



PETITION for food without radioactive contamination

International campaign: *No radioactivity in our food !*

A number of international projects, promoted behind the scenes by the nuclear lobby, may shortly result in the sale of food containing radioactive contaminants.

In Europe, just a handful of people have been made aware of the situation. Indeed, the project promoters know that the general public would never consent to such irresponsible action. Radioactive substances cause cancer and malformations and we are still discovering negative effects on human health caused by the Chernobyl catastrophe, particularly on the immune and cardio-vascular systems.

The situation is serious and each citizen must take the time to examine these projects before it is too late. The decision on the first project, the *Codex alimentarius new standard* (levels for radionuclides in foods for use in international trade), will be taken in La Hague, at the end of April 2005.

NOTE. The nuclear lobby is currently making every effort to assuage concerns by stating that these projects will change nothing. An article in the French newspaper *Libération* was toned down and a report by *France 2* television was never aired. **Do not believe the nuclear lobby. Once approved, the new version of the *Codex alimentarius* will become THE reference.** Any countries refusing the entry of "legally" contaminated food will be liable for prosecution by the World Trade Organisation (WTO). A number of past issues (meat containing hormones, etc.) have shown that the WTO is powerful and that health and environmental issues are not its primary concern.

THE ATOMIC AGE

In 1900, no one, neither farmers or consumers, had to worry about radioactivity. Then in 1945, the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki signalled the start of the nuclear arms race. Civilian nuclear power then came to the fore with the construction of hundreds of nuclear reactors.

In developing their arms, five countries (China, France, Soviet Union, United Kingdom and United States) exploded over **400 atomic bombs** in the atmosphere. These tests caused worldwide contamination and the fallout from the Chernobyl accident similarly ranged far beyond the Ukrainian borders. Added to all the above are the daily emissions of nuclear plants. Whether civil or military, they are authorised to release radioactive substances to the air, rivers and oceans. Former installations must also be taken into account, notably uranium mines.

Luckily for agriculture (at least in most of French areas), the soil is fairly effective in retaining radioactive pollution and there are generally only slight traces in food products (except in those areas affected by nuclear installations and in forest regions).

NON CONTAMINATED FOOD MUST STAY THE REFERENCE

The important point here is that today, in France, the absence of contamination is the normal, legal situation. The presence of radioactive pollution is ABNORMAL and its origin must be determined.

For example, if the CRIIRAD laboratory detects iodine 131 or cobalt 60 in leeks or tomatoes, it looks for the source (civil or military, nuclear or non-nuclear) of the contamination, assesses the risks and, where necessary, contacts the responsible entity or even initiates legal proceedings.

There are **contamination limits termed "acceptable"** that have been set nationally and internationally, but they apply only to **post-accident situations and for a limited time**. In an emergency, the consumption of contaminated food is tolerated as long as it does not exceed some limits (above these limits, the food must be destroyed and compensations are due to the producers). Consumption of this contaminated food is not without risk and must last as short a time as achievable.

IRRESPONSIBLE PLANS

Plans carried out by the nuclear lobby will entirely change the deal. Standards will not be zero pollution any more but will become a level of contamination defined as acceptable by authorities.

Two projects, set up at the highest political level, are to be passed very soon : one comes from the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the other from the International Commission for Radiological Protection.

1-The Codex Commission project

That commission is ruled by both the FAO (United Nations / Food and Agriculture Organisation) and the WHO (World Health Organisation). The participation of this later looks as reassuring. This is not the case at all : in fact, since 1959, the WHO is bound by an agreement with the IAEA, the international agency which has to promote the civilian applications of nuclear energy. These agreement impedes WHO to act freely in the nuclear field.

The submission of the WHO to the IAEA appears clearly in that project. The new standards for the trade of contaminated food have been elaborated and asked for by the IAEA itself.

