

(English version)

Question for written answer E-003235/26
to the Commission
Cristina Guarda (Verts/ALE)
(8 August 2026)

Subject: Unpublished emergency plans for military bases

Military use of nuclear technologies falls outside the competences of the Euratom Treaty; however, standards for preparedness for radiological emergencies are laid down in the Euratom Directive (up-to-date plans and information for the public ⁽¹⁾) and in Directive 2003/4/EC (mandatory active dissemination of information on environmental and health risks ⁽²⁾).

A number of EU Member States have military bases equipped with NATO nuclear weapons, but the Upper Adriatic has as many as four sensitive sites (Aviano ⁽³⁾), Ghedi and the ports of Trieste in Italy and Koper in Slovenia, through which nuclear-powered vessels pass) where the emergency plans — although in place — are not up to date and have not been published, nor is safety information disclosed to the public, as required by the directives.

In the light of the above:

1. Does the Commission consider the provisions on health protection and environmental monitoring also applicable in areas adjacent to infrastructure with nuclear weapons or delivery systems?
2. What is its assessment of the implementation of the obligation to provide information and ensure transparency vis-à-vis the local population?
3. What action will it push for to ascertain that the plans protect public health and the environment?

Submitted: 8.8.2026

Answer given by Mr Jørgensen on behalf of the European Commission
(19 October 2026)

According to the case-law of the Court of Justice of the European Union (see Cases C-61/03 ⁽¹⁾ and C-65/04, ⁽²⁾ *Commission of the European Communities v United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland*), the use of nuclear energy for military purposes falls outside the scope of the Euratom Treaty and its secondary legislation.

Consequently, the provisions of Council Directive 2013/59/Euratom ⁽³⁾ are applicable on the territory of the Member States but do not apply to uses of nuclear energy for military purposes.

As regards broader health protection, the Member States are responsible for definition of their health policy ⁽⁴⁾. The EU has a supportive competence in the fight against serious cross-border threats to health.

Alerts concerning such threats, as defined by Regulation (EU) 2022/2371, ⁽⁵⁾ must be notified through the Early Warning and Response System.

Both Italy and Slovenia have adequately transposed the relevant public information and transparency requirements of Council Directive 2013/59/Euratom. The Commission is not aware of any issues regarding the implementation of those requirements in the Member States concerned.

The Commission continuously monitors the implementation of Council Directive 2013/59/Euratom across the European Union. In principle, the Commission may take enforcement action where it identifies non-compliance by a Member State with specific requirements of the directive. Such non-compliance has not been identified in relation to the Member States referred to in the question.

¹ Directive 2013/59/Euratom, Articles 70, 97 and 98

² Directive 2003/4/EC, Articles 2 and 7.

³ Order No 3237/2025 of the Court of Pordenone.

⁽¹⁾ Judgment of the Court (Grand Chamber) of 12 April 2005. Case C-61/03. https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:62003CJ0061_SUM.

⁽²⁾ Judgment of the Court (First Chamber) of 9 March 2006. Case C-65/04. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:62004CJ0065>.

⁽³⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02013L0059-20140117>.

⁽⁴⁾ Article 168 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

⁽⁵⁾ Regulation (EU) 2022/2371 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 November 2022 on serious cross-border threats to health and repealing Decision No 1082/2013/EU, OJ L 314, 6.12.2022, p. 6, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2022/2371/oj>.