

WRITTEN QUESTION P-3375/03
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to the Commission

Subject: Nuclear safety: plant decommissioning and incorporation of costs

Ahead of the accession of ten new Member States, it is a matter of priority to improve nuclear safety in the European Union, the accession states and the applicant countries. After carrying out an assessment, the Commission requested the closure of certain units which cannot be brought up to internationally acceptable safety standards at a reasonable cost (Kozloduy 1-4, Ignalina 1 and 2, and Bohunice 1 and 2) together with an improvement in safety of the other reactors in the applicant countries to a level comparable to that for equivalent reactors currently operating in the Union. However, Bulgarian officials have recently raised the issue of re-opening negotiations on the closure of Kozloduy 3 and 4, which has justifiably given cause for concern.

How will the Commission ensure that States comply with the commitments they have given in memoranda signed between them (e.g. Bulgaria) and the Commission, and in the context of their partnerships with the EU, to close down and decommission dangerous plants which cannot be brought up to internationally acceptable safety standards at reasonable cost?

What measures, appropriations and loans for the decommissioning of dangerous plants which cannot be brought up to internationally acceptable safety standards at reasonable cost have been authorised or put into effect and what measures have been taken to prevent the funding of projects and programmes in States which are in breach of or non-compliance with their international commitments?

What steps will the Commission take to incorporate the external costs of nuclear energy arising from expenditure on decommissioning or modernisation with safety improvements in order to prevent distortion of competition on the market in electricity in the Union?