

## **COUNCIL OF** THE EUROPEAN UNION



Brussels, 19 July 2011 12318/11 PRESSE 217

## Council adopts rules for management of spent fuel and radioactive waste

The Council adopted today a directive<sup>1</sup> establishing a Community framework for the responsible and safe management of spent fuel and radioactive waste (12142/11) in order to avoid imposing undue burdens on future generations. The Austrian, Luxembourg and Swedish delegations abstained from voting.

The directive will enter into force on the 20th day following its publication in the Official Journal. Member States will have two years to transpose its provisions into national law.

The directive covers all stages of the management of spent fuel and radioactive waste from civilian activities. Each member state has ultimate responsibility for management of the spent fuel and waste generated in its territory.

The directive ensures that member states provide for national arrangements for a high level of safety in spent fuel and radioactive waste management to protect workers and the general public against the dangers arising from ionizing radiation and sets out key principles on which national policies should be based. To this end, Member States will establish and maintain a national framework addressing the setting of national programmes for the management of fuel and waste, licensing, control and inspections, enforcement actions such as suspension of activities, allocations of responsibilities, public information and consultation and financing. In addition, each member state will establish and maintain a regulatory authority for spent fuel and radioactive waste management, with certain conditions set to ensure their independence.

The decision was taken at a meeting of Agriculture and Fisheries Council.



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Member states will ensure that necessary information on spent fuel and radioactive waste management is made available to the public and that the public can participate in decision-making on fuel and waste management.

This directive supplements the basic standards referred to in Article 30 of the Treaty as regards the safety of spent fuel and radioactive waste, and is without prejudice to directive 96/29/Euratom laying down basic safety standards for the protection of health of workers and the general public against the dangers arising from ionizing radiation (OJ L 159, 29.6.1996, p.1).

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