

DR. CAROLINE LUCAS

**Green Party Member of the European Parliament
for the South East of the UK**

Rt Hon Geoff Hoon MP
Secretary of State for Defence
Ministry of Defence
Old War Office Building
Whitehall
London SW1A 2HB

06 February 2008

Dear Mr Hoon

Re: transportation of plutonium by the Royal Navy

It has come to my attention that Royal Navy ships are to transport 140 kilos of weapons-grade plutonium from the US to France. The plutonium, which is being taken to a French nuclear facility hit by an accident just days ago, is sufficient to produce more than 25 nuclear bombs.

This deadly cargo should not be brought into the EU - and certainly not to a facility 1,000 miles from a port that is just recovering from a nuclear accident. The shipments represent a real threat on several fronts - the threat of another accident, the threat of terrorist activity on any part of their long and unnecessary journey and the threat of the EU establishing itself once again as the world's nuclear reprocessing centre.

I have called on the European Commission to immediately suspend authorisation for the shipments in light of the September 6th accident at the Cadarache nuclear facility, which contaminated two workers with plutonium.

And I similarly request that you intervene and withdraw the armed nuclear freighters - which arrived in the US to collect their deadly cargo today- from the mission.

You will remember only too well the public outcry over last year's importation of the so-called 'Ghost Ships' from the US. I believe that that will be dwarfed by the concerns on both sides of the channel that the fiasco will be repeated - but with weapons-grade plutonium being carried by British ships.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Caroline Lucas
Green Party MEP for South East England