



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR ENERGY

DIRECTORATE D - Nuclear Safety and Fuel Cycle  
**Radiation protection**

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## **Main Conclusions of the Commission's Article 35 verification**

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### **NORTHERN GREECE**

**Dates:** 20 to 25 October 2012

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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 <sup>(1)</sup>.

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) and in particular its Radiation Protection Unit (at the time of the visit ENER.D.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.

For the purpose of such a review, a verification team from DG ENER visited Northern Greece from 20 to 25 October 2012. This mission dealt with:

- the (automatic) national monitoring system for environmental radioactivity in northern Greece;
- the environmental monitoring of the phosphogypsum pile of the Hellenic Fertilizers plant at NeaKarvali, east of Kavala;
- the laboratories at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki involved in emergency radiological monitoring;
- the discharge monitoring at Interbalkan Medical Centre, Thessaloniki; and
- control issues at the border to FYROM.

The present document gives an overview of the main conclusions by the verification team concerning relevant aspects of the environmental surveillance 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. The information supplied in advance of the visit, as well as the additional documentation received during and after the verification was useful.

- (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 Northern Greece are adequate. The Commission could verify the operation and efficiency of a representative part of these facilities.
- (2) A few topical recommendations and suggestions are formulated. These address possible erosion issues at the Hellenic Fertiliser plant, quality control and staffing at the Aristotle University of

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

Thessaloniki and parts of the national monitoring system in Northern Greece. They do not discredit the fact that environmental monitoring at the sites visited as well as the verified parts of the national monitoring system for environmental radioactivity are in conformity with the provisions laid down under Article 35 of the Euratom Treaty.

- (3) The detailed verification findings and ensuing recommendations are compiled in the 'Technical Report' that is addressed to the Greek competent authorities through the Greek Permanent Representative to the European Union.
- (4) The competent Commission services would ask to be informed by the Greek authorities about any significant changes in the set-up of the monitoring systems.
- (5) Finally, the verification team acknowledges the excellent co-operation it received from all persons involved in the activities it performed.

C. Gitzinger

Team Leader