

Opinion
Article 31 Group of Experts
December 2002

concerning a Draft proposal for a Council Recommendation laying down requirements to standardise information on radioactive airborne and liquid discharges to the environment from nuclear reactors and reprocessing plants in normal operation

The Group of Experts examined the proposal for a Council Recommendation on this subject at their meeting on 18-19 December 2002.

Whereas:

- Member States are required to provide information on planned radioactive discharges in the framework of Article 37 of the Euratom Treaty and Recommendation 1999/829/Euratom on the application of Article 37 of the Euratom Treaty in section 8.b in addition recommends Member States to communicate regularly to the Commission a statement on the radioactive liquid and airborne discharges to the environment from nuclear power reactors and reprocessing plants.
- Under Article 36 of the Euratom Treaty Member States are required to communicate information on the checks referred to in Article 35 to the Commission and it is the Commission's view that this includes information on radioactive discharges.
- The implementation of Article 45 of the Basic Safety Standards requires Member States to establish requirements on the monitoring of effluents (e.g. radionuclide categories, measurement quality including limits of detection, procedures for establishing annual discharged activities) which permit a realistic assessment of doses in addition to fulfilling other regulatory requirements (e.g. compliance with discharge authorisations).


The objective of this Recommendation is

- To give guidance to Member States on the monitoring requirements in compliance with Article 45 of the Basic Safety Standards.
- To ensure comparability between reported data on radioactive discharges at Community scale.

The Recommendation achieves these objectives:

- By establishing for different types of nuclear installations a list of individual radionuclides which should be monitored.
- By establishing for key radionuclides minimum requirements for the limit of detection.
- By providing guidance on the processing and reporting of measurements below the decision threshold.

The Group of Experts endorsed the solutions proposed by the Commission to meet these objectives.


Prof. Dr. I. Mc Aulay
Chairman of the Group of Experts
Date: 7-2-2003