Procedure file

Basic information

INI - Own-initiative procedure	1998/2024(INI)	Procedure completed
The decommissioning of nuclear power stations and other nuclear installations Subject 3.60.04 Nuclear energy, industry and safety		

Key players

European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	ENER Research, Technological Development and Energy	PPE CHICHESTER Giles	08/10/1997
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	ENVI Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	

Key events

16/01/1998	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
29/09/1998	Vote in committee		Summary
29/09/1998	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0354/1998	
22/10/1998	Debate in Parliament		
22/10/1998	Decision by Parliament	T4-0626/1998	Summary
22/10/1998	End of procedure in Parliament		
09/11/1998	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1998/2024(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 54
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	ENER/4/09687

Documentation gateway					
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0354/1998 OJ C 341 09.11.1998, p. 0002	29/09/1998	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0626/1998 OJ C 341 09.11.1998, p. 0110-0148	22/10/1998	EP	Summary

The decommissioning of nuclear power stations and other nuclear installations

The Committee has adopted the own-initiative report by Giles CHICESTER (PPE, UK) on the decommissioning of nuclear power stations and other nuclear installations. Worldwide some 450 nuclear power plants (NPPs) have been built during the last 44 years, of which 380 were in operational condition in 1997. In the same year there were 128 NPPs operating in the EU and 39 were in the process of decommissioning. Hungary, Slovenia, the Czech Republic, the Slovak Republic, Bulgaria, Romania and Lithuania altogether 21 NPPs on line or approaching completion. Only the plant at Bohunice/Slovakia was presently decommissioned. In Russia, Ukraine, Armenia and Kazakhstan 60 NPPs were operating and 4 had been shut down definitively. The purpose of Giles Bryan CHICHESTER's (EPP, UK) report was to review the present situation of decommissioning nuclear facilities in the EU and the Central and Eastern European Countries (CEECs) with regard to the number and remaining life span of plants. Elements taken into consideration include existing experience and available technology, the health risks incurred by workers engaged in decommissioning activities, recycling and waste management of decommisioned materials, the present cost and the existing financing arrangements and the policies of the Member States and efforts to introduce a common EU strategy. The outcome should enable conclusions to be drawn on the necessity for, and extent of, further actions at EU level. Most of the CEECs had nuclear facilities, some of which face immediate decommissioning. Given the prospect of EU enlargement to the East, was therefore appropriate to include these countries when considering the present situation and future perspectives of nuclear decommissioning in the EU. The European Commission was urged to take further steps to ensure the dissemination and transfer of research findings generated by its Research and Technological Development programmes on decommissioning, including the CEECs. The Commission was also called on to analyse current systems of accumulation of financial reserves for decommissioning in different Member States, and to assess whether a uniform system of "the best financial practice" could be introduced throughout Europe.?

The decommissioning of nuclear power stations and other nuclear installations

Adopting the report by Mr Giles Chichester (EPP, UK) on the decommissioning of nuclear power stations and other nuclear installations in Europe, Parliament draws attention to the threat to the environment and health which these ageing installations represent. At present some 450 nuclear power stations have been built over the past 44 years worldwide and 380 of them were in operation in 1997. In the same year there were 128 nuclear power stations in service in the EU and 39 were being decommissioned. Hungary, Slovenia, the Czech Republic, the Slovak Republic, Bulgaria, Romania and Lithuania had a total of 21 nuclear power stations under construction or nearing completion. At present, only the power station at Bohunice in Slovakia has been decommissioned. Russia, Ukraine, Armenia and Kazakhstan had 60 power stations in service and four have been definitively closed. Parliament calls on the Council and Commission to encourage decommissioning of unsafe nuclear power stations in Europe and stresses the responsibility of the operators in this regard. It calls on the Commission to take action to maintain the EU's high level of expertise in the field of nuclear decommissioning and to take further steps to ensure the best possible dissemination of research findings generated by its research programmes on the decommissioning of nuclear facilities, including in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. With regard to these countries (most CEECs have nuclear installations, some of which face immediate decommissioning), Parliament calls on the Commission to study the financial principles and techniques used for raising funds for decommissioning outdated power stations in these countries, and to examine how such techniques could be introduced into these countries. Underlining the importance of long-term technical assistance in Central and Eastern European countries in the area of decommissioning nuclear installations, it also stresses the need for greater transparency and closer cooperation between all parties concerned. Parliament stresses the need for a high level of public information and calls on the Commission to review its information strategy in this regard and to carry out a study into the remaining useful life of nuclear power stations in Europe, taking account of the fact that their useful lives can now be extended to 50 or 60 years. Recognising that different systems require different decommissioning techniques, Parliament considers that decisions should be taken principally on the basis of rigorous assessments of exposure to radiation of the workforce and the public. With regard to waste, Parliament draws attention to the need to avoid mixing different types of radioactive waste and uncontaminated material. It calls on the Commission to review the possibility of reducing the volume of waste to be managed as radioactive and to analyse the possibility of defining techniques for declassifying some of that waste because of its low level of radioactivity. As the dismantling of nuclear plant produces large quantities of low- level radioactive material, and as material which has been in a radioactive controlled area may not be released into unrestricted circulation, Parliament proposes a new category of waste, 'very low level radioactive waste', to be covered by waste management and disposal plans drawn up to follow the French model. ?