(English version)

Question for written answer E-003336/26
to the Commission
Luděk Niedermayer (PPE)
(25 August 2026)

Subject: Shortcomings in the implementation of Directive 2011/70/Euratom on the management of radioactive waste

Commission reports on the implementation of Directive 2011/70/Euratom ([1]) indicate that most Member States lack the necessary financial resources — and often even reliable cost estimates — for the final disposal of high-level radioactive waste. In its 2019 report, the Commission stated: 'Almost two thirds of Member States provided information on cost estimates for their national programmes, but these estimates vary significantly in terms of methodology, assumptions, data completeness, scope, and timeframes.' (SWD(2019)0436, p. 53).

1. In the next evaluation report, does the Commission intend to publish comparable and verifiable data on estimated costs and the actual funding status in individual Member States?

2. Will the Commission support the requirement for Member States to set the nuclear levy per megawatt-hour (MWh) based on a transparent methodology that is regularly reviewed in the light of changes in estimated costs?

Submitted: 25.8.2026

Answer given by Mr Jørgensen on behalf of the European Commission
(15 October 2026)

Directive 2011/70/Euratom ([1]) requires Member States to establish and maintain national programmes for the management of spent fuel and radioactive waste, including an assessment of the programme costs and the financing scheme(s) in force, and to ensure that adequate financial resources are available when needed ([2]).

In accordance with Article 14 of the directive, the Commission reports to the European Parliament and the Council on the basis of Member States' reports.

The next report will provide an overview of cost assessments and funding. To facilitate the understanding and comparability of the data, the Group of Experts on Financial Aspects of Nuclear Decommissioning and Spent Fuel and Radioactive Waste Management ([3]) is currently working on recommendations on cost reporting in the national reports.

The directive requires Member States to ensure that adequate financial resources are available when needed and that the costs of spent fuel and radioactive waste management are borne by those who generated those materials ([4]). It does not prescribe a specific financing mechanism, including a levy per MWh.

The non-binding Commission Recommendation 2006/851/Euratom sets out principles for the management of financial resources for decommissioning, spent fuel and radioactive waste ([5]). However, it is for Member States to determine the financing arrangements for meeting the requirements of the directive.

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[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 (OJ L 199, 2.8.2011, p. 48, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2011/70/oj).

([1]) https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=celex%3A32011L0070.

([2]) Articles 9 and 12(1)(h) and (i) of Directive 2011/70/Euratom.

([3]) https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/expert-groups-register/screen/expert-groups/consult?lang=en&groupID=3777.

([4]) Articles 4(3)(e) and 9 of Directive 2011/70/Euratom.

([5]) In particular, the recommendation provides that the financial resources gathered should be reviewed annually and that decommissioning cost estimates should be reviewed at least every five years, with any shortfall addressed in good time. See: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32006H0851.