

WRITTEN QUESTION P-0948/04  
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to the Council

Subject: Nuclear safety and EU enlargement

In June 1999 the Cologne European Council called on the Commission to ensure that high safety standards were applied in the countries of central and eastern Europe. In December 2001 the Laeken European Council further called for regular reports to be submitted on nuclear safety in the countries of central and eastern Europe. With a view to the forthcoming EU enlargement to include the accession countries of central and eastern Europe, it must be a particular priority for the European Union to support its new partners in the field of nuclear safety. On 30 January 2003, in response to the requests made by Parliament in its report on Euratom safeguards (A5-0196/2002 of 2 July 2002), the Commission adopted two proposals for directives which will provide the European Union with a common approach to the safety of nuclear power stations and the handling of radioactive waste with the aim of protecting workers and the general public against the dangers arising from ionising radiation (Articles 30 et seq. of the Euratom Treaty). Parliament explicitly supported the introduction of these two directives and hence of binding legal instruments at its plenary sitting of 13 January 2004.

What stage has been reached on the nuclear package in the Council, on the basis of the compromise proposal put forward by the Italian Presidency at the end of October 2003 and the trialogue between the institutions? Is the Council likely to have concluded its work on the nuclear package by 1 May 2004 under the Irish Presidency, and thus to adopt the two directives before the EU enlargement to include ten new Member States?