

## ***EURATOM Safeguards: Building confidence through transparency***

EURATOM Safeguards, the European Commission's Directorate implementing Nuclear Safeguards in the European Union, has established an Integrated Management System (IMS) based on internationally recognized standards issued by the International Organization for Standardization.

The basis of IMS is the most widely recognised model for quality management systems: ISO 9001 - Quality Management System – Requirements. In order to define the framework to be implemented, we have added to the standard ISO 9001 compatible standards that are applicable to the specific activities of EURATOM Safeguards:

- ISO 17020 Conformity assessment -- Requirements for the operation of various types of bodies performing inspection
- ISO/IEC 17025 General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories
- ISO/IEC 17021 Conformity assessment -- Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems

The implementation of the Integrated Management System enables assessment and continuous improvement, increases efficiency by improving the utilisation of time and resources. Moreover, it improves stakeholder's satisfaction and communicates a positive message to staff and stakeholders.

By choosing the internationally recognized standards, EURATOM Safeguards promotes the credibility in its capacity to provide consistent and trustful results at international level. In this way EURATOM addresses the requirements of its stakeholders: international organizations, Member State national authorities and European citizens. It builds, on one hand, confidence in the ability of EURATOM to deliver the expected results, meeting the needs and expectations of the stakeholders and on the other hand, it demonstrates that legal requirements are met and that the organisation can be trusted.

The Integrated Management System aims to go from implementation to certification and undergo independent audits, which demonstrates EURATOMS's commitment to quality. IMS sees audit as

a tool that determines the appropriateness and effectiveness of a system from the stakeholder's perspective. It can offer a better understanding on the capability of the Directorate to meet the needs of its stakeholders and ensure transparency into its processes.

From a more general angle, the transparency of national regulation and international safeguards activities has a direct influence on the public's opinions. This openness and transparency also lends itself to the development of a safeguards 'culture' and results in a higher level of international confidence.