If the law is adopted, exporting or importing contaminated food will become legal. Authorizations will be granted without limitation of time. Food containing radioactive contaminant will become the standard. The only condition will be to stay under the following contamination levels : **1 Bq/Kg** (Becquerel per kilogramme) for the most radiotoxic products such as plutonium, **10 000 Bq/Kg** for the so-called less toxic products such as technetium 99 or tritium.

2-The ICRP project

The second text comes from the International Commission for Radiological Protection, the recommendations of which are the basis of our protection against ionizing rays.

Its 2005 project recommends (amongst other measures) to fix **exclusion thresholds** under which the contamination of our environment would not be taken into account anymore. The word "environment" should be understood at its wider meaning, including soils, materials, water, objects but also the food we are eating. **Under these exclusion thresholds, food will be declared "non contaminated" and eatable without restrictions.** Every protective measure will be suppressed. Milk containing 90 Becquerels of 131 iodine per litre will be freely commercialized and used without restriction to feed children, including small babies ! Never mind their thyroid being irradiated and further growth impeded !

To pass their projects, the Commission of Codex and ICRP certify that eating food under these exclusion thresholds involves no risk (or only an insignificant risk). This is entirely WRONG !

Dosage calculations made by CRIIRAD laboratory show that **chronic consumption of such « legally » contaminated food would expose people (and specially babies) to unjustifiable levels of risk.** Some scenarios give results 1 000 times, and even 10 000 times higher than the thresholds regarded as significant exposure by authorities !

LET US TAKE THE FUTURE IN OUR HANDS !

If nobody does anything, we are doomed to eating radioactive foodstuffs in the short run.

Neither the producers, nor the consumers, or even the governments will be able to resist that contamination, since it will have become lawful.

We have little time, but nothing's lost yet.

In the last 15 years, through the support given by the environmental NGO and many people, CRIIRAD has wrecked several similar projects. It all depends on both the extent and quickness of mobilization!

A meeting of the Codex alimentarius committee in charge of the food contamination problems will take place in La Hague by the end of April 2005.

If we manage to raise a sufficient opposition, the project will be barred and will possibly be amended according to more conservational trends.

Otherwise, the new regulation may be officialized in early July of this year.

CRIIRAD has already informed and questioned the French and European authorities.

The fight will only be successful provided that consumers will take part to it in as many countries as possible, for uttering their massive and non-negotiable refusal.

CRIIRAD is struggling against these projects

Help it by signing the petition and circulating that information.

CRIIRAD short presentation

The Commission de Recherche et d'Information Indépendantes sur la Radioactivité (Commission for independent research and information on radioactivity) was **founded soon after the Chernobyl disaster, in reaction against the way the French authorities handled the crisis** : spreading of erroneous, or even deceitful pieces of information, considerable underestimate of the radioactive fallout deposits on the soils (particularly in a good eastern third of France, from Corsica to the Ardennes), lack of people protection, especially children, in breach the then prevailing legal obligations!

CRIIRAD is a unique structure in that it combines the ethical guarantees of a non-profit making organization and the professionalism of a specialist laboratory. Indeed, it is both :

1/ a non-profit making organization, registered as an environmental protection **NGO**, which has been working for over 18 years on all the matters linked to radioactivity, its uses and health-related impacts.

2/ a specialist laboratory in radioactive pollutions, having a certification for field measurements and radon tracking. Through that investigation tool, CRIIRAD monitors the radiological conditions of the environment and the foodstuffs, either on its own initiative or on third parties' requests (from persons, associations, local communities). In case of a recognized pollution, CRIIRAD provides information for the populations, alerts the authorities and endeavours to get the radiological decontamination of soils and buildings and legal actions against the polluters. Due to its scientific skill and independence, there are more and more calls upon it, even from abroad (Japan, Niger, Italy, Spain, Belarus...), but it is also more and more attacked by the nuclear lobby and its satellites.

For receiving information on a regular basis and taking part to the environment and health protection actions, you can become a member of the association.

The annual subscription amounts to 40 euros.

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