

Question for written answer E-000385/2022
to the Commission
Rule 138
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Subject: Commissioning of next-generation nuclear reactors

In a recent interview with the newspaper *Die Zeit*, Commission President Ursula von der Leyen stated that the EU needed to find the right bridges 'to make the transition to a world with 100% renewables'.

She stressed that we would need to make use of gas and nuclear until such time as sufficient renewable sources such as hydrogen were available, and encouraged their inclusion in the European taxonomy.

'Generation IV' reactors and small modular reactors also offer possibilities. According to recent studies, the former, which provide greater nuclear safety, create less waste and use fewer nuclear resources, could be up and running from 2040, ten years before the EU-imposed 'zero-emissions' target. As for the latter, the first plants could be in place by 2027 with the capacity to generate between around 5 to 300 megawatts in power.

Can the Commission therefore say:

1. What programmes it intends to fund to research new projects on generation IV and small modular reactors?
2. What guidelines it intends to give Member States on the use of nuclear energy given that it is banned in some countries, such as Italy?