



FranceTNP2010
Turning commitments into actions
New York 3/28 May 2010



NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT: FRANCE'S CONCRETE COMMITMENT

- DISMANTLING THE FISSILE MATERIAL PRODUCTION FACILITIES FOR NUCLEAR WEAPONS -

Working paper submitted by France

France, the only State to have shut down and dismantled all its facilities dedicated to the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons.

Cessation of production

France ceased production of fissile material for its nuclear weapons in 1992 (plutonium) and 1996 (highly enriched uranium). In 1996, it announced a moratorium on the production of these materials. Simultaneously, France decided to dismantle the corresponding facilities.

Production facilities

- highly enriched uranium: enrichment plant at Pierrelatte, which operated from 1964 to 1996;
- plutonium: produced in the plutonium generating reactors G1, G2 and G3 at Marcoule (1956-1984) then separated in the UP1 reprocessing plant, at Marcoule, commissioned in 1958 and decommissioned in 1997.

Dismantling the facilities

The dismantling programme was launched immediately after the end of production. This dismantling is **irreversible**. This represents a considerable effort in terms of financial undertaking, as well as a challenge in terms of implementation and know-how.

Stages and key figures for dismantling

- €6 billion in total, of which €2 billion have already been invested;
- Pierrelatte: 6 years preparation; work commenced in 2002; completion envisaged by end of 2010; 4,000 diffusers; 1,330 tonnes of diffusion barriers; 1,200 km of pipework and 20,000 tonnes of very low level radioactive waste;
- Marcoule: 1st phase of the cleanup and dismantling of G1, G2 and G3 completed; 4,000 tonnes of metallic waste evacuated to the “Aube very low level radioactive waste repository”; 2nd phase scheduled from 2020 to 2035; dismantling of the UP1 plant started in 1997, forecast completion in 2035.

Transparency and international commitment

France organised three visits to its facilities: on September 16, 2008 for representatives of more than 40 Member States of the Conference on disarmament, on March 16, 2009 for non-governmental experts and on July 3, 2009 for international journalists. **France is the only nuclear-weapon State to have opened to the international community the doors of its facilities formerly dedicated to the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons.**

EU Action Plan on disarmament

Adopted in December 2008 under the French presidency:

- calls for the opening without delay of negotiations on a **treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons (FMCT)**;
- calls for the introduction of an **immediate moratorium** on the production of such material;
- calls on all States concerned to **dismantle** their facilities dedicated to the production of these materials.