Question for written answer E-003540/2021
to the Commission
Rule 138
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Subject: Safety of the energy switch to hydrogen

The EU Hydrogen Strategy sets the strategic target of installing at least 6 GW of renewable hydrogen electrolysers in the EU and producing 1 million tonnes of renewable hydrogen. In the second stage of the Strategy, from 2025 to 2030, hydrogen is to become an intrinsic part of energy systems, with the EU's strategic objective being to install at least 40GW in renewable energy sources and to generate up to 10 million tonnes of energy from renewable hydrogen sources.

Hydrogen is often presented as an alternative to nuclear power or gas for meeting the objectives of the Green Deal. A number of hydrogen's properties make it quite safe to handle and use, but the wholesale production of this gas as set out in the EU Hydrogen Strategy will also entail major risks.

Comparative studies on hydrogen safety are needed when setting EU-wide energy-mix targets for 2030 and 2050. In the light of this:

what tests and studies form the basis for deeming hydrogen to be not only a greener alternative energy source, but also to be safer, or as safe, as nuclear energy?