

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000325/25
to the Commission
Liudas Mažylis (PPE)
(24 January 2025)**

Subject: Threats posed by the Astravets nuclear power plant

The Astravets NPP in Belarus continues to operate, posing a threat to the environment and remaining a tool of Russian-Belarusian hybrid operations, particularly those targeting Lithuania and its capital Vilnius, which is only a few dozen kilometres away. Two units are in operation, with the second one running since November 2023. No explanations have been offered as to whether the IAEA's recommendations to improve the safety of the plant have been complied with, which implies that the plant remains unsafe.

In the light of the foregoing:

1. What specific measures have been taken in recent months to put pressure on the Belarusian authorities and Rosatom to improve the safety of the Astravets NPP or, better still, to shut it down?
2. What measures are being planned for the near future?

Submitted: 24.1.2025

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

The Commission shares the concerns regarding the safety of the Astravets nuclear power plant. Given the current political situation, all bilateral relations with the authorities of Russia and Belarus have been suspended.

The European Nuclear Safety Regulators Group completed a peer review of the post-Fukushima nuclear safety assessment 'stress tests' of the Astravets nuclear power plant in 2021 and issued safety improvement recommendations.

The nuclear safety regulator of Belarus drew up a National Action Plan, updated in 2023 ⁽¹⁾, to implement these recommendations. The Commission continues to monitor Belarus's progress in implementing them within the framework of relevant multilateral conventions adopted under the auspices of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), but it is not currently in a position to restart contacts with the Belarus nuclear safety regulator.

The Commission will continue to maintain contacts with the IAEA, which has the mandate to promote the implementation of international nuclear safety standards worldwide, including in Belarus.

The Commission intends to use existing international peer review mechanisms, notably the upcoming Eighth Review Meeting of the Joint Convention ⁽²⁾ in March 2025 and the Convention on Nuclear Safety Review Meeting in March 2026 to probe the implementation by Belarus of its obligations under these Conventions, which are relevant for Belarus follow-up of the findings of the stress tests peer review ⁽³⁾.

⁽¹⁾ <https://gosatomnadzor.mchs.gov.by/znaniya-dlya-kazhdogo/biblioteka/>

⁽²⁾ Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management, adopted under IAEA auspices in 1997. In December 2024, the Commission, on behalf of Euratom, analysed Belarus National Report and inquired the Country on several safety aspects of spent fuel and radioactive waste management.

⁽³⁾ The position for the upcoming Joint Convention Review Meeting is coordinated with the Member States in the Working Party on Atomic Questions of the Council.