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Prof.dr. Eric van Walle
Director-General
Studiecentrum voor Kernenergie
Boeretang 200
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België

Date February 2, 2009
Subject request of information

Dear Prof. van Walle,

As you know in these days the Dutch government is discussing the possibility of allowing the operation of the HFR reactor in Petten, in view of the worldwide need of radioisotopes for nuclear medicine. The decision takes into account on the one hand the fact that corrosion has been detected in the primary cooling system of the HFR reactor, and on the other hand the fact that isotopes production is necessary for diagnostic and therapeutic procedures in nuclear medicine.

During the discussion last friday more information was asked about the possibilities to produce isotopes in the other european reactors, the BR2 in Belgium and the OSIRIS in France. This is the reason why I am turning to you as Director-General of SCK-CEN in Mol.

In order to provide the government with the information they asked for, I would appreciate if you could answer the following questions:

- 1) Where there actions taken at the BR2 reactor during the last months (since august 2008) in order to help compensate for the lack of isotopes production following the shut down of the HFR reactor in Petten? What actions were taken?
- 2) Was the scheduling of the isotopes irradiation in the BR2 reactor modified with respect to previous planning? Could you give more detail information about that?
- 3) Would it be possible to arrange the scheduling of the isotopes irradiation in the coming months (until the end of 2009) in such a way that lack of production in HFR is compensated for? If not, could you give some information as to the reasons of that? Are there legal, technical or commercial reasons that prevent increased isotope production at BR2?

The discussion in the Dutch government is foreseen for coming friday. In view of that I would appreciate if you could answer within a couple of days (wednesday at the latest). I do apologize for the very short notice and I thank you in advance for your cooperation.

**Directoraat-Generaal
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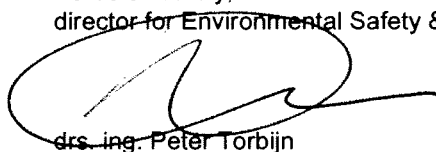
Our reference

RB/2009010013

If you have any question of if you need clarification, please don't hesitate to contact
Mrs. Ginevra Delfini either by phone (+31 70 3394966) or by mail
(ginevra.delfini@minvrom.nl)

I hope to hear from you soon.

Yours sincerely,
Director for Environmental Safety & Risk Management,



drs. ing. Peter Torbijn

**Directoraat-Generaal
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