

Position Paper on Radioactive Waste Management

The Nuclear Industry considers that the existing arrangements for ensuring a safe radioactive waste management have delivered excellent results, including final disposal for all types of radioactive waste.

The industry also considers that the following viewpoints should be emphasised in any possible future EU initiatives on radioactive waste management:

- A common frame of reference for the management of radioactive waste is desirable, particularly in the field of final repositories;
- Each Member State has to ensure the timely execution of the final disposal of all categories of radioactive waste, whether arising from electricity generation, medical applications, research, industry or any other source;
- Each Member State has to report on their radioactive waste management programmes and progress to the European Commission;
- Past research results support the option of deep geological waste disposal, for high level radioactive waste;
- Each Member State should encourage improvement of existing methodologies within the national radioactive waste management strategies taking account of research and technological development at national levels as well as under the Euratom treaty;
- Each Member State should develop its own communication programme, involving all stakeholders in the decision-making process about radioactive waste management issues. In the context of the European Commission's Green Paper, the European institutions, particularly the European Parliament, also have an important role to play in the waste management dialogue by providing a political platform for exchange of views. As a part of this process, the Nuclear Industry is engaged in providing coherent information on waste management.