

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3163/02

by Marjo Matikainen-Kallström (PPE-DE) and Christian Rovsing (PPE-DE)
to the Council

Subject: Nuclear energy in Bulgaria

We refer to the seminar in the European Parliament at which the future of the Bulgarian nuclear plants at Kozloduy was discussed on 1 October 2002, and to the answer given by Mr Verheugen on behalf of the Commission on 23 September 2002 to written question E-2121/02¹ tabled by Mrs Matikainen-Kallström and Dr Adam.

At the Parliament seminar, the Director of Nuclear Safety of the IAEA presented the report of a recent expert safety mission. This concluded that the safety standards achieved at Kozloduy 3 and 4 had now reached the same level as units of the same vintage operating in the EU.

In his answer to the previous written question Mr Verheugen suggested that the Kozloduy NPP units 3 and 4 ‘continued to harbour a number of deviations from safety requirements’, and he said that on these grounds the EU Member States required closure of these units by ‘no later than 2006’.

Could the Council give its opinion on the safety report of the IAEA on Kozloduy units 3 and 4? In particular could it confirm which safety requirements it is using as the basis of its judgement (if they are different from those used by the IAEA), and the reasons why, in spite of the conclusions of the IAEA safety report, Kozloduy units 3 and 4 must be closed? In this context could the Council explain the ‘deviations’ referred to by Mr Verheugen on its behalf?

¹ OJ C