

Directorate-General for Internal Policies of the Union
 Directorate for Budgetary Affairs
 Secretariat of the Committee on Budgetary Control

Brussels, 21 June 2018

Report about the Fact-Finding mission of the Committee on Budgetary Control (CONT) to Latvia and Lithuania from 3 to 5 April 2018



Source: Mapsland

Executive summary and conclusions

- * The CONT Delegation visited a variety of structural fund projects in Latvia and Lithuania and was, in general, satisfied with the implementation.
- * The CONT Delegation noted that JASPERS, the Joint Assistance to Support Projects in European Regions, continues to play an important role in helping to prepare high quality major projects (Pauls Stradins hospital, railway electrification) to be co-financed by European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF).
- * The CONT Delegation paid particular attention to the use of financial instruments. Whereas financing institutions like ALTUM do not enter into competition with commercial banks, lack of transparency and democratic accountability caused by the complexity of financial constructions remain a problem.
- * The CONT Delegation welcomed that under the MFF for the period 2014-2020 the Commission modified the governance of the nuclear decommissioning assistance programmes in order to set out clear roles and responsibilities, and introduced increased planning, monitoring and reporting requirements.
- * The CONT Delegation welcomed the changes in key management positions in late 2012 (appointment of the new Minister of Energy) and in early 2013 (appointment of the new INPP Director General). The new INPP management quickly addressed issues identified in the EBRD's notice of suspension of B1 (interim spent fuel storage facility) project disbursements. •The new INPP management quickly initiated changes in order to create a more efficient decommissioning organisation.
- * The CONT Delegation welcomed that the technical and commercial disputes between INPP and the main contractors for the B1 and B2/3/4 projects were successfully resolved in 2013.
- * The CONT Delegation welcomed that the removal of the spent fuel from the Unit 2 reactor was completed on 25 February 2018 - fifteen months ahead of schedule.
- * The CONT Delegation is of the opinion that the open-air depository for casks should be protected against unfavourable weather conditions by a roof.
- * The CONT Delegation was concerned about amendments to the Lithuanian Law on Enterprises and Facilities of Strategic Importance to National Security. Members called on the Commission to ensure that legal provisions remain transparent and verifiable and do not distort procurement procedures.
- * The CONT Delegation noted with surprise that the Lithuanian authorities intend to claim additional EUR 780 million for decommissioning under the next MFF to complete the decommission process. The delegation disagreed with that claim.
- * The CONT Delegation asked the Lithuanian authorities, in line with recommendations made by the European Court of Auditors, to shoulder a higher financial burden, i.e. a co-financing rate of up to 20%, and the delegation called on the government to seriously consider such an increase of the national share.
- * The CONT Delegation called on the Commission to launch a study looking into the costs for measures securing the buildings and the site of the nuclear power plant until such time that the power plant is completely dismantled and decontaminated and the nuclear rods stored in a deep geological depository.

Introduction

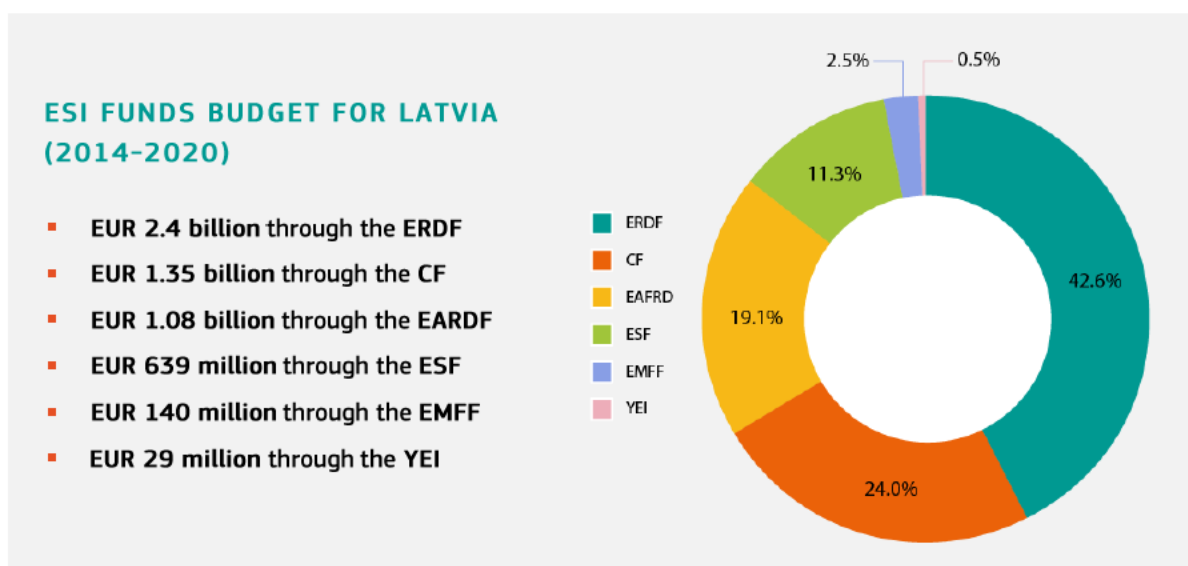
The Committee on Budgetary Control (CONT) decided to send a fact-finding mission to Latvia and Lithuania from 3 to 5 April 2018. The objective of the mission was twofold:

- to verify the use of structural fund assistance to, primarily, Latvia and
- to verify the progress made in decommissioning the Ignalina Nuclear Power Plant.

