

OPINION

Group of Experts under Article 31 Euratom Treaty

Subject: Drinking Water

The Group of Experts welcomes the proposal of the Commission for a Council Directive *laying down requirements for the protection of the health of the general public with regard to radioactive substances in water intended for human consumption*, under Article 31 of the Euratom Treaty. This proposal will allow the requirements for monitoring Tritium and Total Indicative Dose under EC Directive 98/83/EC to be implemented. The Group emphasises the need to preserve coherence with the EC Directive related to microbiological and physico-chemical parameters.

The Group of Experts notes that the Commission proposes to keep the same indicator parameters (Tritium and Total Indicative Dose) and the same parameter values (respectively 100 Bq/l and 0.1 mSv per year) as before. The Experts confirm that the new proposal is not liable to prejudice the principles of radiation protection, in particular of optimization.

The Experts feel that it should be useful to define a common approach to manage situations where the values of indicator parameters are exceeded and invite the Commission to consider the drafting of appropriate guidance for this purpose.

The Group of Experts confirms that the proposed Euratom Directive matches the EC Directive with regard to the requirements relevant to radioactivity as an indicator parameter, and that the Annexes to this Directive are in agreement with the original proposal elaborated by a Working Party of Article 31.

The Group of Experts recommends eventually to include the proposed Directive in the recast of all Community legislation in the framework of the ongoing revision of the Basic Safety Standards Directive. This would allow the requirements for the monitoring of levels of radioactivity to be put in a proper perspective to the overall system of protection. In this process the Commission Recommendation 2001/928/EURATOM *on the protection of the general public against exposure to radon and its decay products in drinking water supplies* should be included, together with similar requirements on natural mineral waters.

The Group of Experts further emphasises that the overall objective of the Directive is the health protection of the general public and this includes children. Where appropriate a specific assessment of Total Indicative Dose for this age group may be warranted.

Luxembourg, 12 June 2008

Kaare Ulbak,

Chairman of the Group of Experts

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kaare Ulbak". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent 'K' and 'U'.