

Question for written answer E-004638/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
Barbara Bonte (PfE)

Subject: Recognition of nuclear energy as a clean energy source for the production of electro-sustainable aviation fuels (e-SAF)

With the ReFuelEU Aviation Regulation, the European Union has set certain targets for the use of sustainable aviation fuels, including electro-fuels or ‘Renewable Fuels of Non-Biological Origin’ (RFNBOs). According to the applicable legislation, such fuels must be produced using renewable electricity, usually from wind or solar energy.

The Member States enjoy exclusive competence to determine the composition of their energy mix.

Several Member States have significant nuclear capacity and see nuclear energy as an essential part of their low-carbon strategy. After all, nuclear power plants provide stable, continuous and virtually CO₂-free electricity, which is ideal for applications such as electrolysis, hydrogen production and the manufacture of e-kerosene.

However, EU legislation does not recognise nuclear energy as a renewable energy source. As a result, electric fuels produced from nuclear energy are not legally considered ‘sustainable’ and do not count towards ReFuelEU targets or European certification systems (Guarantees of Origin). This hinders investment in nuclear-based e-fuel projects, despite their potential for European energy independence.

Therefore:

1. Does the Commission consider nuclear energy to be a clean energy source that can play a role in the production of e-fuels for aviation?
2. When exactly does it intend to broaden the definition of ‘sustainable’ e-fuels to include nuclear-generated electrofuels?
3. Is the Commission prepared to develop a technology-neutral framework that allows Member States to use nuclear power for e-SAF production without discrimination from a legal perspective?

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