The latter also constitutes a follow-up to the CONT mission in 2012.

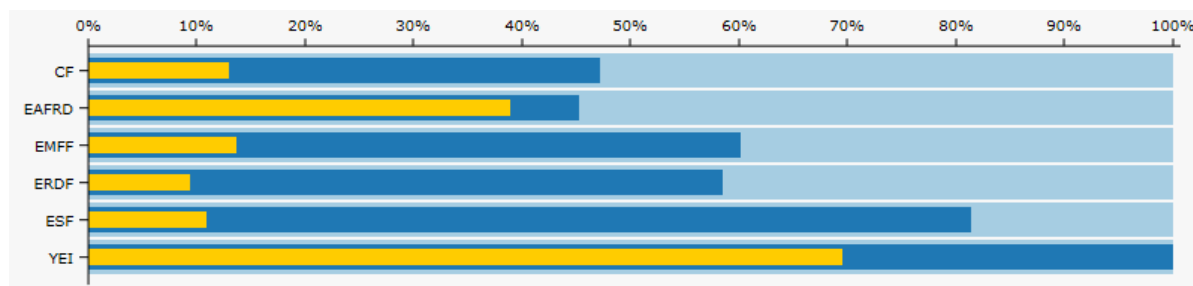
Overview of the funding from the European Structural and Investments Funds (ESIF) for Latvia and Lithuania (2014-2020)

Through three national and regional programmes, *Latvia* has been allocated EUR 5,63 billion from the ESI-Funds over the period 2014-2020. With a national contribution of EUR 1,27 billion, Latvia has a total budget of EUR 6,9 billion to be invested in various areas, from creating jobs and growth to promoting innovation as well as protecting the environment and supporting social inclusion.



(Source: European Commission, Country Fact-Sheet Latvia)¹

By 4 June 2018 the implementation of the funds for Latvia can be presented as follows:

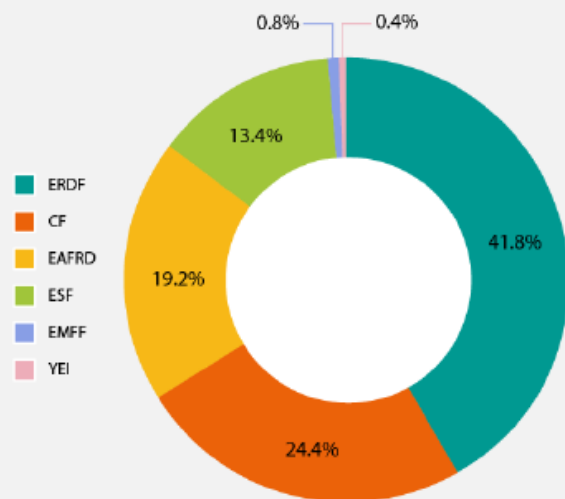


Through three national programmes Lithuania has been allocated EUR 8,39 billion From the ESI Funds over the period 2014-2010. With a national contribution of EUR 1,56 billion Lithuania has a total budget of EUR 9,95 billion to be invested in various areas , from innovation and competitiveness to support for Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME), as well as resource efficiency, promoting employment, quality of education and social inclusion.

¹ ERDF = European Regional Development Fund, CF = Cohesion Fund, EAFRD = European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, ESF = European Social Fund, EMFF: European Maritime and Fisheries Fund, YEI = Youth Employment Initiative

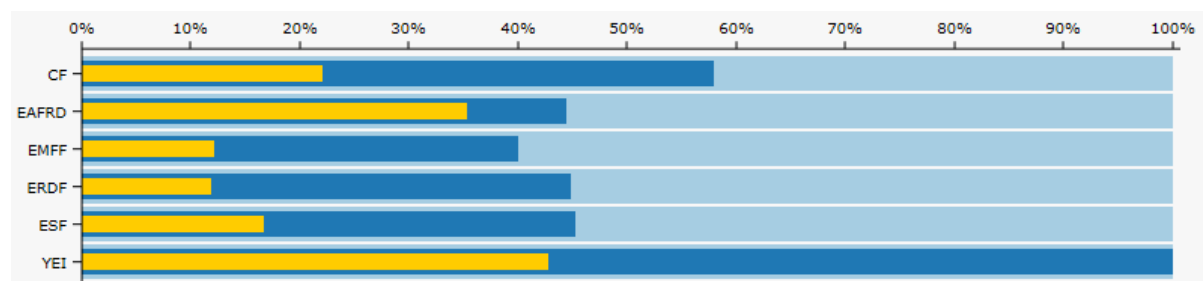
ESI FUNDS BUDGET FOR LITHUANIA (2014-2020)

- EUR 3.5 billion through the ERDF
- EUR 2.05 billion through the CF
- EUR 1.61 billion through the EAFRD
- EUR 1.13 billion through the ESF
- EUR 63 million through the EMFF
- EUR 32 million through the YEI



(Source: European Commission, Country Fact-Sheet Lithuania)

By 4 June 2018 the implementation of the funds for Lithuania can be presented as follows:



In addition to the ESI Funds the European Union will support the nuclear decommissioning programme in Lithuania with EUR 450 818 000 during the period 2014-2020.

Both countries have, according to the respective annual activity reports of the Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy of the European Commission, a fairly sound financial management and control system.

