

## ■ Press Release

# FORATOM hails the publication of EC proposed Directive on radioactive waste management

3/11/2010

**FORATOM, the trade association representing the European nuclear industry, welcomes the adoption today by the European Commission (EC) of a Proposal for a Council Directive on the management of spent fuel and radioactive waste. Solutions for the long-term and safe management of radioactive waste exist and the proposed EU legal framework will facilitate their implementation.**

Although quantities of radioactive waste are small compared to other toxic wastes, a legally binding text is important to ensure that all Member States define and implement national programmes for the long-term, responsible management of radioactive waste. The nuclear industry backs measures that accelerate the implementation of decisions for the final disposal of radioactive waste.

Commenting on the proposed Directive, Santiago San Antonio, FORATOM Director General said: "Technically and economically viable solutions for the management of radioactive waste exist. Indeed, the European Union's low-level waste, which represents approximately 85% of the total volume of waste, is already disposed of safely. We are particularly pleased that the Directive acknowledges the fact that there is a world-wide scientific and technical consensus that deep geological disposal of high-level waste (and spent fuel if considered as waste), which has been proven by over 30 years of research, represents the safest and most sustainable option. Some countries, like Sweden, France and Finland are already in the process of developing deep repositories for the final disposal of spent fuel and radioactive waste. "

For further information please contact Mark O'Donovan at FORATOM: Tel.: 02/ 505 32 26; e-mail: [mark.odonovan@foratom.org](mailto:mark.odonovan@foratom.org)