

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2019/00
by Gerhard Hager (NI)
to the Commission

Subject: Smuggled plutonium and lithium 6 - Euratom safeguards

On 17 December 1999, the Working Party for Physical Analyses and Measuring Procedures (ARGE-PHAN), acting on behalf of the Hanau Public Prosecution Service, registered a complaint with Mr Prodi, President of the Commission, concerning Euratom safeguards following investigations by the German authorities into the seizure of plutonium/lithium in Munich in August 1994.

In this connection:

1. Does the Commission consider it conducive to an objective inquiry into the allegations if the authority in question is itself given the task of carrying out fresh investigations?
2. What internal Euratom procedures are in place for investigating alleged shortcomings specifically relating to safeguards? Who is responsible for investigating which sections and what are the relationships between the members of staff involved?
3. Who was responsible for the investigation in this case?
4. To what extent are the Euratom authorities required to cooperate with national investigations?
5. Was the plant in Hanau investigated by Euratom staff in person and what form did these investigations take?