The Pauls Stradins Clinical University Hospital

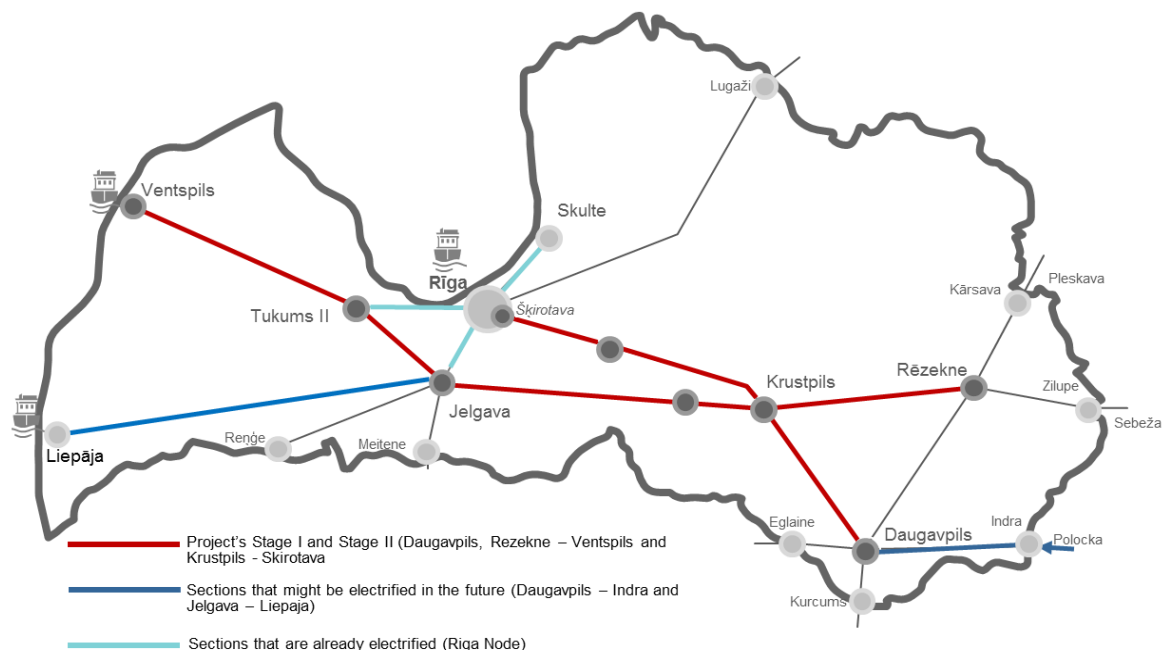
Upon arrival the delegation visited the “Pauls Stradins Clinical University Hospital”. It is the most important health care facility in Latvia, but it needs renovation. The total budget of the 2014-2020 major project amounts to EUR 91 million. Of this amount the ERDF will contribute 70,64%, i.e. EUR 64 334 618, the Latvian State 24,37%, i.e. EUR 22 284 211, and the hospital 4,99%, i.e. EUR 4 449 849. The main objective of the project is to improve quality of inpatient and outpatient health care services, effective patient treatment and reduce waiting time for patients. 50% of the patients come from rural areas.

The hospital management underlined that the JASPERS programme was of great help in preparing the major project, putting in place a project management at an early stage and advising on procurement questions.

The delegation was convinced of the importance and usefulness of the project.

Latvian Railway electrification

In Latvia, electric traction is currently used only in Riga agglomeration and for passenger transportation. The main railway freight transportation corridors in Latvia are part of TEN-T Core Network and connected with the North Sea Baltic Corridor. However, currently only 14% of the whole Latvian railway network is electrified.



Latvian authorities are preparing a major project application for the 2014-2020 programming period ESI funded Operational Programme “Growth and Employment”, with a financing request (CF) of EUR 347 million. The total project costs are estimated at EUR 441 million, with EUR 16 million financed by the Latvian Railway Authority and additional EUR 78 million by loans. Latvian Railways have been negotiating with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the European Investment Bank, and both credit institutions have expressed willingness to consider providing a loan to implement the project. Advantages of international financial institutions loan offers over other commercial bank financial offers are the possibility to provide a loan with a longer repayment period and a lower interest rates.

The project's objective is to electrify 300 km of railway lines (Daugavpils/Rezekne – Krustpils - Rīga), enhancing the freight transport capacity on the East West routes (facilitating trade access of Russian but also Chinese goods to the Scandinavian market via Latvian ports), and sensibly reducing CO2 emissions (currently lines are operated by diesel trains).

The President of Latvian Railways highlighted that the main challenge was to continue operations while constructing at the same time.

During the visit the delegation was not able to obtain more detailed information on the co-financing of the project by loan, as the negotiations were not sufficiently advanced. Traditionally, CONT is concerned about questions of accountability and democratic scrutiny when bank loans complement grants from structural funds.

State Audit Office, Republic of Latvia

Afterwards the CONT delegation met with the Latvian Auditor General and members of her council. The Latvian constitution stipulates that the Auditors General shall be appointed to their office and confirmed pursuant to the same procedures as judges, but only for a fixed period of time, during which they may be removed from office only by a judgment of the Court.

The representatives of the audit office explained that the office concentrates increasingly on performance question (economy, efficiency and effectiveness) and only to a lesser degree on eligibility questions (legality and regularity). They quoted several examples of findings in the employment and rural development area which demonstrated that projects were legally implemented but ineffective. They also were of the opinion that the European controls of structural fund spending were scrupulous.

The members of the council considered project management of large investment projects to be a particular risk area.

