

WRITTEN QUESTION E-5333/06

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to the Commission

Subject: Nuclear safety and closure of units 3 and 4 at Kozloduy

Strengthening nuclear safety is a priority both in the Member States of the European Union and in the applicant countries. There have been reliable reports recently that moves are afoot to extend the life-span of units 3 and 4 at the Kozloduy nuclear plant, despite the fact that the Protocol concerning the conditions and arrangements for admission of the Republic of Bulgaria and Romania to the European Union¹, which is annexed to the Treaty of accession of Bulgaria to the EU, provides for the definitive closure of those units in 2006. Moreover, according to the monitoring report on the state of preparedness for EU membership of Bulgaria and Romania², the Commission notes that significant progress has been made in the area of nuclear energy and safety in Bulgaria on the basis of a viable decommissioning strategy drawn up for the early closure of units 3 and 4 and the subsequent decommissioning of units 1-4 at Kozloduy. Another serious factor which must be taken into account is that the accession of Bulgaria was ratified by the Member States' parliaments on the basis of the conditions of accession which provide for the closure of reactors 3 and 4 during 2006.

Given that recent statements by certain representatives of the Bulgarian Government imply that attempts are under way to keep reactors 3 and 4 in operation beyond the end of 2006, will the Commission answer the following?

1. Will the deadlines for closing down units 3 and 4, as provided under the conditions of accession of Bulgaria to the EU, be met?
2. Does the Commission know what plans there are for reactors 5 and 6 at Kozloduy and the further development of nuclear energy in Bulgaria?

¹ OJ L 157, 21.6.2005, p. 38.

² COM(2006) 549 final.