

Organisational Structure of the NEA

The **Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA)** is a semi-autonomous body of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. OECD member countries wishing to participate in the activities of the Agency must make a formal request to join. Of the 30 OECD member countries, 28 are members of the NEA:

Australia	France	Japan	Slovak Republic
Austria	Germany	Luxembourg	Spain
Belgium	Greece	Mexico	Sweden
Canada	Hungary	Netherlands	Switzerland
Czech Republic	Iceland	Norway	Turkey
Denmark	Ireland	Portugal	United Kingdom
Finland	Italy	Republic of Korea	United States

The NEA is governed by **the Steering Committee for Nuclear Energy**. This committee is primarily made up of senior officials from national atomic energy authorities and associated ministries. It oversees and shapes the work of the Agency to ensure its responsiveness to member countries' needs, notably in establishing the biennial programmes of work and budgets. It approves the mandates of the seven standing technical committees.

The members of the **Bureau of the Steering Committee** for Nuclear Energy are (as at its autumn 2008 meeting):

Mr. Richard STRATFORD (United States), Chair
Mr. Olivier CARON (France), Vice-Chair
Dr. József RÓNAKY (Hungary), Vice-Chair
Dr. Walter SANDTNER (Germany), Vice-Chair
Mr. Takayuki SHIRAO (Japan), Vice-Chair

The standing technical committees are primarily composed of member country experts and technical specialists. These committees constitute a unique feature and important strength of the NEA, providing flexibility for adapting to new issues and helping to achieve consensus rapidly. Their main areas of work are listed in the chart on page 42.

The Steering Committee for Nuclear Energy and the Agency's seven standing technical committees are serviced by **the NEA Secretariat**, composed in 2008 of 65 professional and support staff from 17 countries. Professional staff are often specialists from national administrations and research institutes, bringing their experience to the Agency for two to five years on average.

Participation in the work of the Agency by **non-member countries** is an established practice. The Russian Federation holds regular observer status in all the Agency's standing technical committees and their working groups. Slovenia participates as a regular observer in the seven standing technical committees. Selected other countries take part in NEA activities on a more ad hoc basis.



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OECD Headquarters and conference centre (left and above); NEA offices (right).



B. Baudoin, © OECD/NEA

NEA Committee Structure in 2008

