

**Question for written answer P-003083/2017
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Radioactivity and geothermal power on Amiata

In Italy, geothermal energy production is not subject to the radioactivity protection rules set out in Directive 96/29/Euratom. Mount Amiata, whose subsoil is particularly rich in natural radionuclides, is home to five flash geothermal power plants. The EIA procedure has been launched for a sixth power plant.

For each plant, the operator has stated (or estimated, in the case of the power plant under construction) identical radon emissions of 6 660 kBq/h, except for the Bagnore 4 power plant, for which exactly twice that level is reported (documentation available from our office).

Radon is generally associated with a range of other radionuclides of variable – and potentially high – levels. However, no overall radioactivity data is available and no measurements have been taken. No checks have been run on the exposure of workers and radon inhalation, with the exception of a few voluntary ones declared by the plant operator. There is no data on the presence – or absence – of points where the levels of radioactivity are higher, or where radon tends to accumulate.

The mortality rates on Amiata are far higher than the norm¹.

Does the Commission consider it legitimate for geothermal energy not to be subject to the provisions of Directive 96/29/Euratom?

If so, why? If not, what measures will it take, and when, to remedy the situation?

¹ https://sosgeotermia.noblogs.org/files/2013/04/20130416_MD-articolo-insostenibile-geotermia.pdf