Ms. CAROL KESSLER APPOINTED NEW DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL
OF THE OECD NUCLEAR ENERGY AGENCY (NEA)

The Secretary-General of the OECD, Mr. Donald Johnston, announced earlier this month the appointment of Ms. Carol E. Kessler as Deputy Director-General of the Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA), succeeding Mr. Samuel Thompson who has retired. Ms. Kessler took up her duties in the NEA on 1st August 2001.

Ms. Kessler has extensive experience in nuclear energy co-operation and in nuclear non-proliferation and defense issues, with first-hand knowledge of international organisations.

From 1995 to 2000, Ms. Kessler was the Senior Co-ordinator for Nuclear Safety in the Bureau of Nonproliferation at the U.S. Department of State, chairing in 1997 the G-7 Nuclear Safety Working Group.

From 1988 to 1995, she had various responsibilities in the Bureau of Nonproliferation, the Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, in the office of the Deputy Secretary, and in the Bureau of Oceans, International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, at the U.S. Department of State.

From 1984 to 1988, she was Policy Analyst on non-proliferation, international safeguards and nuclear export controls in the Office of International Programs at the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Ms. Kessler, who is of American nationality, holds a Masters of Science in Technology and Policy from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and an A.B. in Bio-geology from Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island.
THE NUCLEAR ENERGY AGENCY

The OECD Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA) consists of 27 OECD Member countries: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States. The European Commission also takes part in the work of the Agency.

The mission of the NEA is:

- to assist its Member countries in maintaining and further developing, through international co-operation, the scientific, technological and legal bases required for a safe, environmentally friendly and economical use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, as well as

- to provide authoritative assessments and to forge common understandings on key issues, as input to government decisions on nuclear energy policy and to broader OECD policy analyses in areas such as energy and sustainable development.

Specific areas of competence of the NEA include safety and regulation of nuclear activities, radioactive waste management, radiological protection, nuclear science, economic and technical analyses of the nuclear fuel cycle, nuclear law and liability, and public information. The NEA Data Bank provides nuclear data and computer program services for participating countries.

In these and related tasks, the NEA works in close collaboration with the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna, with which it has a Co-operation Agreement, as well as with other international organisations in the nuclear field.