



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

BELGIUM

Brussels

Routine and emergency radioactivity monitoring arrangements Monitoring of radioactivity in drinking water and foodstuffs

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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 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 Belgium on 12-16 July 2021 to review:

- Routine and emergency radioactivity monitoring arrangements in Brussels;
- Monitoring of radioactivity in drinking water and foodstuffs in Brussels;
- Measuring laboratories, in particular infrastructure, analytical methods, quality assurance and control aspects;
- Reporting of the environmental monitoring programme results.

This document gives an overview of the verification team's main conclusions on the environmental surveillance systems in place and recommendations for their improvement. 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 Belgian authorities 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 for the monitoring of levels of radioactivity in air, water and soil in Brussels are adequate. The Commission could verify the operation and efficiency of a representative part of these facilities.
- (2) The verification activities that were performed demonstrated that the facilities necessary for the monitoring of levels of radioactivity in air, water and soil in Brussels in the event of a radiological emergency are adequate. The Commission could verify the availability of a representative part of these facilities.
- (3) The detailed verification findings are compiled in the 'Technical Report' that is addressed to the Belgian competent authority through the Permanent Representation of Belgium to the European Union.
- (4) The Commission services kindly request that the Belgian authorities keep them informed of 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.

V. Tanner

Team Leader