



Craig Whittaker MP

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UK Membership of Euratom

Thank you for contacting me about the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom).

As I understand it, leaving Euratom is a result of the decision to leave the European Union as they are uniquely legally joined. I am reassured, however, by the Government's approach which is that the UK will continue to support Euratom and will seek continuity of co-operation and standards. This includes the wish to maintain the UK's mutually beneficial civil nuclear co-operation with the European Union.

I do not believe that leaving Euratom will have any adverse effect on the supply of medical radio-isotopes. Contrary to what has been suggested in some reports, medical radio-isotopes are not classed as special fissile material and are not subject to nuclear safeguards, therefore, the UK's ability to import medical isotopes from Europe and the rest of the world will not be affected.

Rest assured, the UK remains entirely committed to the highest standards of nuclear safety, safeguards and support for the industry. The Government's aim is to establish the UK's own nuclear safeguards regime, using the body that already regulates nuclear security and safety, the Office for Nuclear Regulation. To do that, it will introduce legislation through the Nuclear Safeguards Bill this Parliament.

I am also assured that the collaboration between scientists and those in the nuclear sector is one of the important aspects of the continued co-operation that the Government wants and intends to see continued. The intention to support the scientific community to the greatest possible extent after we leave the European Union has been outlined very clearly in the Industrial Strategy. That is why the UK will negotiate with the EU with the aim of creating a mechanism that will allow vital collaborative research to continue.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Kind regards,

Craig Whittaker MP