13 June 2018

NUCLEAR SAFETY AND DECOMMISSIONING

WHY IS THIS A PRIORITY?

The Juncker Commission made security a top priority from day one. And looking ahead, the EU budget must continue to support Member States in their responsibilities and efforts to keep Europeans safe. For 2021-2027, the budget for **security and defence** will be significantly reinforced, with an overall amount of **€27.5 billion**.

As part of this package, nuclear safety is an important area where the Union can bring added value, in particular by continuing to financially support the decommissioning of Soviet era-designed first-generation nuclear reactors in **Lithuania, Bulgaria and Slovakia**, thereby contributing to the health of workers and the general public, and preventing possible environmental degradation. As decommissioning activities in the EU will grow in the next decades, it is also a priority to build further knowledge in a sector which is not fully mature at this stage.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN IN FINANCIAL TERMS?

The EU budget for **nuclear safety and decommissioning** for the 2021-2027 period will be **€1,178 million.**

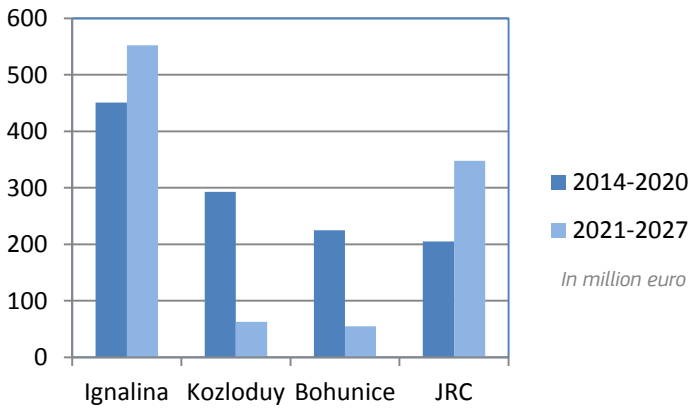
€552 million for **Lithuania** to support the decommissioning of the Ignalina nuclear facility.

€118 million for **Bulgaria** (units 1 to 4 of the Kozloduy nuclear power plant) and **Slovakia** (Bohunice V1 nuclear power plant).

€348 million for the decommissioning and radioactive waste management of the Commission's nuclear research facilities (JRC).

€160 million for general nuclear safety and safeguards actions.

Nuclear decommissioning



Source: European Commission

WHAT WILL THE COMMISSION PROPOSALS ACHIEVE?

- The decommissioning of a nuclear installation such as a power plant or research reactor is the **final step in its lifecycle.** The whole process is complex and lengthy (up to 30 years), and it is carried out with the highest safety standards.
- Following the Chernobyl disaster in 1986, the EU decided that so-called High Power Channel Type Reactors (RBMK) and first-generation Soviet-designed nuclear reactors would need to be shut down. At the time of their accession to the EU, **Bulgaria, Lithuania and Slovakia** agreed to shut down the reactors at the sites of **Kozloduy, Ignalina and Bohunice** respectively. The EU launched the **nuclear decommissioning assistance programmes (NDAP)** to help them.
- These programmes include actions to decontaminate and dismantle the concerned reactors and the JRC research facilities, safely manage the radioactive waste, as well as ensure broad dissemination to all EU Member States of knowledge thereby generated on nuclear decommissioning.
- In all sites concerned, the decommissioning activity has progressed visibly: completion dates are scheduled in **2025 for Slovakia**, **2030 for Bulgaria**, **2038 for Lithuania** and **2038 for the JRC Ispra** site.
- The Commission will also continue with its role of monitoring nuclear materials under **its nuclear safeguards mission**, to guarantee these materials are not misused.

HOW ELSE WILL THE FUTURE EU BUDGET MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THIS AREA?

- Currently more than 90 nuclear reactors have been permanently shut down in the Union, and several more will be shut down in the next decade. Similarly, several other facilities of the nuclear fuel cycle are going to be shut down and will need to be decommissioned. To date only three nuclear power reactors have been fully decommissioned, showing that the level of experience has yet to mature. The programmes' contribution will generate further **highly relevant experience and know-how** that can be of benefit to other decommissioning projects and will result in **increased levels of safety within the EU.**
- This is particularly important for the **decommissioning of specific reactor types**, such as the ones with graphite, for which deferred dismantling strategies appear to be the only option adopted so far by other EU Member States that have graphite reactors in their territory.

NEXT STEPS

02/05 2018	13/06 2018	28-29/ 06/2018	12/09 2018	18-19/ 10/2018	13-14/ 12/2018	21-22/ 03/2019	09/05 2019
Multi-annual Financial Framework beyond 2020 package	**Legislative sectoral proposals for spending programmes**	European Council	**President Juncker's State of the Union Address**	European Council	European Council	European Council	Sibiu Summit