



## 11. NATIONS: Italy imposes 1-year nuclear moratorium (03/24/2011)

The Italian Cabinet yesterday approved a one-year moratorium for the country's nuclear comeback program, as was expected.

The government may also halt the atomic program if it isn't satisfied with the European Union's stress tests on safety, ministers said.

Yesterday's Cabinet meeting decided on a moratorium for the procedures that would have led to determining where the nuclear sites could be built, Industry Minister Paolo Romani said in a statement.

"The government won't proceed with the realization [of a nuclear program] if the initiatives at European Union level don't provide full guarantees on safety," Romani said during parliamentary question time.

Italy wants to eventually achieve a balanced mix of energy sources that reduce its dependence on fossil fuels, Romani said.

"The one-year nuclear moratorium is a decision based on common sense, of precaution, of respect for the concern of citizens in front of extraordinary events," noted Environment Minister Stefania Prestigiacomo in a separate statement.

Italy banned nuclear power in a 1987 referendum. In 2008, the government said it would allow its return. Following the earthquake, tsunami and subsequent nuclear crisis in Japan, Italian ministers asked for a halt on the nuclear comeback (Liam Moloney, [Wall Street Journal](#), March 23). -- JJP

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