

**Question for written answer E-001167/2018
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Carolina Punset (ALDE)

Subject: Specific regulation on nuclear safety during extreme solar events

In its answer to written question E-007151/2017, the Commission points to the 2015 WENRA report¹, which simply acknowledges the need to address the natural hazards occasioned by solar storms, devoting a single line to solar storms in Appendix I (page 26).

More unsettling still is the reference the Commission makes to the ENSREG 2012 report², when the report itself shows that no tests were conducted on extreme electromagnetic events of solar origin, and nor does it make any mention of these.

We must point out that this is a matter of nuclear safety, which could be affected by such events^{3 4}.

- 1) Does the Commission feel one line in an appendix to a report published three years ago acknowledging the vulnerability of our nuclear safety to constitute an 'emergency plan' against this very real hazard?
- 2) If in the three years since that vulnerability was recognised ENSREG has still been unable to establish protocols and specific responsibilities for operators in respect of this hazard, when does the Commission think this might be done?
- 3) Does the Commission consider it acceptable, when there is an officially recognised 5% probability of an extreme solar event occurring^{5 6} that could affect nuclear safety in the EU, for there still to be no specific regulation governing this facet of nuclear activities?

¹ That WENRA report can be accessed at: http://www.wenra.org/media/filer_public/2015/04/23/wenra-rhwg_t1_guidance_on_issue_t_head_document_2015-04-21.pdf

² The ENSREG report can be accessed at:
http://www.ensreg.eu/sites/default/files/EU%20Stress%20Test%20Peer%20Review%20Final%20Report_0.pdf

³ Information Notice No 90-42 – Failure of Electrical Power Equipment Due to Solar Magnetic Disturbances:
<https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/gen-comm/info-notices/1990/in90042.html>

⁴ National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, NOAA, Technical Memorandum OAR-SEC 88 – Halloween Space Weather Storms of 2003:
https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/679c1f_8ae4f85a28ce4e9aa54e85633d83d0b8.pdf

⁵ UK Government, National Risk Register of Civil Emergencies, under 'Newly assessed risks' – 2012 edition onwards:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/211858/CO_NationalRiskRegister_2012_acc.pdf – and in all subsequent editions, similarly at between 5% and 50% (2013, 2015 and 2017)

⁶ Pete Riley: 'On the Probability of Occurrence of Extreme Space Weather Events',
<https://ntrs.nasa.gov/search.jsp?R=20120003491>