



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR ENERGY

Directorate D - Nuclear energy, safety and ITER
D.3 – Radiation protection and nuclear safety

Verification under the terms of Article 35 of the Euratom Treaty

Main Conclusions

ITALY

Gela Bay marine environment

**Radioactivity characterisation of the Gela Bay area marine
environment, Sicily, Italy in 2006-2011**

Dates	18 November 2022
Verification team	Mr Vesa Tanner, DG ENER Ms Elena Luminita Diaconu, DG ENER
Reference	IT 22-07

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 standards¹.

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.

The Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Unit (ENER D.3) of the EC's Directorate-General for Energy (DG ENER) 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 from a site;
- Levels of environmental radioactivity at the site's 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.

A verification team from DG ENER visited Italy on 18 November 2022 to review the radioactivity characterisation of the Gela Bay area marine environment (Sicily), which was carried out in 2006-2011.

This document gives an overview of the verification team's main conclusions on the environmental surveillance. More detailed information concerning the verification is available in the technical report (TR) of the verification.

¹ Council Directive 2013/59/Euratom of 5 December 2013 laying down basic safety standards for protection against the dangers arising from exposure to ionising radiation, and repealing Directives 89/618/Euratom, 90/641/Euratom, 96/29/Euratom, 97/43/Euratom and 2003/122/Euratom (OJ L 13 of 17.1.2014)

MAIN CONCLUSIONS

The verification team successfully completed every verification planned for the visit. The information supplied by the Italian authorities in advance of the visit, as well as the additional documentation received during and after the verification, was useful.

- (1) The verification activities found that the radiological characterisation carried out in 2006 – 2011 at the Gela Bay marine environment was adequate. The Commission ascertained that the process was carried out in sufficient environmental coverage and in good radioanalytical manner.
- (2) Industrial activities at the Gela industrial area have ceased and there have been no further releases of naturally occurring radioactive material (NORM) into the marine environment, so the results of the characterisation remain valid.
- (3) At present there is no need for further monitoring actions or further radiological characterization of the coastal marine area of Gela.
- (4) The detailed verification findings are compiled in the 'Technical Report' that is addressed to the Italian competent authority through the Permanent Representation of Italia to the European Union.
- (5) Finally, the verification team acknowledges the excellent co-operation it received from all persons involved in the activities it performed.

V. Tanner

Team Leader