

# Euratom research and training programme 2019-2020

2017/0312(NLE) - 12/07/2018 - Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading

The Committee on Industry, Research and Energy adopted the report by Rebecca HARMS (Greens/EFA, DE) on the proposal for a Council regulation on the Research and Training Programme of the European Atomic Energy Community (2019-2020) complementing the Horizon 2020 Framework Programme for Research and Innovation.

The committee recommended that the European Parliament approve the Commission proposal subject to the following amendments:

**Objectives of the programme:** Members considered that the programme should contribute in particular to the safe, efficient and long-term decarbonisation of the energy system. Its specific objectives should be as follows:

- supporting safety of nuclear systems, inter alia by means of **structural cross-border inspections** in the case of nuclear facilities in the vicinity of one or more national borders with other Member States;
- contributing to cooperation at EU level and with third countries in the identification and development of safe, **long-term solutions for the management of ultimate nuclear waste**, including final geological disposal as well as partitioning and transmutation;
- improving nuclear safety including: nuclear reactor and fuel safety, waste management to prevent any undesirable impacts on man or the environment;
- improving nuclear security including: nuclear safeguards, non-proliferation, combating illicit trafficking, and nuclear forensics, the disposal of source materials and radioactive waste, countering cyber-attacks and reducing the risks of terrorism on nuclear power plants as well as structural cross-border inspections in the case of nuclear facilities in the vicinity of one or more national borders with other EU Member States;
- promoting **long-term professional training** to reflect permanent developments made possible by new technologies.

The Euratom programme should also contribute to the **attractiveness** of the research professions in the Union and help encourage young people to become involved in research in this field.

The adequate participation of **small and medium-sized enterprises** (SMEs) in the programme, including emerging new innovative actors in the relevant research area and the private sector in general, should be ensured.

**Nuclear energy:** the report stressed that nuclear energy makes an important contribution to combating climate change and reducing Europe's dependence on imported energy. In the context of finding a sustainable energy-mix for the future, the Euratom Programme will also contribute through its research activities to maintaining the technological advantages of nuclear fission energy for a low-carbon economy.