Procedure file

Basic information

COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	1998/2073(COS)	Procedure completed
Nuclear sector, safety: actions for the CEECs and the New independent States NIS Subject 3.60.04 Nuclear energy, industry and safety 6.40.02 Relations with central and eastern Europe 6.40.04 Relations with the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)		

Key players

European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	ENER Research, Technological Development and Energy	PSE ADAM Gordon J.	20/05/1998
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	AFET Foreign Affairs, Security and Defense Policy	NI MUSCARDINI Cristiana	03/06/1998
	BUDG Budgets		
	RELA External Economic Relations	ELDR PLOOIJ-VAN GORSEL Elly	25/06/1998
Council of the European Union			

Key events

31/03/1998	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1998)0134	Summary
28/05/1998	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
23/02/1999	Vote in committee		Summary
23/02/1999	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0088/1999	
10/03/1999	Debate in Parliament		
11/03/1999	Decision by Parliament	T4-0193/1999	Summary
11/03/1999	End of procedure in Parliament		
21/06/1999	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

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Procedure type	COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)
Procedure subtype	Commission strategy paper
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 148
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	ENER/4/09989

Documentation gateway

Non-legislative basic document		COM(1998)0134	31/03/1998	EC	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0088/1999 OJ C 175 21.06.1999, p. 0005	23/02/1999	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0193/1999 OJ C 175 21.06.1999, p. 0192-0288	11/03/1999	EP	Summary

Nuclear sector, safety: actions for the CEECs and the New independent States NIS

PURPOSE: to give an overview of actions undertaken by the Community in the nuclear sector for the applicant countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the New Independent States and to present ways forward with respect to programming and programme implementation. CONTENT: the communication reviews the achievements already made by Community actions in this area but also outlines what remains to be done in terms of further improving the level of aid currently allocated and making the reactors in the countries concerned safe and viable. Beyond the problems of administrative slowness and adapting the administrations of the CEECs to Community procedures for tendering, the communication also refers to cultural problems in getting those reponsible in the countries concerned to accept the concept of responsibility in relation to nuclear reactors. For the future, the Commission plans to reorient its current actions within the context of pre-accession aid and the implementation of the Partnership and Cooperation Agreements between the EU and the New Independent States: 1) for the CEEC countries, the Commission's overall strategy is to reduce the risk which is actually associated with the civil use of nuclear energy in these countries and to bring the general standard of nuclear safety (including the management of radioactive waste) up to a level comparable with that of the EU. More specifically, this will entail: - ensuring that reactors of Western design remain at a high safety level over the long run; - ensuring the rapid and effective upgrading of those reactors of Soviet design which can be upgraded to acceptable safety levels; - securing definitive closure on the basis of a realistic and agreed timetable of those reactors of Soviet design which cannot be upgraded at a reasonable cost. Aid will essentially take the form of technical assistance to nuclear power plant operators with a view to improving the viability and safety of reactors or securing their safe closure. Over the two years 1998-1999, the Commission envisages a PHARE allocation of 50 MECU for multi-country nuclear projects. Beyond 2000, PHARE will continue to finance nuclear safety projects in cooperation with the Instrument for Structural Policies for Pre-accession (ISPA); 2) In the TACIS countries, the main objective will be to place nuclear safety as a priority high on the agenda of the Partnership and Cooperation Agreements. The priorities of the TACIS programme will be to undertake more concentrated actions to improve power reactor safety, management of radioactive waste, assistance to reactor operators, emergency preparedness and reform of the power sector. Measures will also be taken to support adhesion to and implementation of international conventions on nuclear third party liability, nuclear safety, waste and spent fuel. TACIS will further continue to assist Ukraine in the closure of Chernobyl by the year 2000. The Commission also foresees other priorities, notably in RTD and within the framework of Community assistance to the ISTC (International Science and Technology Centre).?

Nuclear sector, safety: actions for the CEECs and the New independent States NIS

The European Commission should seek an accord on nuclear safety standards and regulation for the construction and operation of nuclear power stations, the fuel cycle and transport conditions with the applicant countries of Central and Eastern Europe (CEEC) and the New Independent States (NIS), within the framework of the International Convention on Nuclear Safety. It should further agree an energy strategy for each of the CEEC and the NIS under the partnership and cooperation agreements with these countries. The accession negotiations with the CEEC should ensure that nuclear safety is guaranteed. The enlargement of the EU must under no circumstances compromise nuclear safety, which is a priority of "Agenda 2000", whereas compliance with its requirements is part of the acquis communautaire. The European Commission is called upon to present, as soon as possible, concrete proposals on improving coordination between the different departments responsible for the EU intervention in the nuclear sector of the CEEC and the NIS, in particular as regards the link between the actions to be taken in the field of research (5th RTD Framework Programme) and external relations (PHARE and TACIS programmes). These are the central demands formulated by the Committee, which endorsed the report drafted by Gordon ADAM (PSE, UK) in connection with the Commission communication on nuclear sector related activities for the CEEC and the NIS. The debate in plenary during the March session in Strasbourg will take place against the background of the Court of Auditors· Special Report No 25/98. The plenary was shocked to hear from Court of Auditors President Mr Friedmann last November that only ·300m had been spent so far for support for nuclear safety in Central and Eastern Europe, although the EU had earmarked some ·850m for that purpose between 1990 and 1997. The Court of Auditors further stressed that, at the end of 1997, it was not possible to judge whether there had been any actual progress in terms of nuclear safety. The Research Committee would like the Commission to draw up a comprehensive report responding in full to the criticisms and questions set out in the

Special Report. The Commission is also called upon to prepare for Parliament a bi-annual report on work in progress by means of Community programmes, assistance by Member States, contribution of EU industry and the Nuclear Safety Account handled by the EBRD. Where shortcomings and abuses in programmes are disclosed, they should be ruthlessly investigated, notified to the European Parliament and measures taken as appropriate. The committee welcomes the formation of the Western European Regulators Association and its contribution to a definition of nuclear safety standards for the EU. It also welcomes the creation of independent authorities to ensure compliance with these standards in the candidate countries. In the committee·s opinion, safety assistance for first generation RBMK and VVER 440/230 reactors, which cannot be upgraded to an internationally acceptable safety level at reasonable cost, must be limited only to short-term safety improvements which are shown to be necessary to keep them in operation. No EURATOM loans for the modernisation of other units should be granted without first securing a clear undertaking that first generation RBMK and VVER 440/230 reactors will be decommissioned once and for all. The agreed upgrading plans for the operational reactors of other types should be speedily completed. The committee finally underlines the importance of giving additional support to national regulatory authorities in the CEEC and the NIS by means of the PHARE and TACIS programmes, provided that these authorities are legally independent and implement a real culture of independence. ?

Nuclear sector, safety: actions for the CEECs and the New independent States NIS

The Parliament adopted its report, drafted by Mr. Gordon ADAM (PES, UK), on nuclear sector-related activities for third countries. MEPs adopted an unamended resolution on the need to improve safety provisions in nuclear reactors in Eastern Europe. The EP calls on the Commission and the EBRD not to grant any funding for first generation reactors except for short-term safety improvements and not to grant any Euratom loans for the modernisation of other reactors until there is a clear commitment to close down first generation reactors considered unsafe.?