternative Energies (CEA). It monitors the implementation of international controls on nuclear materials held in France by the European Commission under Chapter VII of the Euratom Treaty and the IAEA under the safeguards agreement between France, the IAEA and Euratom. The CTE is headed by the Prime Minister. Decree n°2011-607 of 30 May 2011, on the creation of the Comité Technique EURATOM

The European Atomic Energy Community, EURATOM

Initially created to coordinate the research programmes of Member States for the peaceful use of nuclear energy, Euratom ensures the security of atomic energy supply within a centralized monitoring system. It focuses on research, developing safety standards and safeguards the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

The Euratom Treaty also established the Euratom Supply Agency to ensure that all users of nuclear energy in the EU enjoy a regular and equitably supply of ores and nuclear fuels.

AREVA

Publicly-owned company that offers every stage of the nuclear fuel cycle, reactors design and construction and operating services. AREVA’s Mining Business Group covers exploration, production and processing of uranium ore, as well as rehabilitation of closed mines. AREVA is active in Canada, Kazakhstan and Niger and a number of projects under development in Africa.
Operational Conversion Facility

The AREVA Malvési industrial site, located in Narbonne, in France’s Aude region, converts uranium ore concentrate into uranium tetrafluoride (UF4), which in turn is converted into uranium hexafluoride (UF6) at the AREVA Pierrelatte industrial site.

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FRENCH DOMESTIC URANIUM PRODUCTION 1950-2010

![Graph showing French domestic uranium production from 1950 to 2010.](image_url)