Dedicated financial programme for decommissioning of nuclear facilities and management of radioactive waste 2021–2027

2018/0252(NLE) - 13/06/2018 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE: to establish a dedicated financial programme for decommissioning of nuclear facilities and management of radioactive waste for the period 2021-2027.

PROPOSED ACT: Council Regulation.

ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: the Council adopts the act after consulting the European Parliament but without being obliged to follow its opinion.

BACKGROUND: the EU's nuclear decommissioning assistance programmes aim to assist Member States in the process of winding and shutting down those nuclear installations in the final step in their lifecycles, while keeping the highest level of safety.

As a condition for their accession to the EU, **Bulgaria and Slovakia** took the commitment to close and to subsequently decommission six Soviet designed first generation nuclear reactors. Correspondingly, **the EU committed itself to financially support the decommissioning**.

The decommissioning activity is progressing but not terminated with an end foreseen in 2025 for Bohunice, Slovakia and 2030 for Kozloduy, Bulgaria. It is in the interest of the Union to **continue to provide financial support for decommissioning**, contributing to ensuring the highest level of safety of the operation.

The mid-term evaluation of the nuclear decommissioning assistance programmes concluded the following:

- EU support ensures the continued continuation of the immediate decommissioning strategy in Bulgaria and Slovakia;
- Bulgaria and Slovakia have made effective and efficient progress in decommissioning their reactors in line with the baseline agreed (decommissioning plans);
- security levels at the sites shall be significantly improved as a result of EU funding under the current multiannual financial framework.

Pooling the budgets under a **single funding programme** under the multiannual financial framework for the period 2021-2027 shall allow for increased financial flexibility between the actions, i.e. a tool to transfer budget where and when needed in line with progress.

CONTENT: the proposal for a Regulation - presented for a Union of 27 Member States - seeks to establish the **dedicated financial programme for the decommissioning of nuclear facilities and management of radioactive waste**, with the focus on needs identified on a current basis. Regulation (Euratom) No 1368/2013 shall be repealed.

For the period 2021-2027 of the multiannual financial framework, the new programme shall aim in particular at:

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- **assisting Bulgaria and Slovakia** in implementing the **Kozloduy** decommissioning programme and the **Bohunice** decommissioning programme respectively, with specific emphasis on managing the radiological safety challenges thereof;
- **supporting the joint research centre (JRC) decommissioning and waste management programme** -Geel in Belgium, Karlsruhe in Germany, Ispra in Italy and Petten in the Netherlands, whilst ensuring broad dissemination to all EU Member States of knowledge thereby generated on nuclear decommissioning.

The Bohunice programme and the Kozloduy programme shall be implemented by **multiannual work programmes**. These multiannual work programmes shall reflect the decommissioning plans that shall serve as baseline for programme monitoring and evaluation.
The actions under the Kozloduy and Bohunice programmes shall be identified within the boundaries defined by the decommissioning plans submitted by Bulgaria and Slovakia under the Council Regulation 2013/1368/Euratom. These plans defined the scope of these programmes, the decommissioning end-states and end-dates; they cover the decommissioning activities, their associated schedule, costs and required human resources.

Proposed budget: the programme shall have an overall budget of **EUR 446 million** (at current prices) for the period 2021-2027, with the following indicative breakdown:

- **EUR 63 million** for actions under the Kozloduy programme;
- **EUR 55 million** for actions under the Bohunice programme;
- **EUR 348 million** for actions under the JRC decommissioning and waste management programme.