



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



Council Conclusions on the security of supply of radioisotopes for medical use

*2986th AGRICULTURE and FISHERIES Council meeting
Brussels, 15 December 2009*

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

"The Council of the European Union,

REAFFIRMING the commitment of the European Union, the Euratom Community and their Member States to providing citizens with a high level of health protection and health care,

AWARE of the importance of the use of radioisotopes in medical diagnostics and therapy, and their role in successful medical treatments,

AWARE of the problem of current aging production facilities i.e. research reactors, their limited residual life time and more or longer outages for maintenance conflicts with the interests of patients access to examinations,

CONCERNED about the increased frequency of disturbances in the supply of radioisotopes for medical use,

REAFFIRMING the paramount importance of nuclear safety,

P R E S S

RECALLING the Informal Meeting of the EPSCO Council (Health Ministers) on 8-9 September 2008 and the invitation by the Commission to take a role in contribute towards exchanging information on the situation,

ACKNOWLEDGING the decision of the EU Health Security Committee to call upon the Commission to contribute to the coordination of EU-wide actions to respond to the shortage of radioisotopes for medical use,

RECALLING the Informal Meeting of the EPSCO Council (Health Ministers) on 6 and 7 July 2009 and the request that the situation regarding the supply of radioisotopes for medical use continue to be monitored closely and that contacts with nuclear reactor operators be intensified,

WELCOMING the preliminary report dated 30 October 2009 by the ad hoc inter-service group of Commission services on the Supply of Radioisotopes for Medical Use and Current Development in Nuclear Medicine,

TAKING NOTE of the work done by the Commission and the Task Force composed of representatives of the European Commission, Heads of Medicines Agencies of the EU Member States and the report of the European Commission on the supply shortage of radiopharmaceuticals (status as of 24 October 2008) EMEA/51183/2009,

ACKNOWLEDGING also the work done under the auspices of IAEA and OECD/NEA¹.

The Council of the European Union,

INVITES concerned Member States and production facility operators to reinforce their coordination on the maintenance and safety-related test programme planning with the aim to ensure reliable supply of radioisotopes for medical use,

INVITES the Commission and the Member States to support a reference scenario to be jointly defined by relevant stakeholders in order to ensure production capacity, including possible alternative supply routes,

URGES relevant stakeholders to explore and implement options for more efficient patient scheduling and radioisotope utilisation,

INVITES the Commission and Member States to investigate the reasons for potential problems connected to the transportation of radioactive materials, in particular by air transport, in connection with radioisotope production and radioisotopes for medical use, and, after due consultation of stakeholders, to propose measures to ensure efficient transport of radioactive material within the European Union,

¹ OECD/NEA High Level Group on the Security of Supply of Medical Radioisotopes and IAEA

INVITES the Commission to investigate with relevant stakeholders different possible short-, medium- and long-term solutions to secure the supply of radioisotopes for medical use in the European Union, taking due account of production facility projects in Member States, of technical developments and predictions of future demand of radio isotopes in medical applications,

STRESSES that actions taken with the objective to prevent shortage of radioisotopes, should not jeopardize the safety of nuclear installations,

INVITES the Commission and the Member States to look into possibilities of promoting the further development of techniques in nuclear medicine which can be applied without using nuclear reactor-produced radioisotopes,

INVITES the Commission to analyse the market, future demand and trade related issues connected to the production and distribution of radioisotopes for medical use,

Further to the analysis, INVITES the Commission to propose measures and coordinate actions for ensuring long term security of supply of radioisotopes within the European Union taking into account the responsibilities of the Community, the Member States and private undertakings, and aiming at realising economically viable conditions for this activity, without prejudice to Member States' national research budgets,

INVITES the Commission to coordinate with other fora (i.e. OECD/NEA High Level Group on the Security of Supply of Medical Radioisotopes and IAEA) dealing with this issue and to regularly report on the progress of the work to the Council and the European Parliament."
