

## **European Parliament Confirms Safety of Nuclear Transports**

**Brussels, 13 March 2001:** The European Parliament has given overwhelming support to a report dealing with the safe transport of radioactive materials in the EU. MEPs at a plenary session in Strasbourg voted by 410 votes to 73 in favour of the report produced by the Chairman of the parliament's transport committee, Constantinos Hatzidakis.

Marie Anne Isler Béguin, a French Green MEP, was the report's original Rapporteur but gave up the role in protest at numerous amendments made by the committee in January. Her original report cast doubt on the safety of nuclear transports. The committee chairman took over the role of Rapporteur and revised the report on the basis of points made by committee members.

Today's vote reflected the parliament's view that the transport of radioactive materials in the EU is safe and well regulated.

During the plenary session, Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy, speaking on behalf of the European Commission, said the report confirmed that measures taken at international and national level ensured a high level of safety for nuclear transport operations. He added that the report gave European citizens "enlightened opinion".

Commenting on today's vote, Dr. Wolf-J. Schmidt-Küster, FORATOM's Secretary General, said: "Companies and workers engaged in nuclear transport operations will be delighted that the European Parliament has officially acknowledged the high safety standards that are maintained. The safety authorities involved will also welcome the final outcome of the long debate that has surrounded this issue.

"It was unfortunate that the parliament's examination of the issue was seized upon by a small number of MEPs as another opportunity to attack the nuclear energy sector. Fortunately, this strategy failed in the end, and the true status of nuclear transport operations was properly recognised. The parliament has voted on the basis of hard evidence rather than anti-nuclear propaganda."

### **Contacts**

Jack Ashton, Media Relations Manager, Tel: +32 2 505.32.26, e-mail: [ja@foratom.skynet.be](mailto:ja@foratom.skynet.be)

Karen Daifuku, Communications Director, Tel: +32 2 505.32.20, e-mail: [kd@foratom.skynet.be](mailto:kd@foratom.skynet.be)