



COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION

Brussels, 9 December 2004

15955/04

ATO 155

**NOTE**

---

from : General Secretariat of the Council

---

to : Delegations

---

No. prev. doc. : 15293/04 ATO 138

---

Subject : Nuclear Safety and Safe Management of Radioactive Waste  
- Follow-up to the Council conclusions of June 2004: Action Plan

---

Delegations will find attached the Action Plan as resulting from the discussions of the Working Party on Atomic Questions meeting on 3 December (see doc. 15954/04).

Action Plan  
on Nuclear Safety and the Safety of the Management of Spent Fuel and Radioactive Waste

These actions should lead to improved consistency and transparency of the Community approach in the fields of Nuclear safety and safe management of radioactive waste. They could constitute the basis of the wide ranging consultation process, called for by the Council conclusions of June 2004, to facilitate the choice of instrument(s), in the framework of the Euratom Treaty, that can contribute more effectively to further enhancing nuclear safety and the safe management of spent fuel and radioactive waste.

1) Actions concerning the safety of nuclear installations

a) Actions concerning the Convention on Nuclear Safety

- Member States that have not already signed and/or ratified the Convention on Nuclear Safety should do so as soon as possible. As Parties to the Convention, all Member States should participate to the fullest possible extent in the review meetings.
- Member States and the Commission should elaborate on the possibilities offered by the review meetings under the Convention on Nuclear Safety in order to strengthen transparency and co-operation, e.g. as regards preparing and examining each other reports and actively participating in the review meeting. These reports should be made available to the public in accordance with the relevant legislation.
- With a view to identifying elements, approaches and measures for enhancing nuclear safety and improving the review process, Member States and the Commission should share their experience after review meetings

b) Further Actions in order to strengthen co-operation between Member States on international level aiming at finding common approaches to nuclear safety:

- With a view to ensuring a dialogue between WENRA and the Community, WENRA should be regularly invited to inform the WPAQ of the progress of its work to find common approaches to safety issues, in particular the work to develop common reference safety levels in the field of reactor safety and decommissioning safety, and to keep the WPAQ informed about the reports that it publishes.
- Member States should take advantage of their position as individual members of the IAEA to contribute fully to its work especially in the development of international safety standards. Member States should facilitate an exchange of information on their participation in and contribution to the IAEA and NEA in order to facilitate an overview of the outcome of the work conducted on nuclear safety in these fora.

## 2) Actions concerning safety of the management of spent fuel and radioactive waste.

### a) Actions concerning the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management

- Member States that have not already signed and/or ratified the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management should do so as soon as possible. As Parties to the Convention, all Member States should participate to the fullest possible extent in the review meetings.
- Member States and the Commission should elaborate on the possibilities offered by the review meetings under the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management in order to strengthen transparency and co-operation, e.g. as regards preparing and examining each other reports and actively participating in the review meeting. These reports should be made available to the public in accordance with the relevant legislation.
- With a view to identifying elements, approaches and measures for enhancing the safety of spent fuel management and of radioactive waste management and improving the review process, Member States and the Commission should share their experience after review meetings

### b) Further Actions in order to strengthen co-operation between Member States in the field of safety of spent fuel management and radioactive waste management on international level

- With a view to ensuring a dialogue between WENRA and the Community, WENRA should be regularly invited to inform the WPAQ of the progress of its work to find common approaches to safety issues, in particular the work to develop common reference safety levels in the field of nuclear waste and spent fuel storage safety, which Member States may use in establishing national waste and spent fuel management programmes, and to keep the WPAQ informed about the reports that it publishes
- Member States should take advantage of their position as individual members of the IAEA to contribute fully to its work especially in the development of international safety standards. Member States should facilitate an exchange of information on their participation in and contribution to the IAEA and NEA in order to facilitate an overview of the outcome of the work conducted on safe management of spent fuel and radioactive waste in these fora.

3) Actions concerning the financing of the decommissioning of nuclear installations and safe management of spent fuel and radioactive waste.

Member States undertake to ensure that adequate financial resources will be available when needed in such a way as to cover the decommissioning costs, taking into account strategies for decommissioning, as well as the costs for the safe management of spent fuel and radioactive waste. In this aim, Member States should:

- exchange information on their approach to and the financial arrangements for decommissioning and the management of spent fuel and radioactive waste,
- assess the Commission's report on the use of financial resources earmarked for the decommissioning of nuclear power plant (doc. 14074/04) as well as other reports covering the use of financial resources for the management of spent fuel and radioactive waste

---