

Question for written answer E-002958/2024

to the Commission

Rule 144

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Subject: Adoption of an EU strategy for nuclear fusion

The US and the UK have made significant advancements in nuclear fusion thanks to comprehensive strategies, substantial funding and clear regulatory frameworks designed to stimulate public and private investment. Programmes like the UK's STEP and the US's Bold Decadal Vision for Commercial Fusion Energy have drawn billions in investment, positioning both countries as global leaders in nuclear fusion innovation.

By contrast, the EU lacks a dedicated regulatory framework or long-term strategy for nuclear fusion. This gap risks discouraging investment and hindering progress in this promising energy sector. Nuclear fusion presents a crucial opportunity for Europe to strengthen its energy independence, contribute to climate neutrality beyond 2050 and ensure secure energy supplies for future generations.

Given these considerations, can the Commission clarify:

1. Whether it plans to develop a comprehensive EU strategy for nuclear fusion, alongside the ITER programme, including a clear regulatory framework and safety standards tailored to nuclear fusion, distinct from those applied to nuclear fission?
2. How it intends to encourage private investment in nuclear fusion projects to ensure the EU remains competitive in the global race for innovation?
3. How it plans to leverage EU research programmes, such as Euratom and the upcoming Tenth EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (FP10), to accelerate research, development and innovation in nuclear fusion technologies?

Submitted: 16.12.2024