Finally, they warned against the risk of creating a shadow economy in Latvia

Meeting with Lolita Čigāne, Chair, European Affairs Committee, Latvian Parliament

The chair of the European Affairs committee underlined the importance of European financial assistance for Latvia. Without assistance from the EU Latvia's gross domestic product would be close to the one of Moldova. That is one reason why the European Affairs Committee scrutinizes the recommendations given in the context of the European semester exercise very carefully.

She pointed to the risk of creating a shadow economy with the minimum wage set at EUR 400. She welcomed that the average salary would mount up to EUR 800/1000.

She noticed furthermore that the level of corruption was declining, also due to the help of the EU.

The CONT Delegations expressed its readiness to further support Latvia's fight against corruption.

Development Finance Institution ALTUM

ALTUM, created in 2014, is a 100% state-owned financial institution acting as national finance development institution. Shareholders are the Ministry of Finance (40%), the Ministry of Economic Affairs (30%) and the Ministry of Agriculture (30%).

ALTUM provides access to finance in the areas prioritized by the government, also enhancing mobilization of private capital and financial resources. The institute disposes of assets worth EUR 441,3 million, of which EUR 207,6 million are invested in loans, EUR 5,3 million into venture capital and EUR 182,4 serve as guarantees. Loans go to start-ups, into micro-loans, support of SMEs, into measures favouring energy efficiency and into farm support. Guarantees support corporate loans, cumulative projects and loan to farmers.

The delegation enquired into the potential competition between commercial banks and ALTUM and wanted to know to what extent ALTUM uses its instruments to support European funds.

ALTUM exemplified the functioning of the ALTUM business model by quoting the example of increasing the energy efficiency in multi-apartment residential buildings. 70% of residential building were constructed before 1979. The investment costs for energy saving measures for 20 000 residential buildings were estimated at EUR 156 million, of which 85% would come from the ERDF and 15% from the Latvian state. The financing gap was closed by ALTUM managing the EU funds and issuing loans and guarantees at the same time (financial instruments). The project seem to have been unattractive for commercial banks given the high number of final recipients and the lifespan of the loans (up to 30 years).

Riga Technical School of Tourism and Creative Industry

The school is one of the most important vocational training centres in Latvia and received the status of Professional Education Competence Centre in 2013. Considerable efforts have been undertaken to modernise the infrastructure.

The following projects are financed by the European Social Fund:

- Implementation of initial vocational education programs within the framework of the Youth Guarantee,
- Support for reducing early school leaving,

- Career guidance at general and vocational education institutions,
- Professional education establishments: students' partnership in work environment-based training and study practice at the enterprises.

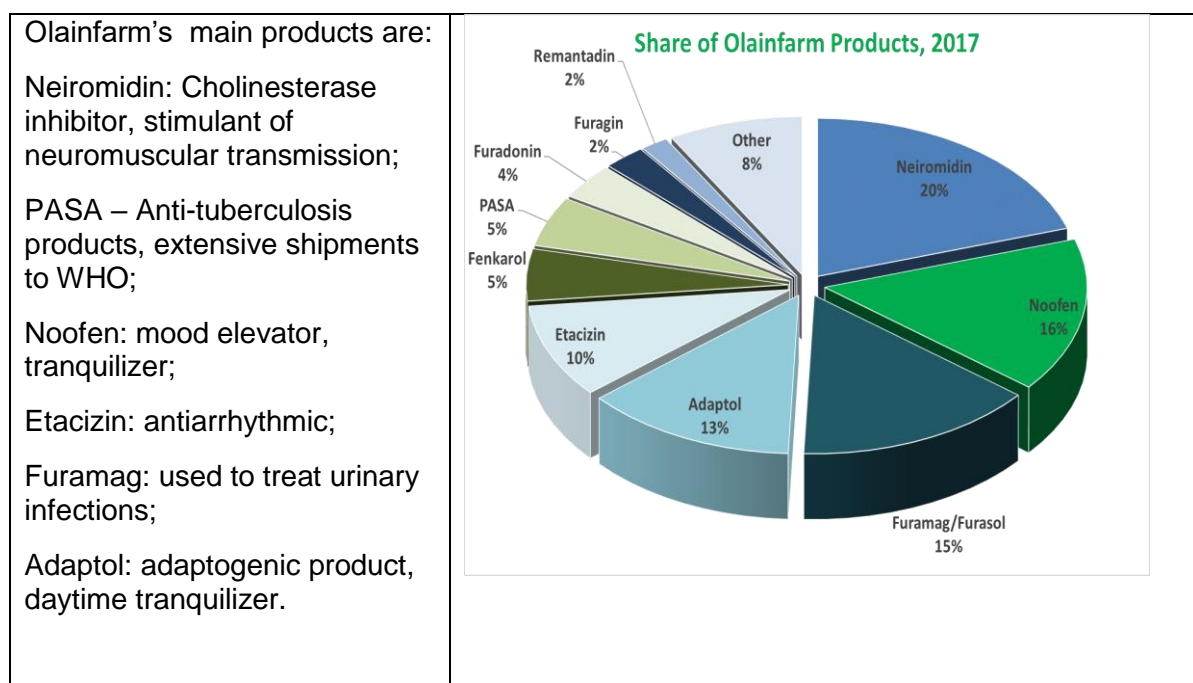
Since 2014

- 435 students were educated in catering,
- 446 students were educated in style, fashion and beauty care,
- 429 students were educated in tourism and hospitality, and
- 99 students were educated in interior design.

