

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002711/25
to the Commission
Nicolás González Casares (S&D)
(2 July 2025)**

Subject: Impact of heatwaves on the availability of nuclear power plants

The increase in extreme temperatures could seriously affect the functioning of energy infrastructure, especially thermal power plants that require large volumes of water for cooling. Although ENTSO-E's report on electricity supply outlook for this summer — drawn up in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2019/941 — rules out general risks, this summer's first heatwave has already led to the closure of nuclear power plants in the European Union ⁽¹⁾. The possibility of partial or complete closures of other nuclear installations during the summer therefore cannot be ruled out, which would jeopardise the security of supply and cause price spikes.

In this context:

1. Can the Commission provide information on whether it has additional contingency plans in place to tackle extreme climate events and to ensure a supply of affordable electricity?
2. Is better cooperation at EU level being considered in relation to demand flexibility, reinforcement of interconnections and solidarity mechanisms between Member States?
3. What measures does the Commission intend to take to mitigate the impact of such events on electricity prices?

Submitted: 2.7.2025

**Answer given by Mr Jørgensen on behalf of the European Commission
(17 October 2025)**

Extreme weather events are crucial considerations for Member States in drafting their plans under the risk preparedness regulation for the electricity sector ⁽¹⁾.

The plans must include related information on future grid development to cope with the identified risk scenarios. Moreover, the EU has an increasingly rich policy framework for achieving climate resilience in different sectors, including energy, to address the increasingly frequent extreme weather events ⁽²⁾.

For example, the recently published European Preparedness Union Strategy will notably contribute to this objective, through the revision of the energy security architecture ⁽³⁾.

The main impediments to demand flexibility arise from incomplete implementation of Directive (EU) 2019/944 ⁽⁴⁾. The Commission will support Member States in implementing and developing new rules on demand response to reduce market entry and cross-border barriers.

Interconnections between Member States are vital to enhance resilience to disruptions, such as nuclear plant unavailability. The regulation on Trans-European networks for energy supports these goals by linking energy networks and fostering EU solidarity. Swift implementation of the electricity Projects of common interest selected under this framework is essential.

The upcoming Grids Package will also support the modernisation of the existing infrastructure to make it more efficient, and the expansion of grids based on strengthened network planning and streamlined permitting procedures.

Overall, with the Affordable Energy Action Plan ⁽⁵⁾, the Commission has put forward actions to achieve energy autonomy and support citizens and businesses amid high energy costs in a technology-neutral manner and to complete the Energy Union.

¹ <https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/edf-shuts-down-golftech-nuclear-plant-due-high-river-temperature-2025-06-30/>

⁽¹⁾ Regulation (EU) 2019/941 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 June 2019 on risk-preparedness in the electricity sector and repealing Directive 2005/89/EC.

⁽²⁾ The European Climate Law (Regulation (EU) 2021/1119) requires continuous progress towards climate adaptation. The Commission adopted the European Climate Adaptation Strategy in 2021 (COM(2021)82) and plans to adopt a European Climate Resilience and Risk Management Integrated Framework, including a possible legislative proposal, in 2026.

⁽³⁾ JOIN(2025) 130 final.

⁽⁴⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2019/944/oj/eng>.

⁽⁵⁾ https://energy.ec.europa.eu/strategy/affordable-energy_en.