

Communication Received from Belgium Concerning its Policies regarding the Management of Plutonium

1. The Secretariat has received a note verbale dated 15 October 2012 from the Permanent Mission of Belgium to the IAEA in the enclosures of which the Government, in keeping with Belgium's commitment under the Guidelines for the Management of Plutonium (contained in INFCIRC/549¹ of 16 March 1998 and hereinafter referred to as the "Guidelines") and in accordance with Annexes B and C of the Guidelines, has made available annual figures for holdings of civil unirradiated plutonium and the estimated amounts of plutonium contained in spent civil reactor fuel as of 31 December 2011. A declaration concerning the nuclear policy situation in Belgium was also enclosed with the note verbale.
2. In light of the request expressed by Belgium in its note verbale of 1 December 1997 concerning its policies regarding the management of plutonium (INFCIRC/549 of 16 March 1998), the note verbale of 15 October 2012 and the enclosures therewith are circulated for the information of all Member States.

¹ A modification to this document was issued on 17 August 2009 (INFCIRC/549/Mod.1)

Embassy and Permanent Mission of Belgium

Ref: 12/01636

Annexes: 3

The Permanent Mission of Belgium to the IAEA presents its compliments to the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency and has the honour to refer to Belgium's annual commitment pursuant to the Guidelines for the Management of Plutonium (INFCIRC/549).

In accordance with this commitment, the Permanent Mission attaches hereto information on plutonium holdings on Belgian territory as 31 December 2011:

- Annex B of the Guidelines for the Management of Plutonium covering holdings of civil unirradiated plutonium in Belgium;
- Annex C of the Guidelines relating to estimated amounts of plutonium contained in spent civil reactor fuel;
- A declaration concerning the nuclear policy situation in Belgium.

The Permanent Mission of Belgium to the IAEA avails itself of this opportunity to assure the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency of its highest consideration.

Vienna, 15 October 2012

[initials]

[stamp of the Embassy of Belgium in
Vienna]

Mr Y. Amano
Director General
International Atomic Energy Agency
Vienna

ANNEX B**Annual figures for holdings of civil unirradiated plutonium****National Totals**

	As of 31 Dec. 2011 (Previous year's figures in Brackets) Rounded to 100 kg plutonium	
1. Unirradiated separated plutonium in product stores at reprocessing plants.	0 kg	(0kg)
2. Unirradiated separated plutonium in the course of manufacture or fabrication and plutonium contained in unirradiated semi-fabricated or unfinished products at fuel or other fabricating plants or elsewhere.	p.m.	(p.m.)
3. Plutonium contained in unirradiated MOX fuel or other fabricated products at reactor sites or elsewhere.	500 kg	(p.m.)
4. Unirradiated separated plutonium held elsewhere.	p.m.	(p.m.)

<p>Note :</p> <p>(i) Plutonium included in lines 1-4 above belonging to foreign bodies.</p>	<p>0 kg</p>	<p>(0kg)</p>
<p>(ii) Plutonium in any of the forms in lines 1-4 above held in locations in other countries and therefore not included above.</p>	<p>0 kg</p>	<p>(0 kg)</p>
<p>(iii) Plutonium in international shipment for which the Government of Belgium still retains Safeguards responsibility is included in the appropriate lines above. The Government with jurisdiction over the owner of the plutonium is responsible for resolving any residual difficulties.</p>	<p>0 kg</p>	<p>(0 kg)</p>
<p>(iv) It is open to Governments to add any further information or explanation which they believe helpful</p>	<p>p.m. means less than 50 kg</p>	<p>p.m. means less than 50 kg</p>

**Estimated Amounts of Plutonium Contained in Spent civil
Reactor Fuel****National Totals**

	As of 31 Dec. 2011 (Previous year's figures in Brackets) Rounded to 1000 kg plutonium	
1) Plutonium contained in spent fuel at civil reactor sites	35.000 kg	(34.000 kg)
2) Plutonium contained in spent fuel at reprocessing plants	0 kg	(0 kg)
3) Plutonium contained in spent fuel held elsewhere	p.m.	(p.m.)

Note:

- i) The treatment of material sent for direct disposal will need further consideration when specific plans for direct disposal have taken concrete form.
 - ii) Definitions:
 - Line 1: covers plutonium contained in fuel discharged from civil reactors.
 - Line 2: covers estimated amounts of plutonium contained in fuel received at reprocessing plants but not yet reprocessed.
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Declaration according to article 14 of the guidelines for the management of plutonium

(2011)

In the beginning of July 2012, the Belgian Government has taken the following decisions with respect to the phase-out of nuclear energy in Belgium:

- the principle of deactivating the nuclear reactors after 40 years of commercial electricity production is maintained;
- an exception on the previous point is introduced for one reactor, namely Tihange 1, which is allowed to operate 10 years longer;
- this gives the following closure calendar for the different nuclear reactors:

Doel 1	1 April 2015
Doel 2	1 April 2015
Doel 3	1 April 2022
Doel 4	1 April 2025
Tihange 1	1 April 2025
Tihange 2	1 April 2023
Tihange 3	1 April 2025

The possibility to revise the above decision in case of a threat to the security of supply of electricity and in case of circumstances outside one's control has been withdrawn.