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Verification of the Correctness and Completeness of Nuclear Operators' Declarations by EURATOM

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We present the EURATOM nuclear safeguards system, a supranational system used to verify the operators' and States' (when required by the Additional Protocol) declarations. The verifications performed by the European Commission serve to conclude on the non-diversion of the civil stocks of nuclear materials in the territories of EU Member States (Article 77a EURATOM Treaty) and to fulfil obligations stemming from nuclear cooperation agreements with third States and international organisations such as the IAEA (Article 77b).

In line with multilateral safeguards agreements and their respective additional protocols, as well as under the New Partnership Approach, EURATOM works closely with the IAEA in order to avoid unnecessary duplication of efforts while maintaining the ability of both organisations to reach independent conclusions.

In our paper the focus lies on the verifications performed before transmitting data to the IAEA. Starting from the sheer volume of data we describe checks and other operations performed (e.g. format adaptations) on the nuclear material accountancy (NMAC) data and Additional Protocol declarations; including quality assurance measures. We also present some statistics on the related workload, including answering queries from the IAEA.

We describe the IT tools developed by EURATOM for nuclear operators to submit their declarations and which are subsequently verified by EURATOM before being transmitted to the IAEA. Moreover, we present support activities aiming at improving the operators' NMAC systems such as audits (including audits of measurement systems).

We conclude by presenting the challenges lying ahead and ways to address them to further strengthen and improve the quality of the EURATOM work and cooperation with the IAEA

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