



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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**ATO 136
SAN 223**

NOTE

from :	General Secretariat of the Council
to:	Delegations
Subject :	Towards the Secure Supply of Radioisotopes for Medical Use in the European Union - Draft Council Conclusions

Delegations will find attached revised draft Council Conclusions, to be discussed at the WPAQ meeting on 7 November.

Council Conclusions
**"Towards the Secure Supply of Radioisotopes for Medical Use
in the European Union"**

The Council of the European Union,

ACKNOWLEDGING that various initiatives have become available since the Council Conclusions of 6 December 2010 on the secure supply of radioisotopes for medical use in the European Union **and in particular points 4 to 8 of these conclusions,**

AGREEING that the **European** Observatory on the Supply of Medical Radioisotopes ~~in the Union~~ is a valuable instrument to support the secure **Molybdenum-99 (Mo-99)/Technetium-99m (Tc-99m)** supply for the medium and long term across the **European Union** EU, taking into account the worldwide need and supply,

CONSIDERING that production of radioisotopes for medical use in nuclear reactors is a robust, **indispensable** and reliable method,

CONSIDERING that the facilities able to produce Mo-99 at the levels required for the medium-term needs of the European Union should remain located in the Union, with a view to ensuring self-sufficiency, as well as guaranteeing an appropriate price level,

NOTING that the commitment of some Member States towards conversion from High Enriched Uranium (HEU) to Low Enriched Uranium (LEU) targets used for Mo-99 production is based on nuclear security reasons,

STRESSING that the safety of nuclear reactors involved in the production of radioisotopes is and remains the first priority, which is also stipulated in the Code of Conduct on the Safety of Research Reactors, adopted by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) General Conference on 24 September 2004,

STRESSING the existing and vastly increasing need of diagnostic and therapeutic patient treatment and the gradually decreasing availability of HEU,

STRESSING the need **for national authorities, reactor operators and** ~~to work cooperatively together with the radioisotopes processing facilities to~~ **work together cooperatively to** enable **and safeguard the continuity of the present and future production facilities, including** the future conversion from ~~High Enriched Uranium (HEU)~~ to ~~Low Enriched Uranium (LEU)~~ targets in an efficient, timely, economically sound and sustainable way,

RECALLING that Member States involved in supply chain of Mo-99 should take actions necessary to minimise any risks of disruption during the conversion process.

1. NOTES that the OECD/ NEA **currently does not include** ~~excludes~~ the conversion from HEU to LEU **in** ~~from~~ the full cost recovery model,
2. SHARES the Commission's analysis that the conversion from HEU to LEU targets in an efficient, timely and economically sound and sustainable way is a very important task and **a relevant risks analysis to the radioisotope supply chain** needs to be **undertaken** ~~covered~~ by **the Commission in cooperation with** the Observatory,
3. STRESSES that given its **importance for long-term security of supply of the key medical isotopes of Mo-99 and Tc-99m** ~~contribution to a secure supply of radioisotopes~~, the conversion from HEU to LEU **targets** should be supported by the **concerned** Member States,
4. **STRESSES that all activities must be accompanied by following the highest Standards of Nuclear Safety, e.g. the IAEA Safety Requirement No. 4 "Safety of Research Reactors", and that research reactors form part of nuclear installations as defined in Directive 71/2009/Euratom.**
4. ~~CONSIDERS that in particular in this respect research on the conversion from HEU to LEU targets should be supported by the Euratom Framework Programme,~~

5. INVITES the Commission to prepare recommendations on the conversion issue, ~~to be addressed to the main decision makers in the Union, national governments, national and international official bodies, the medical community, and the European industry and to define a solution to the Conversion issue.~~
- 6. INVITES the Commission to propose a relevant instrument to provide Community support to the conversion from HEU to LEU targets and to prepare proposals contributing to the secure supply of medical radioisotopes in the European Union.**
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