



**Side Event Sogin - Welcome address by Mr Marco Ricotti,
Sogin President**

Madam Ambassador,
Mr Deputy Director General,
Delegates, guests and colleagues,

Sogin is approaching the most difficult and challenging phase of its nuclear decommissioning programme: the vessel dismantling of its nuclear power plants.

We have targeted the beginning of this phase in 2019 and we have changed our internal organization in order to achieve this goal.

We have asked the Italian Government the possibility to access the Artemis Peer Review service of the IAEA because we want to improve our efficiency and to follow the best practices in the field.

Sogin Board of Directors, that I am honoured to chair, is fully committed to reaching this result and I would like to thank all its members for their support and engagement: first of all Mr Desiata, for his tireless work, but also Mr Portinaro and Ms Feletig, that have joined us today in Vienna, and Ms Massa that has not been able to participate.

We have experienced a very fruitful collaboration with the IAEA and the team that went to Italy last july. Let me thank again all the IAEA staff for that.

We could not have gone so far without the full endorsement of the Italian Governement, that is why, in conclusion, I want to reiterate my gratitude to Ms Accili, that has followed all the phases of this project and helped us to face its challenges.

Thank you.