Of all the graduates from the technical school in 2017 only 4% did not find an employment. 63% of the graduates found a position in the area they were trained in.

Olainfarm: Production of new pharmaceutical products

Olainfarm, established in 1972, is one of the leading pharmaceutical companies in the Baltic States employing more than 1100 skilled professionals. It produces pharmaceutical products both in Finished Dosage Forms (FDFs) and as Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs).



25% of the production remains in Latvia, but more than 50% of the pharmaceuticals go to Russia, the Ukraine and Belorussia. Russia alone buys around 35% of the production. In 2016 sales exceeded, for the first time, EUR 100 million.

Assistance from the ERDF, as beneficiary and as partner, totalled almost EUR 6 million. Investments were geared towards the development of manufacturing lines, energy efficient infrastructure, development of manufacturing technologies for APIs and FDFs; pre-clinical and clinical trials and into the training of employees. In 2017 a contract was signed for the pilot implementation of technologies for the production of new products. The total eligible cost for the project amounts to EUR 6 375 348 of which EUR 2 231 371.80 will come from the ERDF.

The delegation asked whether the company benefitted from the Horizon 2020 programme. A question to which the director answered no. From his point of view Horizon 2020 does not favour participation of commercial companies.

In addition he regretted that large enterprises would receive less support and that funding for R&D projects would underestimate the length of product development processes.

Kronis - innovative approach to food production

Leaving Riga the delegation stopped in Bauska to have a look at the company "Kronis". The company develops new food products and production processes depending on the targeted markets. In particular, the company developed

- new food packaging enabling longer shelf life, smaller weight and lower production costs, and
- food tailored for country-specific tastes from both local and imported ingredients, new recipes and production processes.

The ERDF supported both project studies EUR 46 270 and EUR 179 215 respectively.

These project are part of a larger project entitled "The Latvian food industry Competence Centre". It covers two scientific strands:

- to increase the Latvian producers' market, and
- to increased added value and competitiveness of production

The Competence Centre is expected to support at least 14 research projects and at least 11 economic operators will be introduced into the manufacture of new products or technologies, thus contributing to the research and industrial cooperation as well as business operators' competitiveness.

The overall financial project costs amount to EUR 5 606 302, of which EUR 3 206 250 will be covered by the ERDF.

Panevėžys Regional Waste Management Centre

Entering into Lithuania, the delegation visited the Panevėžys Regional Waste Management Centre.

Waste and wastewater management is one of the most important priorities of the national environmental management in Lithuania. According to the national waste statistics, approximately 5.5 million tons of waste was generated in Lithuania in 2011. Municipal waste makes nearly 25 % of the entire amount of waste generated in Lithuania.

Panevėžys is the fifth largest city in Lithuania. It is a crossroad for the main national roads, the highway Via Baltica runs through it. It is halfway between the two Baltic capitals- Vilnius and Riga. The Panevėžys Regional Waste Management Centre is fully completed and operational.

The project started in 2010 and ended in 2015. The total cost of the project was EUR 11 133 995 with EUR 9 463 895 (85 %) from EU Cohesion Fund and EUR 1 670 099 (15 %) from the Panevėžys Regional Waste Management Centre.

Decommissioning of the Ignalina Nuclear Power Plant (INPP)

Upon their accession to the EU, Bulgaria, Lithuania and Slovakia committed to shut down eight Soviet-designed nuclear power plants before the end of their scheduled lifetime. In exchange, the EU committed to provide financial assistance for decommissioning the designated power plants, namely:

- Kozloduy Nuclear Power Plant (NPP) units 1 to 4 in Bulgaria;
- Ignalina NPP in Lithuania; and
- Bohunice V1 NPP in Slovakia.

The INPP consists of two RBMK² 1500 reactors: units 1 and 2 were shut down in 2004 and in 2009 respectively.

The objective of the nuclear decommissioning assistance programme is to assist the relevant Member States in implementing the steady process towards the decommissioning end-state whilst maintaining the highest safety standards.

In all three cases, the end-state is defined as brownfield. The disposal of spent fuel and radioactive waste in a deep geological repository is not included in the scope of the decommissioning assistance programmes, and has to be developed by each Member State in its national programme for the management of spent fuel and radioactive waste as required by the relevant directive.

It should be underlined that decommissioning on such a scale has never been attempted before.

The Commission entrusted the implementation of the programmes' budget, in Lithuania, to the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) with contributions to the Ignalina International Decommissioning Support Fund (IIDSF) since 2001 and to the Central Project Management Agency (CPMA).

From the start of the programme until June 2016, EUR 137.9 million were disbursed from national resources to cover costs of the Ignalina decommissioning plan whilst the Ignalina IIDSF and CPMA disbursed EUR 805.8 million, for a co-financing rate of 15% from Lithuanian resources

In 2012 CONT sent a fact-finding mission to the INPP, as the committee considered the progress made so far with the decommissioning to be insufficient due to numerous management conflicts and technical problems encountered³. However, at the same time the Lithuanian authorities were already preparing their demand for additional financial support under the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) for the period 2014-2020.

Under the current MFF the European Union have agreed to support the nuclear decommissioning programme in Lithuania with additional EUR 450 818 000.

Under the MFF for the period 2014-2020 the Commission modified the governance of the programmes in order to set out clear roles and responsibilities, and introduced increased planning, monitoring and reporting requirements.

In line with this revised governance approach, each concerned Member State has appointed a Programme Coordinator (ministerial or state secretary rank) to be responsible for the programming, coordination and monitoring of the decommissioning programme at national level. The Programme Coordinators have to submit the annual work programmes and the Commission adopts them along with the financing decisions.

