



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

2010/2104(INI)

1.3.2011

OPINION

of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

for the Committee on Budgetary Control

on the efficiency and effectiveness of EU funding in the area of
decommissioning nuclear power plants in the new Member States
(2010/2104(INI))

Rapporteur: Zigmantas Balčytis

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SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Industry, Research and Energy calls on the Committee on Budgetary Control, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

- A. whereas during the accession negotiations the Lithuanian, Slovak and Bulgarian governments agreed, as part of their Accession Treaties, to close some of the older nuclear reactors with fixed early closure dates,
- B. whereas the shut-down and subsequent decommissioning of these NPPs represented a significant financial and economic loss and an ongoing burden which could not be fully covered by the Member States concerned,
- C. whereas the decommissioning of nuclear facilities and the management of their waste is a technically complex operation requiring substantial financial resources and involving environmental, technical, social and financial responsibilities,
 1. Notes that the polluter-pays principle should be applied to the financing of decommissioning operations and that nuclear operators should ensure that adequate financial resources to cover future decommissioning costs are set aside during the productive life of nuclear installations; in these three cases, however, denial of the full operational life of NPPs that were shut down early prevented the necessary funds from being set aside;
 2. Notes that decommissioning operations can pose risks to public health and the environment if the necessary measures are not taken in time and that sufficient financial resources should therefore be generated and set aside during the operation of the facility to ensure that the decommissioning of nuclear installations is carried out in conformity with safety standards;
 3. Notes that there is limited EU experience in the field of nuclear decommissioning, and therefore stresses that the issue of safety is of the utmost importance in the decommissioning of the early-closed NPPs in question and that this should be borne in mind in any future decisions by all parties involved;
 4. Recognises the importance of sound and transparent management of financial resources, with appropriate external supervision, to ensure fair competition on the energy market; recommends transparency and public participation in this field; considers that, for the purpose of awarding contracts, it would be desirable to apply a criterion of Community reciprocity for the benefit of European enterprises, with the application in particular of the principles set forth in Article 58 of Directive 2004/17/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 31 March 2004 coordinating the procurement procedures of entities operating, inter alia, in the energy sector;
 5. Underlines the necessity for the three NPPs to submit a detailed final decommissioning plan, which is indispensable in drawing up a financial scheme capable of avoiding risks and uncertainties;

6. Notes that premature decommissioning has a direct impact on the energy resources (and their prices) of the Member States concerned; believes that the development of alternative, low-emission, competitive energy resources should be promoted in coping with the negative consequences, and that due consideration should be given to establishing appropriate compensation mechanisms to cover the costs of decommissioning and waste disposal up to the definite stage from where the three countries can bear the remaining costs by themselves;
7. Stresses that enhanced coordination between the three programmes is needed in order to ensure better planning of activities and sharing of the experience gained; the European Union as a whole could also benefit from this experience as reactors are taken out of service at the end of their economic lives; invites all parties involved, therefore, to ensure that best decommissioning practices are applied and collected, and that the best use is made by Member States with nuclear power plants of the experience and data gained;
8. Calls on the Commission, taking into account the various strategies employed by the Member States, to explore possible ways of harmonising approaches to the funding of decommissioning in the EU in order to ensure timely accumulation of the necessary financial resources without compromising the safety and security of the decommissioning process;
9. Considers that, if the decommissioning procedure is harmonised, account should be taken of the relevant administrative structures of the Member States, and that the resource management procedure as such should be simplified.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	28.2.2011
Result of final vote	+: 39 -: 0 0: 1
Members present for the final vote	Jean-Pierre Audy, Zigmantas Balčytis, Ivo Belet, Bendt Bendtsen, Jan Březina, Maria Da Graça Carvalho, Giles Chichester, Pilar del Castillo Vera, Christian Ehler, Robert Goebbels, Fiona Hall, Jacky Hénin, Edit Herczog, Romana Jordan Cizelj, Arturs Krišjānis Kariņš, Lena Kolarska-Bobińska, Béla Kovács, Philippe Lamberts, Marisa Matias, Judith A. Merkies, Angelika Niebler, Jaroslav Paška, Herbert Reul, Paul Rübig, Amalia Sartori, Konrad Szymański, Patrizia Toia, Ioannis A. Tsoukalas, Claude Turmes, Marita Ulvskog, Vladimir Urutchev, Kathleen Van Brempt, Alejo Vidal-Quadras
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Antonio Cancian, Francesco De Angelis, Françoise Grossetête, Jolanta Emilia Hibner, Ivailo Kalfin, Mario Pirillo, Catherine Trautmann