

**Question for oral answer O-000004/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 136

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on behalf of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

Subject: Safety of the nuclear power plant in Ostrovets (Belarus)

The Ostrovets nuclear power plant, located 50 km from Vilnius in Lithuania and in close proximity to other EU countries, such as Poland, Latvia and Estonia, started generating electricity on 3 November 2020 despite multiple remaining safety concerns and without full implementation of the recommendations by the EU peer review of 2018 and by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

A further peer review process is ongoing and the European Nuclear Safety Regulators Group (ENSREG) will complete and publish its findings in the coming months and aims to have a preliminary report issued by ENSREG and transmitted to Belarus before the start of the commercial operation of the plant, which is planned for March 2021 by the Belarusian authorities.

In view of the imminent commercial start of a nuclear power plant, which does not comply with the highest international environmental and nuclear safety standards, the Commission is invited to answer the following questions:

1. What are the preliminary findings of the ongoing peer review carried out by ENSREG concerning the implementation by the Belarusian authorities of the EU peer review's safety recommendations?
2. What actions does the Commission intend to take in order to convince the Belarusian authorities to suspend the start of the commercial operation of the plant until all EU peer review recommendations have been implemented and all necessary safety improvements are in place?
3. In view of the European Council conclusions of 10-11 December 2020, what measures does the Commission envisage proposing in order to prevent commercial electricity imports from third countries' nuclear facilities that do not fulfil EU recognised safety levels, including the nuclear power plant in Ostrovets?

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Lapses: 29/04/2021