Committees with monitoring and reporting functions are in place for each Member State, co-chaired by a Commission representative and the Programme Coordinators.

In 2016, the Commission has successfully implemented all actions following the 2015 internal audit on the governance and supervision of the programmes. The main deliverable was the in-depth assessment of the robustness of the financing plans of the relevant Member States for the safe completion of decommissioning. The study confirmed the original positive conclusions of the Commission (i.e. complete, relevant and comprehensive decommissioning plans; appropriate overall base cost estimation for the decommissioning

² The RBMK (Реактор Большой Мощности Канальный Reaktor Bolshoy Moshchnosti Kanalnyy) is an early Generation II reactor and the oldest commercial reactor design still in wide operation. Certain aspects of the RBMK reactor design, such as the active removal of decay heat, the positive void coefficient properties, the graphite-tipped control rods and instability at low power levels, contributed to the 1986 Chernobyl disaster, in which an RBMK experienced a meltdown during a mishandled test, and radioactivity was released over a large portion of Europe.

³

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/document/activities/cont/201211/20121107ATT55122/20121107ATT55122EN.pdf>

programmes and sufficient resources to accomplish objectives of the 2014-2020 framework; no financing gap). It also analysed the financing gaps beyond 2020 especially in the case of Lithuania. In this respect, the study showed that the three economies are demonstrably capable to finalise the funding of their programmes through national financial resources either with negligible impact or, in Lithuania, in a scale of around 0.3-0.5% on the annual state budget over seven years

The European Court of Auditors' special report (22/2016) on the nuclear decommissioning programmes in Bulgaria, Lithuania and Slovakia

In its special report the Court recommended that the three Member States concerned should:

1. further improve their project management practices in order to have the necessary waste and spent fuel management infrastructure in place when planned;
2. take steps to build up their own technical capacity, so as to achieve a better balance between in-house and external expertise;
3. find better ways to exchange best practices and technical knowledge, both among themselves and with the wider nuclear decommissioning community in the EU and beyond — the Commission should facilitate this in a cost-effective way.
4. further improve their project management practices in order to have the necessary waste and spent fuel management infrastructure in place when planned;
5. take steps to build up their own technical capacity, so as to achieve a better balance between in-house and external expertise; find better ways to exchange best practices and technical knowledge, both among themselves and with the wider nuclear decommissioning community in the EU and beyond - the Commission should facilitate this in a cost-effective way;
6. recognise their own role in ensuring that the polluter pays principle is respected, and be prepared to use national funds to cover decommissioning costs, as well as the cost of final disposal, both in the current financing period and thereafter.

The Commission should

7. seek increases in national co-financing during the 2014-2020 financing period. It should define clearly, for example, in a Commission decision, the 'well-founded exceptional' conditions under which projects can be fully financed by the EU under the nuclear decommissioning assistance programmes;
8. complete its assessment of the ex-ante conditionalities;
9. work together with all relevant Member States so that all future costs associated with nuclear decommissioning and the final disposal of spent fuel are accounted for properly, in a transparent manner, consistent with relevant accounting standards.

Progress made between 2012 and 2018

The delegation noticed that considerable progress had been made between 2012 and 2018:

- Changes in key management positions in late 2012 (appointment of the new Minister of Energy) and in early 2013 (appointment of the new INPP Director General) were a catalyst for change. The new INPP management quickly addressed issues identified in the EBRD's notice of suspension of B1 (interim spent fuel storage facility) project disbursements – in particular the safety concerns raised by the INPP management in 2010 and 2011 which were largely dismissed as unfounded by an independent review carried out by SKB International (Sweden) in late 2011 – and engaged constructively with the contractors and the EBRD
- The new INPP management quickly initiated changes in order to create an efficient decommissioning organisation. They reverted to the project-focused organisation (Project Management Unit) set up in 2001 (but abandoned in 2010) and gradually re-established an effective and professionally staffed structure which was formalised in 2015.
- Eventually past technical and commercial disputes between INPP and the main contractors NUKEM and GNS for the B1 and B2/3/4 projects were successfully

resolved in 2015. The EBRD, with the support of the European Commission, assumed the role of “an international mediator”, helping the B1 contract parties to find solutions and rebuild a constructive relationship.

- The removal of the spent fuel from the Unit 2 reactor was completed on 25 February 2018 - fifteen months ahead of schedule. This major milestone represents a step change in nuclear safety and eliminates the need for operation of some safety systems which progressively reduces operating cost.
- Defueling of INPP under the operating licence for the new Interim Spent Storage Facility (Project B1) started in September 2016. As of February 2018 more than 4000 spent fuel assemblies had been loaded into casks and stored in the new facility.
- Construction and the integrated cold testing of the Solid Waste Management and Storage Facilities (Project B2/3/4) were completed in the first half of 2017. The commissioning (hot trial) tests are scheduled for completion by the end of March 2018 followed by Operational Acceptance in April 2018.

Upon arrival the delegation visited the Interim Spent Fuel Storage Facility and the Solid Waste Facilities. The on-site visit was followed by high level discussion, in which all major players in the decommissioning process participated, i. e. the INPP, the Minister of Energy, the Deputy Minister of Finance, the Director General of the State Nuclear Safety Inspectorate, the Central Programme Management Agency, the European Commission and also the EBRD.

