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SOCIAL, HEALTH AND FAMILY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

REPORT

**on the health effects of
the Chernobyl nuclear accident**

**(Rapporteur: Mr JACQUAT,
France, LDR)**

I. Preliminary draft resolution

1. The Assembly recalls its Resolution 1087 (1996) adopted on the 10th anniversary of the Chernobyl accident and dealing with its effects.

2. It notes that in Ukraine, Russia and Belarus the growth in the incidence of thyroid cancers, principally in children, is now a proven fact; this phenomenon, which appeared as from 1990, is more or less pronounced depending on region and will persist for several years; the average frequency of this cancer is ten times greater in children.

3. This effect of the Chernobyl accident was foreseeable owing to the absence or very marked inadequacy of administration of stable iodine to the populations, furthermore suffering from chronic iodine deficiency, in the contaminated regions.

4. The Assembly observes that despite large-scale international aid, local treatment resources are blatantly inadequate having regard to the number of persons irradiated. The hospitals cannot carry out isotope treatment because of inadequate Iodine 131 supplies and almost total absence of isolation wards. The deteriorating economic situation in Ukraine and Belarus means that these states are dependent on donations from abroad.

5. In the current state of knowledge, it is difficult at present to assess with accuracy the other possible health effects of the Chernobyl accident.

6. The Assembly invites the international community to display solidarity with Ukraine, Russia and Belarus and to draw lessons from Chernobyl for the protection of public health.

7. It invites the member states and the various international organisations, particularly the European Union:

- to maintain or increase their financial aid and technical assistance to Ukraine, Russia and Belarus:

- giving priority to local treatment of patients and ensuring health checks on the evacuated populations, especially children having lived or still living in the contaminated regions;

- to see that aid is allocated equally to the three countries according to their needs;

- for the moment, to admit to their hospitals more sick children requiring urgent treatment not available in Ukraine, Russia and Belarus;

- to support the action of the various non-governmental organisations involved;

- to frame a policy on public information and prevention of nuclear health risks;

- to train doctors and improve their knowledge in this field.