

PRESS RELEASE

Brussels, 22 April 2009

FORATOM welcomes European Parliament's strong support for Nuclear Safety Directive

The European Parliament adopted today the *Hökmark Report* on the EC proposal for a new Nuclear Safety Directive. FORATOM welcomes this ringing endorsement of moves aimed at establishing a new Community framework for nuclear safety based on the continuous improvement of safety standards at all nuclear installations across the EU.

The adoption by a resounding majority (511 in favour, 116 against and 36 abstentions) of the own-initiative report, *A Proposal for a Council Directive (Euratom) setting up a Community framework for nuclear safety*, that was tabled by the Rapporteur, MEP Gunnar Hökmark (EPP-ED, Sweden), shows clearly that there is strong political support for a new Nuclear Safety Directive. The main thrust of the Report is the promotion of a strong and clear EU-wide framework. New legislation will further emphasise how the safety of workers and the general public, as well as the protection of the environment, remain of paramount importance.

FORATOM, the trade association representing European nuclear industry has consistently voiced its support for a new Nuclear Safety Directive. FORATOM's Director General, Santiago San Antonio emphasised: "We firmly believe that an EU-wide nuclear safety framework is needed. Safety has always been, and will always remain, our industry's primary consideration. We welcome this vote, which is a significant step forward in the development of nuclear energy in Europe."

For further information contact Mark O'Donovan at FORATOM: Tel.: 00 32 2 505 32 26; e-mail: mark.odonovan@foratom.org