While welcoming the progress made in the decommissioning process, the CONT Delegation voiced concern about amendments to the Lithuanian Law on Enterprises and Facilities of Strategic Importance to National Security. Members called on the Commission to ensure that the legal provisions remain transparent and verifiable do not distort procurement procedures.

The Lithuanian authorities highlighted that additional EUR 780 million would be needed for the decommissioning under the next MFF to complete the decommission process. They argued that, furthermore, the selection and construction of a deep geological repository would cost another EUR 2,5 billion. The CONT Delegation rejected the claim for more money under the next MFF.

Meeting with Lithuanian Members of Parliament

On the last day, the CONT delegation met with Lithuanian Members of Parliament. They also were concerned about the financial burden decommissioning will continue to create for Lithuania.

Use of European structural funds in Lithuania

Finally, the CONT Delegation listed to the Lithuanian Management Authority for structural funds. As they was no time to visit single projects they wanted to receive an overview of European structural funds' spending in Lithuania.

Press conference

The fact-finding mission ended with a press conference. As it took place in Vilnius questions centred on decommissioning of the INPP. The chair acknowledged that decommissioning at such a scale was indeed a unique exercise. But she also pointed to the costly delays caused by management disputes and technical problems in 2012. The chair urged that Lithuania should shoulder a higher financial burden, i.e. a co-financing rate of up to 20%, and she called on the government to commit to such an increase of the national share.

Brussels, 27 March 2018

**Fact-finding mission
of the Budgetary Control Committee to Latvia and Lithuania,
3 - 5 April 2018**

DRAFT PROGRAMME

Members of the delegation:

- 1 Ingeborg GRÄBLE - (Head of Delegation, EPP, D)
2. Fulvio MARTUSCIELLO, (EPP, I) (**participates only in the visit to Lithuania**)
3. Derek VAUGHAN (S&D, GB)

Accompanying Members out of quota

1. Zigmantas BALČYTIS (S&D, LT) (**participates only in the visit to Lithuania**)
2. Bronis ROPĖ (VERT, LT) (**participates only in the visit to Lithuania**)

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- * Catherine CONINCKX

Advisors of Political Groups

- * Hélène BEAGHE, S&D
- * Balazs SZECHY, EPP

European Commission

Arturo POLESE, DG REGIO.D.5 – Estonia, Finland, Latvia and Lithuania

Massimo GARRIBBA, DG ENER, Director Nuclear energy, safety and ITER (5 April)

Jean-Philippe GUISET, DG ENER, Programme Manager 'Nuclear Decommissioning Assistance Programme' (5 April)

Court of Auditors

João FIGUEIREDO, Member of the European Court of Auditors

Interpreters

- Inese AMOLINA-HASNERE
- Alina DAILIDENAITE
- Simona PERSSON

- Andrejs VEISBERGS
- Timo AHONEN (technician)

Languages covered

EN, LT, LV

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* *

Tuesday, 3 April 2018

- | | |
|---------|--|
| 13.30 h | Arrival of the delegation in Riga airport. |
| 14.15 h | <p><u>Paula Stradiņa Clinic university hospital new A2 building</u>
(A1 building, 1st floor, Pilsonu 13, Riga LV-1002, Latvia)</p> <p>Aivars LAPINS, State Secretary of the Ministry of Health on Health Policy Issues</p> <p>Madara GRĪNŠTEINE, Head of Project Management Department</p> <p>Aivars VOLDEKS, Deputy Director, Investments and EU funds department, Ministry of Health</p> <p>Dīana RANCĀNE, Director of the EU Funds Monitoring Department, Ministry of Finance</p> |
| 15.15 h | <p><u>Latvian railway network electrification,</u></p> <p>Ligita AUSTRUPE, Deputy State Secretary, Ministry of Transport</p> <p>Edvīns BĒRZIŅŠ, President, SJSC "Latvian Railways"</p> <p>Aivars STRAKŠAS, Vice President, SJSC "Latvian Railways"</p> |

Sandra CAUNE, SJSC Latvian Railway, Director of Development Department)

Guna HOLSTE, SJSC Latvian Railway, Development Department, Head of Project Management Unit

Diāna RANCĀNE, Director of the EU Funds Monitoring Department, Ministry of Finance

16.00 h Transfer

16.30 h State Audit Office, Republic of Latvia
(*Skanstes iela 50, LV-1013 Rīga*)
Elita KRŪMIŅA, President

17.30 h Republic of Latvia Saeima (Latvian Parliament)
(*Jēkaba str. 11, LV-1811 Rīga*)
Lolita ČIGĀNE, Chair, European Affairs Committee
(other MPs are not confirmed yet)

Free evening

Wednesday, 4 April 2018

08.30 h Support for SMEs and energy efficiency using financial instruments, financing agreement about implementation of financial instrument (ALTUM, Network of European Financial Institutions for Small and Medium Sized Enterprises), Doma laukums 4, Centra rajons, Rīga, LV-1050, Latvia, Tel.: +371 67 774 010)
Reinis BĒRZŅŠ, Altum, CEO
Aleksējs KANĒJEVS, Deputy Head of Programme Development Department
Ingus SALMIŅŠ, Altum, Head of the Energy Efficiency Department
Diāna RANCĀNE, Director of the EU Funds Monitoring Department, Ministry of Finance
Raimonds ALEKSEJENKO, Deputy State Secretary, Ministry of Economics
Līva IMMERMANE, Head of the Financial Instruments for energy division, Ministry of Economics
Gatis SILOVS, Head of the industries policies department, Ministry of Economics
Kristaps SOMS, Head of the business competitiveness department, Ministry of Economics

