

# Invitation

Side Event organized by Finland

WEDNESDAY

1.30 p.m. to 3.00 p.m.

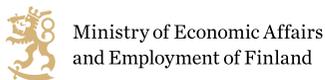
| 22 | 9 | 2021

VIC VIENNA, CONFERENCE ROOM M6, M BUILDING, GROUND FLOOR

Link to the event will be sent  
to registered participants.  
Register here:

[www.lyyti.fi/reg/side\\_event\\_FI](http://www.lyyti.fi/reg/side_event_FI)

The side event will be a **hybrid event** (in-person and virtual). The format of the event may be subject to changes due to the evolving pandemic situation. After the introductory remarks, the event will take the form of a panel moderated by the IAEA. **After the presentations by the members of the panel, there will be an interactive questions and answers session.** The IAEA will summarise key points from the panel session and provide a brief outline how the Agency can support the Member States in the final disposal of spent nuclear fuel.



Ministry of Economic Affairs  
and Employment of Finland



Ulkoministeriö  
Utrikesministeriet  
Ministry for Foreign  
Affairs of Finland



## A Game Changer:

### Overall safety at World's First Geological Repository in Finland

This event will describe how Finland has developed a safe and sustainable solution for the disposal of spent nuclear fuel. The event will explain how this commitment became politically acceptable, how the long-term safety of the solution has been demonstrated and how regulatory challenges related to safety, security and safeguards have been resolved in this first-of-its-kind facility.

## Speakers

Minister of Economic Affairs of Finland **Mika Lintilä**  
(welcome address as a recorded message)

Senior Vice President **Tiina Jalonen**, Posiva

Deputy Director General **Liisa Heikinheimo**,  
Ministry of Employment and the Economy

Director General **Petteri Tiippana**,  
Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority (STUK)

Unit Head (Radioactive Waste and Spent Fuel  
Management Unit) **Gerard Bruno**, IAEA

Moderator of the panel: Section Head (Waste and  
Environmental Safety Section) **Anna Clark**, IAEA

# The concept and the objectives of the side event:

In broad terms, the side event aims at illustrating **how the geological disposal has been made possible in Finland**. Responsible decision-making and a long-term political commitment to the chosen method together with the research and development of the technical solution and enabling regulatory framework has made accomplishing this objective real.

To start with, a representative of company Posiva will provide a brief state of play of the Onkalo project. **This update will set the final disposal in the context of practical implementation of the project**. A licence for the construction of the encapsulation and disposal facility was granted in 2015 and the submission of operating license for Onkalo is envisaged by the end of this year.

The side event is based on two main pillars, namely **“societal license”** and **“technical approval”**, which both are key prerequisites for the final disposal.

**THE FIRST PART** is focused on public acceptance of the final disposal project. In this context, light will be shed in particular on the factors that have over the years contributed to the public acceptance of the project, including the involvement of the general public and the related transparency considerations. Furthermore, the legislative and regulatory framework pertaining to the deep geological disposal process is of utmost importance in this respect. Wide-ranging societal commitment together with the political decision-making (i.e. decision in principle) has enabled the long-term work towards the goal of final disposal.

**THE SECOND PART** deals with the “technical approval” and sets the technical and regulatory framework at the apex. The objective is to answer the questions what is the Finnish solution and why is it so special. Moreover, the intention is to answer how has the long-term safety of the final repository been taken care of and what are the supporting technological solutions? In addition, the nuclear safeguards aspects of the deep geological disposal will be discussed. As a first-of-a-kind project, finding solutions to the safeguards issues of the project has proved fundamental – a sine qua non for the final disposal.