



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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Dear Chair,

The Commission would like to thank the Seimas for its Opinion with regard to the Nuclear Power Plant under construction in the Astravyets district, Republic of Belarus.

Nuclear safety is a key priority for the EU and the Commission takes the Seimas' concerns regarding the safety of the Astravyets nuclear power plant seriously. The Commission promotes the highest standards of nuclear safety in the EU Member States and worldwide, in particular in the EU's neighbouring countries. In line with its policy, the Commission supports countries in the EU neighbourhood to undergo the nuclear risk and safety assessment process known as the EU Stress Tests, organised under the auspices of the European Nuclear Safety Regulators Group (ENSREG).

Such stress tests were carried out on the Astravyets plant in cooperation with the Belarusian Nuclear Regulatory Authority Gosatomnadzor (GAN). The ENSREG's peer review of the Belarusian stress test report included a site visit performed in March 2018. The peer review report made a number of important recommendations requiring follow up and continued implementation measures. In August 2019, Belarus published its National Action Plan for safety improvement, to address the recommendations made by the peer review team.

The Commission is actively seeking to continue the safety cooperation with Belarus on the review and implementation of its National Action Plan, in order to ensure that the recommendations are implemented in a timely manner.

The Member States and the Commission are aware of the position of the Republic of Lithuania regarding imports of electricity from the Belarusian nuclear power plant. The Commission is facilitating a solution on the regional methodology for capacity calculation with third countries in line with EU law.

*Mr Gediminas Kirkilas
Chair of the EU Affairs Committee
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*cc. Mr Viktoras Pranckietis
President of the Seimas
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The Commission hopes that the clarifications provided in this reply address the issues raised by the Seimas and looks forward to continuing the political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

Maroš Šefčovič
Vice-President

Kadri Simson
Member of the Commission