WRITTEN QUESTION E-1987/03
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to the Commission

Subject: Nuclear safety principles applied to the EU accession countries

We refer to the proposal for a Council Directive setting out basic obligations and general principles concerning the safety of nuclear installations (COM(2003) 32 final). The Directive proposes common safety standards and verification mechanisms to guarantee the application of common methods and criteria with regard to nuclear safety throughout the enlarged EU. The Directive is based on the Nuclear Safety Convention concluded under the auspices of the IAEA and lays down a precise legal framework for the nuclear safety system.

Given the forthcoming harmonization of safety rules and practices in connection with the IAEA safety system, and having regard to the view of the European Parliament as expressed in a resolution on the accession process adopted in June 2002 concerning the open-minded approach that should be adopted to the future of the two nuclear units 3 and 4 at Kozloduy in Bulgaria, and taking account of the observations and recommendations of the IAEA inspectors, could the Commission specify how account is being taken of the view of the European Parliament and the IAEA assessments at the accession talks with Bulgaria?

Given the substantial upgrading which has been done to Kozloduy Units 3 - 4 in the period 1991-2002, which, according to the IAEA Safety Review Mission conducted in June 2002, has addressed all the original safety concerns and has brought the units into line with the IAEA nuclear safety standards, considering, furthermore, the existence of an independent and professionally staffed nuclear regulator in Bulgaria, and noting the Union's demand for an early closure of these reactors in the context of the Accession Conference negotiations on the energy chapter, could the Commission explain how it intends to apply the principles of the Convention on Nuclear Safety to the solution of Kozloduy 3-4 issue?