

ORAL QUESTION H-0394/03

for Question Time at the part-session in July 2003

pursuant to Rule 43 of the Rules of Procedure

by Nuala Ahern

to the Commission

Subject:           Radioactive concentrations

On 23 May 2003, the Radiation Protection Institute for Ireland published its annual radiation monitoring report. It noted once again that 'The highest (radio-) activity concentrations observed are on the north-east coastline' and that 'Discharged radioactive waste from the British Nuclear Fuels plc (BNFL) reprocessing plant at Sellafield continues to be the dominant source of artificial radioactivity in the Irish Sea.'

On 10 June 2003, the Irish Government resumed a legal action brought against the United Kingdom over hazards caused by the operation of the Sellafield plutonium fuels (MOX) Plant (SMP), in arbitration under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) in The Hague, and included concerns over the alleged inadequacy of the environmental assessment undertaken by the UK in relation to the facility and the failure properly to assess the risk of a terrorist attack on the site.

Given that the Commission is responsible for regulating trans-frontier radiation risks involving EU Member States, will it, as a matter of urgency, establish a committee of inquiry into the hazards posed to other EU Member States, especially Ireland, by the continued operation of the radioactive waste production and plutonium storage plant at Sellafield in the UK?

Tabled: 13.06.2003

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