

Department of Radiological Protection and Nuclear Safety

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As in precedent years the DPRSN gave priority to fulfil the competences entrusted to the Department by the Decree-Law 311/98 of October 14, taking into consideration also the recommendations of the European Union and IAEA Basic Safety Standards on the protection against the effects of ionising radiation. In doing this, all Divisions and staff were committed to providing a high quality research and services to the country and the community. This includes implementation of a thorough radiological surveillance of food, water, air, soil and environment, as required by the Art 35 of EURATOM Treaty, and giving a report on the data to the EU and to the public as foreseen in the Art 36 of the Treaty. This includes also, as set by the European Union Directive 96/29, provision for individual dosimetry to professional exposed workers, and ensuring the radiological safety assessment of radiation facilities.

Furthermore, and meeting the duties set up by the Decree 311/98, radioecological studies and radiation and radioactivity measurements were performed to ensure the radiological protection of the population and the environment, This is the case of the investigation on the radioactive discharges made by hospitals using radioisotopes, on the monitoring and research on the radioactivity in international rivers receiving effluents from nuclear power plants located across the border, and monitoring the campus of Sacavém and the estuary of the River Tagus for the presence of artificial radionuclides.

Following approval by the Parliament and by the Government, a large multi institute project, *MinUrar*, on the effects of the past mining operations was started to investigate the effects on public health and on the environment in the uranium mining regions.

Preliminary results of this project were reported in various workshops. The interest of this subject is such at the international level that the IAEA agreed to co-organize with the ITN/DPRSN an International Workshop early in 2004 that will be hosted by ITN. The interest of the public opinion and the media on this subject, and related subjects such as radon in houses and schools, was also high. Action taken by the DPRSN was able to answer in a satisfactory manner to the questions raised by the media and to public anxiety, contributing to the visibility of the ITN/DPRSN and adding societal value to this State Laboratory.

Participation in scientific *fora* and national and international commissions was given attention. For example, contributions were made to the work of the Commission on Transport of Dangerous Goods, Commission for Supervision of the Concession of Environmental Rehabilitation of Abandoned Mining Sites, EURADOS (EU network), ALARA (EU network), amongst others. Publication of articles in scientific periodicals and national reports was maintained.

An issue of the utmost importance was the delivery of the Report made by the EU Mission of Verification on the Compliance with Article 35 of Euratom Treaty that took place in 2002. This Report highlights the efforts made by, and praises the commitment of DPRSN staff, but also points out the weaknesses of the country in this field and urges the Government to take action in order to ensure radiological safety and fulfil the State commitments on radioprotection matters. Such an important document is an encouragement for further progress and should not be overlooked.

Structure of the Sector and Technical staff

- **Division of Environmental Radioactivity**
- **Division of Dosimetry, Radiological Safety and Biological Effects of Ionising Radiations**
- **Division of Metrology of Ionising Radiations**
- **Division of Operational Radiological Protection and Radioactive Waste Management**

Administrative and Technical staff

Director: FERNANDO P. CARVALHO

Administrative

- A. M. ROSA
- D. M. ALVES
- J. MONTEIRO
- M. E. PACHECO

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