09.30 h Transfer

10.00 h	<p><u>Implementation of initial vocational education programmes in the framework of the Youth Guarantee</u> <i>(Rīga Technical School of Tourism and Creative Industry, Nīcgales ielas 26, Rīga, LV-1035)</i></p> <p>Dita TRAIIDĀS, Director of State Education Development Agency</p> <p>Elīna PURMALE-BAUMANE, State Education Development Agency</p> <p>Silva OZOLIŅA, Director of the Riga Tourism and Creative Industry Technical School</p> <p>Diāna RANCĀNE, Director of the EU Funds Monitoring Department, Ministry of Finance</p> <p>Rūta GINTAUTE-MARIHINA, Director of the Department of Professional and Adult Education, Ministry of Education and Science</p> <p>Aļona TUTOVA, Labour Market Policy Department, Ministry of Welfare</p> <p>Raimonds ALEKSEJENKO, Deputy State Secretary, Ministry of Economics</p>
11.00 h	Transfer 1 hour
12.00 h	<p><u>Project visit in Olaine</u></p> <p>Introduction of experimental technologies for production of new products in "Olainfarm" <i>(Olainfarm, Rūpnīcu iela 5, Olaine, LV-2114, Latvija, Tel.:(+371) 67013705)</i></p> <p>Agnese MERCALOVA, Development Affairs Advisor to the Chairman of the Board of JSC Olainfarm</p> <p>Diāna RANCĀNE, Director of the EU Funds Monitoring Department, Ministry of Finance</p> <p>Raimonds ALEKSEJENKO, Deputy State Secretary, Ministry of Economics</p>
13.00 h	Transfer 1.30 h (lunch on the bus)
14.30 h	<p><u>Project visit in Bauska</u></p> <p>Kronis, Competence centre of Latvian food processing industry <i>(Bauskas novads, Codes pagasts "Ozoli", LV-3901, Latvija, +371 63960112)</i></p> <p>Armands LEJAS-KRŪMIŅŠ, Chairman of the Board</p> <p>Diāna RANCĀNE, Director of the EU Funds Monitoring Department, Ministry of Finance</p> <p>Raimonds ALEKSEJENKO, Deputy State Secretary, Ministry of Economics</p>

Gatis SILOVS, Head of the Industries Policy Department, Ministry of Economics

Kristaps SOMS, Head of Business Competitiveness Department, Ministry of Economics

15.30 h Transfer 1.30 h

17.00 h Project visit in Panevėžys
Panevėžys Regional Waste Management Centre
(Beržų g. 3, LT-36237 Panevėžys, tel. +370 698 14 344)
(address: Dvarininkų k., Miežiškių sen., Panevėžio raj.)
Gintautas ULYS, Director
Ministry of Environment (tbc)

18.00 h Transfer of 2 hours

20.00 h Arrival in Vilnius

Thursday 5 April 2018

07.30 h - 10.00 h Travel to the Ignalina Nuclear Power Plant (INPP), Visaginas
Presentation on the bus by Audrius KAMIENAS, Director General ad interim, State Enterprise Ignalina Nuclear Power Plant
Briefing by Vince NOVAK, EBRD

10.00 h - 10.15 h Arrival, Security check
IMPORTANT:
All visitors entering the Power Plant are required to present a valid ID

10.15 h - 11.45 h Tour of the turbine hall, dismantling of equipment
IMPORTANT:
No external equipment (i.e. mobile phones, tablets, bags etc.) is allowed on the decommissioning site. Explanations will be given in English.
Audrius KAMIENAS, Director General ad interim, State Enterprise Ignalina Nuclear Power Plant
Lina SABAITIENĖ, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Energy

Loreta MASKALIOVIENĖ., Deputy Ministry of Finance and financial coordinator of the Ignalina Programme

- 12.00 h - 13.00 h Tour of the Spent Nuclear Fuel Storage Facility B1
On site discussion with contractor NUKEM, INPP management and Ministry of Energy
- 13.00 h - 15.00 h Working lunch, discussion (with interpretation)
State-of-play of the decommissioning process
Audrius KAMIENAS, Director General ad interim, State Enterprise Ignalina Nuclear Power Plant
Lina SABAITIENĖ, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Energy
Loreta MASKALIOVIENĖ., Deputy Ministry of Finance and financial coordinator of the Ignalina Programme
Michail DEMČENKO, Director General, State Nuclear Power Safety Inspectorate (VATESI)
Peter HARRISON, Central Programme Management Agency
Vince NOVAK, Director of the Nuclear Safety Department of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
Gunter GRABIA, Senior Manager of the Nuclear Safety Department of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
- 15.00 h - 17.30 h Departure for Vilnius, possibly using the Vilnius Western Bypass
- 19.00 h Dinner with Lithuanian Members of Parliament

Friday, 6 April 2018

- 08.30 h Meeting with Lithuanian MPs
- 10.00 h Ministry of Finance of Lithuania, Management Authority
(European Parliament Liaison Office, Gedimino pr. 16, Vilnius, Tel.: +370-5-2120766, fax: +370-5-2619828)
Ramunas DILBA, Head of the Management Authority for structural funds, Ministry of Finance
- Project
Transparency Initiative Jonvabaliai (“Fireflies”)
Transparency International (tbc)
- 11.00 h press conference

12.00 h

Delegation leaves for the airport
