

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001721/24
to the Commission
Thomas Pellerin-Carlin (S&D)
(16 September 2024)**

Subject: Impact of possible curb on exports of Russian uranium

Several daily newspapers, including the *Financial Times*, have recently warned that Russia could curb exports of uranium. This act of retaliation from the country in response to the sanctions that the EU has imposed against it would directly affect the EU's nuclear plants, many of which are still dependent on Russian supplies. With Russia accounting for about one third of the world's uranium enrichment capacity and about 5% of uranium mining, there is a real threat posed to the EU's energy security here.

1. What did the Commission do before 22 February 2022 and what has it done since to anticipate this risk?
2. Has it looked at what the impact would be if this Russian supply were to be fully disrupted?
3. What will it do to reduce the EU's dependence on Russia for sourcing products in the value chain of the civil nuclear industry?

Submitted: 16.9.2024

**Answer given by Ms Simson on behalf of the European Commission
(23 October 2024)**

Already in 2014, with the European Energy Security Strategy ⁽¹⁾, the Commission emphasised the need for all EU operators to have a diversified portfolio of fuel supply and for fuel supply diversification to be a condition for any new investment in the nuclear sector.

In response to Russia's full-scale war of aggression against Ukraine, the EU decided to phase out its remaining dependence on Russia. The REPowerEU Plan ⁽²⁾ emphasises further the need for diversification and securing alternative sources of uranium, and boosting conversion, enrichment, and fuel fabrication capacities.

The Commission and the Euratom Supply Agency (ESA) have been engaging with concerned Member States to assess dependencies and ensure security of supply in the nuclear value chain. Utilities have taken steps to diversify their supplies, increase stockpiling of nuclear material and fuel, and prepare for potential disruptions to supplies.

The electricity produced in Soviet-designed reactors (dependent on Russian fuel supply) accounts for about 10% of EU gross nuclear electricity capacity. Utilities operating these reactors in Bulgaria, Czechia, Slovakia and Finland have signed supply contracts with alternative fuel suppliers and are moving forward with the licensing process for the new fuels (already tested by several utilities).

Meanwhile, mothballed uranium mines in the United States (US), Australia, Canada and Africa have returned to operation, and additional conversion and enrichment capacity is being developed in the EU, United Kingdom, US and Canada.

The Commission and ESA continue to monitor the market and the supply situation and engage with utilities and national authorities to ensure the diversification of supply in the civil nuclear industry.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52014DC0330&from=EN>

⁽²⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal/repowereu-affordable-secure-and-sustainable-energy-europe_en