Public health: protection of individuals against ionizing radiation in medical exposures (repl. Direct. 84/466/Euratom)

1996/0230(CNS) - 16/04/1997

The Committee has unanimously adopted the report by Amadeo AMEDEO (Ind, I) on the protection of individuals against the dangers of ionizing radiation in medical treatment. This required the updating of the 1984 directive (consultation of Parliament on the basis of the Euratom Treaty). Although this form of diagnosis is of considerable benefit in early prevention and screening, its increasing use can be dangerous because of the harmful effects of radiation. Exposure for medical reasons therefore has to be reduced and other techniques used, even if they cost more, There should be an end to unnecessary checks and workers and the public at large should be protected against radiation. The amendments adopted in committee are intended to clarify definitions and improve medical supervision. The Member States are asked to withdraw and replace instruments and equipment that do not meet certain standards. A hospital doctor must check that equipment meets dosage and diagnostic utility standards by setting maximum and minimum reference levels. The committee thought that pregnant women should avoid all exposure for medical reasons especially to the pelvis and abdominal areas.