

WRITTEN QUESTION P-3530/08
by Claudio Fava (PSE)
to the Commission

Subject: Incident at Krsko nuclear power station in Slovenia

On 4 June 2008, the European Commission announced that it had been notified of an incident at Krsko nuclear power station in the south-west of Slovenia, 130 kilometres from Trieste, and that it had proceeded to activate the safety procedure for closing-down the power station owing to a loss of coolant from its primary cooling system.

This is the first time that the European Commission has decided publicly to launch the early warning procedure under 'Ecurie' (European Community Urgent Radiological Information Exchange).

Several environmental organisations had warned the Italian and Slovene authorities many times about the threat that Krsko nuclear power station posed to the safety and health of their citizens.

An international committee appointed to check safety standards at Krsko power station made 73 recommendations on technical changes needed to bring the facility into line with European regulations.

In the light of the above:

1. Can the Commission give a precise and detailed explanation of the events surrounding the incident and the reasons for its launching the early warning procedure;
2. Can it state whether it intends to send inspectors to Krsko to actually assess whether or not there was a radiation leak?
3. Can it state whether the technical changes referred to in the 73 recommendations made by the international committee were actually implemented so as to bring the power station into line with the Community legislation on nuclear safety?