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## Possible impact COVID-19 on the transport of medical radioisotopes

- The Euratom Supply Agency (ESA) co-chairs the **European Observatory on Supply of Medical Radioisotopes**.
- In this capacity, ESA has been in contact with the other co-chair – industry association of nuclear medicine - Nuclear Medicine Europe (NMEu), who expressed their concerns related to the impact of COVID-19 on the supply chain and in consequence on availability of the most vital medical radioisotopes used in the nuclear medicine (namely Mo-99/Tc-99m).
- In response to it, ESA has warned the EU Health Security Committee (HSC) and - according to the Joint Communication Team protocol - the EU Council Working Party on Atomic Questions (ATO), as well as relevant European Commission services (e.g. DG SANTE, JRC, RTD).
- In addition, on 31.03.2020, ESA took part in a e-meeting of the DG HOME “COVID-19/Corona Information Group – Home Affairs”, which includes border control services from all EU Member States and Schengen associated countries, different European Commission services, Frontex, EASO and the EU Council secretariat.
- At the meeting, ESA debriefed on the NMEu stakeholders concerns related to the impact of COVID-19 on the transport of radioisotopes due to the current lockdown situation, extended border controls, reductions and elimination of many commercial passenger flights, competition and cost of cargo and charter options. ESA informed also that in some cases re-routing needs to be implemented, which requires more time and often pose some further logistic challenges. Re-routing may involve also crossing borders or transport in/to airports not accustomed with those products and related procedures.
- Further support may be appropriately requested from the HSC and DG HOME Group as soon as relevant issues are signalled.

**Euratom Supply Agency**