

**Priority question for written answer P-006039/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Commissioning of the Astravets nuclear power plant without implementation of all safety recommendations

On 3 November 2020, Lithuania's electricity transmission system operator Litgrid recorded that Belarus had started generating electricity at the Astravets nuclear power plant. On the same day, it was announced that Lithuania was suspending trade in electricity with Belarus using Lithuanian and Belarusian power lines. The President of Lithuania, Gitanas Nausėda, announced that Lithuania had not – and would not – accept the risks posed by the Astravets nuclear power plant, so a law on protection against unsafe nuclear power plants would start to be applied in the country. Representatives of Lithuania at various political levels have repeatedly stated that the nuclear power plant being built near the Lithuanian capital, Vilnius, does not meet international safety standards, and that it therefore poses a threat not only to the citizens of Lithuania, but also to the citizens of the other surrounding countries.

Can the Commission answer the following questions:

1. Were the relevant EU authorities informed of the commissioning of the Astravets nuclear power plant? Is the European Union still continuously monitoring the progress of work at the Astravets nuclear power plant, and is sufficient information available?
2. The problems identified by ENSREG at the Astravets nuclear power plant have still not been resolved, and the review of the national action plan, which was to take into account the recommendations made during the stress testing of the Astravets nuclear power plant, has not been completed. It is clear that Belarus has started generating electricity at the Belarusian nuclear power plant without meeting all safety requirements. What specific actions does the Commission intend to take to ensure the security of European Union citizens by ensuring that there is no nuclear power plant that does not meet international safety standards operating on the EU's external borders?