



Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

TRANSPORT, TELECOMMUNICATIONS & ENERGY

Sectoral Committee

Weekly Update
13.08.10

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COM 423 (2010) - Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council:

on medical applications of ionizing radiation and security of supply of radioisotopes for nuclear medicine.

In this communication, the Commission makes proposals to resolve the urgent issue of the shortage of supply of radioisotopes where nuclear medicine is practised for the diagnosis and treatment of patients. The Communication also identifies key issues to improve radiation protection of patients and medical staff and to avoid an increase of accidental or unintended exposures in radiotherapy.

All over the world, the number of X-ray examinations is around 4 billion per year. In Europe, around 9 million patients are treated each year with radioisotopes. It is the Commission's responsibility to help securing the availability of this technology to the benefit of human health. Within the overall nuclear energy policy of the European Commission it is of crucial importance to provide incentives for further research reactors to contribute to its production and in the long term for new research reactors to be built for this purpose.

The Communication proposes a long-term perspective on the medical application of ionizing radiation in the Union to stimulate discussions on the necessary actions, resources and distribution of responsibilities.

The following actions are proposed:

- **Strengthen the existing regulatory framework.** This will be part of an overall consolidation of radiation protection legislation in 2011.
- **Raise awareness and safety culture.** The medical profession must receive adequate training and regular updates on good practice, and above all, made sensitive to its responsibility in ensuring both good medical care and adequate radiation protection. Awareness also needs to be raised among patients and among the general population.
- **Foster radiation protection and a sustainable supply and use of radioisotopes through research.**
- **Financing mechanisms to ensure sustainable supply of radioisotopes.**
- **Integration of policies.** Medical applications of ionizing radiation call for good integration of different policies, on public health, research, trade and industry as well as radiation protection.
- **International cooperation:** The Commission will support all initiatives for coordinated efforts between active organisations in the field.

http://ec.europa.eu/energy/nuclear/radiation_protection/radiation_protection_en.htm



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Consultation on electronic commerce

Over 10 years after it started, electronic commerce remains limited to less than 2% of total retail service sales in the EU, and reaches 4% in just 4 Member States. The Commission has therefore launched a broad consultation aimed at identifying obstacles to the development of e-commerce and evaluating the impact of the E-commerce Directive. On the basis of the responses received, as well as the input from discussions with Member States, and relevant reports from the European Parliament, the Commission will come forward, in early 2011, with a Communication on E-commerce setting out lessons learnt and possible next steps. Issues covered in the consultation include: commercial communications of regulated professions such as pharmacists and lawyers; the development of the online press, the issue of the liability of internet intermediaries, administrative cooperation, on-line dispute resolution, etc.

The on-line questionnaire is available here:

http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/consultations/2010/e-commerce_en.htm