

# European Communities

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## EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

# Working Documents

1978 - 1979

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26 June 1978

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ORAL QUESTION (0-33/78)

with debate pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure  
by Mrs WALZ, Mr FLÄMIG, Mr NORMANTON, Mr BLUMENFELD, Mr ELLIS  
and Mr PINTAT  
to the Commission of the European Communities

Subject: Injuries and damage caused by radiation at the  
Ispra Joint Research Establishment

A press report of 12 June 1978 states that, at the Ispra Joint  
Research Centre,

- an employee has been contaminated through handling plutonium  
oxide, as was the controller who checked him.
- plutonium dust has escaped into the atmosphere as a result of  
the inexpert installation of ventilators in store-rooms,
- radioactive water has escaped into the soil as a result of a  
pump not being turned off,
- low-active nuclear waste has been buried in a water-bearing  
earth stratum over a period of years, with possible harmful  
consequences for both the Italian and the Swiss areas  
adjoining Lake Maggiore,

- there are no rules of conduct for the staff in case of malfunction or emergency, or internal rules for radiation protection,
- the official responsible for radiation protection devotes a considerable proportion of his time to outside jobs and thus appears not be performing his duties.

How true are these reports, and what has the Commission done to remedy any shortcomings that in fact exist - and to prevent their recurrence?