

EN
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Answer given by Mr Jørgensen
on behalf of the European Commission
(16.5.2025)

In accordance with the Radioactive Waste Directive¹, each Member State is required by Article 4(4) to dispose of the radioactive waste or spent fuel generated in its territory, unless an agreement has been concluded with another Member State to use one of their disposal facilities. The Commission is not aware of any such agreement between Bulgaria and Greece. Each Member State is also required under Article 12 of the Directive to set out in a national programme how it intends to implement its national policies to comply with the requirements of Article 4. In its analysis of Bulgaria's national programme or during its monitoring of the Kozloduy decommissioning programme, the Commission has not been informed about any intention by Bulgaria to store or dispose of radioactive waste or spent fuel from the decommissioning of the Kozloduy Units 1-4 in Greece.

The Commission also notes that if such a national programme is likely to have significant impacts on the environment, a strategic environmental assessment (SEA) needs to be carried out, including transboundary consultations with neighbouring countries.² A SEA consultation on Bulgaria's Draft updated Strategy for Spent Nuclear Fuel and Radioactive Waste was initiated in 2023 with several countries having responded³. The Commission is not aware of any deficiencies on the application of the above rules.

The safety of radioactive waste management, including the evaluation of effects of external (seismic) events of a magnitude corresponding to the local situation and siting of nuclear installations, is an ultimate responsibility of Member States in accordance with the Directive⁴. Therefore, the Commission cannot provide an opinion on the danger of disposing of radioactive waste on Greek territory⁵.

¹ Council Directive 2011/70/EURATOM of 19 July 2011 establishing a Community framework for the responsible and safe management of spent fuel and radioactive waste. The Radioactive Waste Directive reflects the international requirements of the 'Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management' and incorporates current international standards.

² Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (OJ L 197, 21.7.2001, p. 30–37).

³ <https://www.moew.government.bg/bg/procedura-po-strategicheska-ekologichna-ocenka-seo-za-aktualizirana-strategiya-za-upravlenie-na-otraboteno-yadreno-gorivo-oyag-i-radioaktivni-otpaduci-rao-v-bulgariya/>. The national SEA register shows that the Strategy was approved by an SEA decision No 1-1/2024; full report of the public consultations also available. See: <https://registers.moew.government.bg/eo/lot/37178>

⁴ Article 4(1) of the [Council Directive 2011/70/Euratom of 19 July 2011 establishing a Community framework for the responsible and safe management of spent fuel and radioactive waste](#)

⁵ The Commissions expresses its opinions in matters related to nuclear waste management once such projects are notified to the Commission under articles 37 (installations for radioactive waste that may have a transboundary radiological impact) and 41 (investment projects for new or modified nuclear installations) of the EURATOM Treaty.