

**RESPONSE OF THE MALTESE COMPETENT AUTHORITY TO THE MAIN
FINDINGS OF THE ART. 35 VERIFICATION
VISIT TO MALTA OF APRIL 2006**

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**Malta's comments
on the findings of the Article 35, verification visit to Malta conducted by the European
Commission's verification team from 25-27 April 2006**

With the help of an overseas expert, the first national radioactivity surveillance plan for Malta has been produced; it will be coordinated by the Radiation Protection Board. The plan assigns responsibilities to the appropriate government agencies and specifies the nature of the sampling to be performed and sampling frequency. Malta is using this plan as the basis of complying with its obligations under Article 35 and 36 of the Euratom Treaty. This plan will lead to the sampling being broadly consistent from year to year.

The Malta Environment and Planning Authority has recently employed an extra member of staff to work on issues allocated to it by the National Plan. This person has currently had some basic training in Malta, however, it is hoped that he will be able to be sent overseas for further specialist training.

The gamma dose rate monitor located at Corradino, is operational and has been recording data since August 2006. It is also pertinent to note that work is currently underway to link it up to EURDEP.

The Malta Environment and Planning Authority is also scheduled to install a second continuous gamma dose rate monitor in a new monitoring site which is being developed in Gharb, Gozo,. Funds will be allocated in the next budget cycle for this equipment.

The Malta Environment and Planning Authority is also scheduled to install a high volume air sampler for airborne particulate monitoring. This equipment is in the process of being purchased, and is scheduled to be operational during the first quarter of 2008.

The Department of Public Health has been following the National Plan since January 2007 for the sampling and analysis of water for human consumption, mixed diet and milk.

The Public Health Laboratory (PHL) performs duties of an Official Food Testing Laboratory as required by EU Regulations and is consequently seeking laboratory accreditation of its testing activities. The Microbiology PHL has an ISO 17025 Quality Management System in place since 2006, and an application for the accreditation of nine test methods was made with the National Accreditation Board Malta (NABM) in December 2006. Following the positive outcome of a preliminary visit by NABM, it is planned to have the assessment visit in August 2007, and that accreditation is awarded by end of 2007. The management of the Public Health Laboratory intends to gradually extend its scope for accreditation to include also chemical and physical parameters.

Finally, the Radiation Protection Board is currently performing a review of all sites issued with discharge authorisations in order to check that their procedures are in place to ensure direct compliance with their discharge authorisation. This review will consider issues relating to monitor calibration.