



9.5.2011

0024/2011

WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 123 of the Rules of Procedure

on the safety of nuclear power plants in the European Union's neighbourhood

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Lapse date: 15.9.2011

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Written declaration on the safety of nuclear power plants in the European Union's neighbourhood

The European Parliament,

- having regard to paragraph 38 of its resolution of 6 July 2010 on the European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea and the role of macro-regions in the future cohesion policy,
 - having regard to Rule 123 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas Belarus plans to build a nuclear power plant in the Grodno region 23 km from its border with the EU, and Russia has already started work on the construction of a similar plant in Kaliningrad,
- B. whereas in the event of a serious accident EU citizens would also have to be evacuated, including those living in Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania, and other EU cities such as Warsaw and Riga would be in the higher radiation zone,
- C. whereas neither Russia nor Belarus have conducted an environmental impact assessment for the planned construction of nuclear power plants in their countries in accordance with the widely recognised rules of international law, as required by the Espoo Convention signed by all EU Member States,
1. Considers that the construction of nuclear power plants close to EU borders represents a serious danger not just to the EU Member States but to the whole continent of Europe;
 2. Points out that projects of such a size and significance in third countries concern the Community as a whole and both the Commission and the Member States need to be attentive to them and make active efforts to ensure that safety is guaranteed;
 3. Calls on the EU and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to exert positive pressure on Belarus and Russia to comply with international standards and cooperate with international experts during all phases of the planning, construction and operation of nuclear power stations;
 4. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Council, the Commission, the International Atomic Energy Agency and the national parliaments of the Member States.