

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000267/25
to the Commission
Elena Nevado del Campo (PPE)
(22 January 2025)**

Subject: Spanish Government's strategy to decommission nuclear power plants

In 2022, Spain's seven nuclear reactors generated 20.26% of the total electricity produced by the Spanish national grid.

Unfortunately, the days of Spain's nuclear power plants are numbered, despite the fact that nuclear energy is essential to EU competitiveness, as stated in the Draghi report. The government and the plant owners have agreed to decommission them on a rolling basis, with the final plant closing in 2035. The nuclear power plant in Almaraz, Extremadura, will be the first plant to close, in 2027.

The provisional agreement between the Council and Parliament on the Net-Zero Industry Act describes nuclear energy as 'strategic' to EU decarbonisation and states that nuclear energy plays a key role in guaranteeing energy independence and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

In light of the above:

1. Does the Spanish strategy to decommission nuclear power plants align with the Commission's increasing interest in boosting European competitiveness?
2. In the Commission's view, will these measures not make the Spanish population poorer and increase the price of electricity in Spain?

Submitted: 22.1.2025

**Answer given by Mr Jørgensen on behalf of the European Commission
(18 March 2025)**

Spain has confirmed its plans to phase out nuclear energy by 2035 in the recently submitted National Energy and Climate Plan ⁽¹⁾. The choice of the energy resources in the energy mix, including the decision to use or not use nuclear energy, remains within the remit of each Member State in accordance with the provisions of the EU legislation ⁽²⁾.

The Commission does not intervene in such decisions while it recognises that securing supplies of clean and affordable energy is critical for European competitiveness, security, and EU's future climate neutrality.

As reflected in the recently announced Competitiveness Compass ⁽³⁾, the Commission's aim is to ensure that the transition to a decarbonised economy is competitiveness-friendly and technology-neutral, while the shift to cleaner and cost-efficient sources of energy must reduce energy costs and price volatility.

As part of the proposals to accompany its Clean Industrial Deal, the Commission presented on 26 February 2025 an Action Plan for Affordable Energy ⁽⁴⁾.

⁽¹⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/211d83b7-b6d9-4bb8-b084-4a3bfb4cad3e_es?filename=ES%20-%20FINAL%20UPDATED%20NECP%202021-2030%20%28Spanish%29.pdf

⁽²⁾ Article 194 of the Treaty on Functioning of the European Union.

⁽³⁾ A competitiveness compass for the EU: https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/10017eb1-4722-4333-add2-e0ed18105a34_en

⁽⁴⁾ https://energy.ec.europa.eu/document/download/7e2e6198-b6b8-46fe-b263-984b437da3ab_en?filename=Communication%20-%20Action%20Plan%20for%20Affordable%20Energy.pdf