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File followed by: Patrick Majerus

Autoriteit Nucleaire Veiligheid en  
Stralingbescherming

Director General for the Environment and  
International Affairs  
M. C.B.F. Kuijpers

Den Haag  
Postbus 16001  
2500 BA Den Haag

Luxembourg, 13 July 2017

**Subject: Resolution endorsed by Dutch Parliament**

Dear Mr. Kuijpers,

The decision by the Belgian authorities to grant permission for the restart of the reactors Tihange- 2 and Doel-3 in November 2015 raised concern in Luxembourg, both within the population and at the political level.

Under these circumstances, on 22 April 2016 the Government in Council discussed the issue and took the position at the highest political level to align itself with the Germany request to temporary shutdown the concerned reactors to enable additional tests. The conclusion of this discussion was inserted into the press release issued after the meeting<sup>1</sup>. On the other hand, our Government has not taken any other concrete steps to follow-up the request; neither did it perform a legal analyse with regard to the Belgian case.

Between the restart of the reactors and the political statement, however several exchanges have taken place between Belgium and Luxembourg, as follows:

- My department of radiation protection (DRP) has participated at the technical seminar from 11 to 12 January 2016, organized by the Belgian authority. From that seminar, my experts got the impression that the various studies have been done in a comprehensible way. Even though the discussions revealed differences in the interpretations of the remaining safety margins related to uncertainties in embrittlement, my experts have not

<sup>1</sup> Courtesy translation of the text: "The Council decided to align itself with the German Government's position to ask the Belgian Government to temporarily close the two nuclear reactors Doel 3 and Tihange 2 as long as new safety investigations are not carried out".



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identified sufficient weaknesses that would enable us to put the Belgian position into question. Given however the limited expertise available in our country and since Germany has announced to further analyse the technical details, a position was taken to wait for these further elements.

- On 18 January 2016, a delegation of parliamentarians and representatives of the civil society, led by the Secretary of State at the ministry of environment, have met the Belgian Ministers, Mrs. Marie-Christine Marghem and Mr. Jan Jambon in Brussels. The Belgian side demonstrated openness in the exchanges and understanding for the concerns raised, but also clearly confirmed their confidence in the analysis made under the umbrella of FANC.
- Based on an agreement from 2011, we have held annual bilateral meetings with FANC, and visited the nuclear power plant Tihange on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2016. Those meetings help us to better understand the various issues related to nuclear safety in Belgium.
- Information exchange has also taken place between the DRP and the German BMUB between January and April 2016. In particular the technical assessments were shared. However the Government has not asked our experts to issue an opinion on those assessments.

I sincerely hope that these answers will be useful for your further steps.

With kind regards,

Dr. Jean-Claude Schmit  
Director of Health