



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



Brussels, 5 December 2013
17059/13
(OR. en)
PRESSE 513

Council approves new standards for protection against the dangers arising from exposure to ionising radiation

The Council today adopted¹ a directive laying down basic safety standards for protection against the dangers arising from exposure to ionising radiation ([13675/13](#)).

The directive builds on almost two decades of research on radioprotection at international level (International Atomic Energy Agency, World Health Organisation, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, etc.) and represents a significant advance in radioprotection in a wide range of contexts including medical, industrial, power generation and waste management.

In addition, it brings together five Council directives in one single piece of legislation. These include Council Directive 96/29/Euratom laying down basic safety standards for the protection of the health of workers and the general public against the dangers arising from ionising radiation, which provides the basic radiation protection obligations to be complied with and applies to all activities involving ionising radiations. The other four more specialised acts are the Medical Directive (97/43/Euratom), the Directive on high activity sealed sources (2003/122/Euratom), the Directive on outside workers (90/641/Euratom), and the Directive on public information (89/618/Euratom).

¹ At a meeting of the Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council, without discussion.

P R E S S

The new directive provides for a system of radiation protection under which the member states will establish legal requirements and an appropriate regime of regulatory control which, for all exposure situations, reflect a system of radiation protection based on the principles of justification, optimisation and dose limitation. Furthermore, the directive provides for radiation protection education, training and provision of information.

The member states will have four years to transpose this directive into national legislation.
