

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002562/25
to the Commission
César Luena (S&D), Nicolás González Casares (S&D)
(25 June 2025)**

Subject: Contradiction of the classification of nuclear energy as transitional energy in the green taxonomy and planned investment in the nuclear illustrative programme up to 2050

The Commission presented its eighth nuclear illustrative programme (PINC) on 13 June 2025. The plan estimates that around EUR 241 billion in nuclear investment will be needed by 2050 to extend the working life of existing reactors and build new large-scale reactors.

This projection is in contrast with the classification of nuclear energy in the EU taxonomy complementary delegated act, which considers it a transitional activity that is not fully sustainable and is permitted under strict criteria regarding safety, waste management and contribution to cutting emissions. In the taxonomy, nuclear is a temporary solution while cleaner renewable technologies are being developed. This transitional perspective is not consistent with the amount of long-term investment planned in the PINC.

Considering the above:

1. How does the Commission justify so much investment in an energy source that is classified as transitional in the green taxonomy?
2. What is the temporary or technical reason behind classifying nuclear as ‘transitional’ until 2050?
3. What guarantees are in place to ensure such investment would not divert resources away from renewable technologies, which actually are clearly in line with the EU’s long-term climate and economic targets?

Submitted: 25.6.2025

**Answer given by Mr Jørgensen on behalf of the European Commission
(3 November 2025)**

Each Member State has the right to determine the conditions for exploiting its energy resources, choose between different energy sources and decide on the general structure of its energy supply ⁽¹⁾.

As an aggregated reflection of national energy perspectives, the Nuclear Illustrative Programme (PINC) aims at facilitating Member States’ coordinated development of investments in nuclear energy ⁽²⁾.

The updated PINC provides aggregated quantitative and qualitative information on the scope of investment needs across the nuclear energy life-cycle for Member-States’ to deliver on their national plans regarding nuclear energy deployment ⁽³⁾.

The classification of nuclear energy related activities as ‘transitional’ is based on Article 10(2) of Regulation (EU) 2020/852 ⁽⁴⁾.

The assessment underlying the Commission’s decision to include notably nuclear activities as transitional is explained in the Explanatory memorandum to the Delegated Act ⁽⁵⁾.

It concludes that nuclear energy related economic activities should be classified as transitional in the absence of technologically and economically feasible low-carbon alternatives at a sufficient scale to cover the energy demand in a continuous and reliable manner.

The Commission monitors that Member States remain on track to meet the EU climate neutrality objective, as well as the related agreed renewable energy and climate targets for 2030.

⁽¹⁾ In accordance with the Treaty on Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), art. 194.

⁽²⁾ Consolidated version of the Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community, art. 40. Available at: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:12012A/TXT>.

⁽³⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:12012A/TXT>.

⁽⁴⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32020R0852&from=EN>.

⁽⁵⁾ Document C(2022)631, available at: [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=PL_COM:C\(2022\)631](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=PL_COM:C(2022)631). The Complementary Delegated Act further specifies that the construction and safe operation of new nuclear installations, for which the construction permit has been issued by 2045, is considered taxonomy-compliant. Available at: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32022R1214>. Given the average lifetime of a nuclear power plant, the operation of nuclear installations can be taxonomy-compliant at least until the end of this century, not contradicting the long-term investment plans outlined in the PINC.

This is achieved through the governance framework ⁽⁶⁾, including by assessing Member States' National Energy and Climate Plans and monitoring of progress.

⁽⁶⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32018R1999>.