

Report to the Federal Parliament: Belgian nuclear bodies – Control of governance risks



The Belgian Court of Audit assessed the control of governance risks within the four national nuclear bodies responsible for the regulation and control of the sector (the Federal Agency for Nuclear Control – AFCN), the management of radioactive waste and fissile materials (the National Agency for Radioactive Waste and Enriched Fissile Materials – ONDRAF) and the nuclear research (the Belgian Nuclear Research Centre – SCK-CEN and the National Institute of Radioelements – IRE).

The Court of Audit concludes that the organization of the State supervision over these bodies is insufficiently defined. This supervision is carried out mainly through the government commissioners. At the level of the bodies concerned, the more precise rules on governance that have been defined since 2017 have not all been validated by the supervisory authority. The bodies have also implemented risk management and internal audit processes which should be improved on a number of points. As regards the control of risks related to subsidiaries, the Court of Audit notes that a framework governing shareholdings and defining rules on governance is not always provided for.

The Court of Audit makes recommendations for the legislator and the government in order to strengthen the supervision and for the bodies' boards of directors to improve their governance mechanisms.