



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Strasbourg, 13 May 2003

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LIMITE

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DRAFT REPLY* TO ORAL QUESTION N° H-0236/03

put by : Brian Crowley (UEN – Irl) to the Council

for : Question Time at the part-session in May 2003

Subject: **" Closure of Calder Hall Magnox reactor in Sellafield "**

Please find attached the draft reply to oral question n° H-0236/03 by Brian Crowley to the Council.

It should be recalled that only the text actually read out during May Question Time at the European Parliament's Plenary session is authentic.

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This is a draft reply prepared by the Services of the General Secretariat of the Council. This draft reply does not commit the Council.

QUESTION

Given the welcome closure of the Calder Hall Magnox reactor at Sellafield at the end of March 2003, will the Council now actively support calls for the closure of the five remaining Magnox plants in the UK which present an increasing safety concern as they get older?

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DRAFT REPLY
to Oral Question H-0236/03
by Brian Crowley (UEN – Irl)

The Council is in a general way concerned about nuclear safety and gives all its support for a high level of nuclear safety throughout the European Union. However, as the competence and responsibilities relating to nuclear safety lie with the Member State concerned, the Council is not in a position to comment on safety and other aspects regarding individual reactors in the Member States.

As the Honourable Member will know, each reactor is supposed to operate only as long as it fulfils the requirements of a high level of nuclear safety. The existing Community legislation related to the safety of nuclear installations is mainly based on Chapter 3 of Title II of the Euratom Treaty. Council Directive 96/29/Euratom laying down basic safety standards for the protection of the health of workers and the general public against the dangers arising from ionising radiation provides the basic radiation protection obligations to be complied with. The Council also notes the recently submitted Commission proposal for a Directive setting out basic obligations and general principles on the safety of nuclear installations to the examination of which the Council will devote careful attention.

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