



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR ENERGY
DIRECTORATE D - Nuclear Safety and Fuel Cycle
Radiation Protection

Main Conclusions of the Commission's Article 35 verification

NATIONAL MONITORING NETWORK FOR ENVIRONMENTAL RADIOACTIVITY

Southern Italy

Sicily, Calabria, Basilicata, Campania and Puglia

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INTRODUCTION

Article 35 of the Euratom Treaty requires that each Member State shall establish facilities necessary to carry out continuous monitoring of the levels of radioactivity in air, water and soil and to ensure compliance with the basic safety standards ⁽¹⁾.

Article 35 also gives the European Commission (EC) the right of access to such facilities in order that it may verify their operation and efficiency.

For the EC, the Directorate-General for Energy (DG ENER; formerly Directorate-General for Energy and Transport - DG TREN) and in particular its Radiation Protection Unit (at the time of the visit: TREN.H.4, now ENER.D.3) is responsible for undertaking these verifications.

The main purpose of verifications performed under Article 35 of the Euratom Treaty is to provide an independent assessment of the adequacy of monitoring facilities for:

- Liquid and airborne discharges of radioactivity into the environment by a site (and control thereof).
- Levels of environmental radioactivity at the site perimeter and in the marine, terrestrial and aquatic environment around the site, for all relevant pathways.
- Levels of environmental radioactivity on the territory of the Member State.

Taking into account previous bilateral protocols, a Commission Communication has been published in the Official Journal on 4 July 2006 with a view to define some practical arrangements for the conduct of Article 35 verification visits in Member States.

A verification team from DG TREN.H.4 (now DG ENER.D.3) visited southern Italy (Sicily, Calabria, Basilicata, Campania and Puglia) from 3 to 7 May 2010 in order to verify the monitoring of environmental radioactivity in these regions.

The visit also included meetings with representatives of the national authority having competence in the field of radiation protection. An opening meeting was held in Palermo in the premises of the Sicilian *Agenzia Regionale di Protezione Ambientale* (ARPA - Regional Agency for Environmental Protection), ARPA Sicilia, and a closing meeting, with all parties involved during the visit, at the premises of ARPA Puglia in Bari.

The aim of the verification was to check the operation and efficiency of the facilities and associated analytical laboratories for continuous monitoring of the levels of radioactivity in air, water and soil in the vicinity of this site and some stations of the automatic monitoring network of dose rate levels on the territory of Southern Italy.

The present document gives an overview of the main conclusions by the verification team and corresponding recommendations. More detailed information concerning the verification is available in the technical report of the verification.

MAIN CONCLUSIONS

All verifications that had been planned by the verification team were completed successfully. In this regard, the information supplied in advance of the visit, as well as the additional documentation received during and after the verification, was useful.

¹ Council Directive 96/29/Euratom of 13 May 1996 laying down basic safety standards for the health protection of the general public and workers against the dangers of ionizing radiation. (OJ L-159 of 29/06/1996 page 1).

- (1) The verification activities that were performed demonstrated that the facilities necessary to carry out continuous monitoring of levels of radioactivity in the air, water and soil in Southern Italy (Sicily, Calabria, Basilicata and Puglia) are adequate. The Commission services could verify the operation and efficiency of these facilities in these four regions and was informed of the situation in Campania.
- (2) Under the co-ordination of ISPRA a detailed monitoring programme for environmental radioactivity has been elaborated and proposed for the whole of Italy. As far as concerns the implementation of the regional/provincial programmes they are under the responsibility of the regional/provincial authorities. The verification team noted that the facilities for monitoring environmental radioactivity on a regional scale on the territory of the regions of Sicily, Calabria, Basilicata and Puglia are present and that each of these regions are currently implementing a specific programme for the monitoring of environmental radioactivity. The Commission services were also informed about the situation in Campania. On the basis of the verification findings the Commission services request the Italian authorities to fully implement the said monitoring programmes as a matter of high priority as projected for 2010. The Commission services might conduct in due time a re-verification in these regions to verify the state of implementation of these programmes. This observation is valid as well for other regions that may not have yet implemented this programme in its full extent.
- (3) A number of topical recommendations are formulated. These recommendations aim at improving some aspects of the surveillance of environmental radioactivity in Southern Italy. The recommendations do not discredit the fact that this environmental monitoring – after its full implementation – is in conformity with the provisions laid down under Article 35 of the Euratom Treaty.
- (4) The detailed verification findings and ensuing recommendations are compiled in the ‘Technical Report’ that is addressed to the Italian competent authorities through the Italian Permanent Representative to the European Union.
- (5) The Commission services will closely follow up the progress made by the Italian authorities with respect to point (2) concerning the full implementation of the monitoring programmes in all five regions. The Commission services ask the Italian competent authority to inform them of any progress or significant changes with regard to the situation at the time of the verification.
- (6) Finally, the verification team acknowledges the excellent co-operation it received from all persons involved in the activities it performed.

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