**SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURE – Consultation**

**Follow up to the European Parliament legislative resolution on the Commission proposal for a Council Regulation establishing the nuclear decommissioning assistance programme of the Ignalina nuclear power plant in Lithuania (Ignalina programme); and repealing Council Regulation (EU) No 1369/2013**

**1. Rapporteur:** Rebecca HARMS (Greens/EFA / DE)

**2. Reference numbers:** 2018/0251(NLE) / A8-0413/2018 / P8\_TA-PROV(2019)0035

**3. Date of adoption of the resolution:** 17 January 2019

**4. Legal basis:** 2003 Act of Accession, and in particular Article 3 of Protocol No 4 attached thereto

**5. Competent Parliamentary Committee:** Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE)

**6. Commission's position:**

The Ignalina programme is contributing to a substantial decrease in the level of radiological hazard and risk to the public in general and remarkable progress has been achieved in the dismantling of huge installations and in the processing of radioactive waste. This would not have been possible without a long-standing financial support from the European Union that started in 2001, in the pre-accession stage of Lithuania. Funding decommissioning of Ignalina is a matter of solidarity with Lithuania, and the Commission is strongly attached to this principle.

The European Parliament’s resolution increases the available budget compared to the Commission proposal and increases to 86% the maximum EU co-financing rate (against up to 80% in the Commission proposal). The Commission proposal is designed to provide for sufficient funding to cover the expenditure of all key investment projects under the Final Decommissioning Plan (i.e. construction of temporary facilities for waste management, dismantling of reactor units 1+2 and their equipment dismantling for which a feasibility study is on-going) in the future Multiannual Financial Framework. It is also designed to cover the annual operating costs (60% of total expenses during the next Multiannual Financial Framework - MFF).

The budget is based on the long-term Ignalina Final Decommissioning Plan establishing the overall needs of Ignalina decommissioning until programme completion and agreed by all parties. It allows starting the dismantling of the nuclear reactor core element. Importantly, and in line with recommendations by the Court of Auditors, it sets a maximum level of EU co-financing, which will remove uncertainties and increase ownership of the project by the beneficiary. This first-of-a-kind endeavour of unprecedented scale will generate highly relevant experience and know-how that can be of benefit to other decommissioning projects in the Union and will result in increased levels of safety within the European Union.

The level of co-financing and the overall level of budgetary assistance in the next MFF for the decommissioning of the Ignalina Nuclear Power Plant will be decided by the budgetary authority. The Commission has extensively analysed these issues through independent reviews before tabling its proposal.

The decommissioning of Ignalina nuclear power plant is a first-of-a-kind endeavour of unprecedented scale. It will generate 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 Union. Accordingly, the Commission proposed knowledge sharing with other Member States as a main objective of the programme. This objective is expected to be accomplished with a limited share of the allocated funds (about 0.1%), while contributing to a high EU added value.

Overall, the Commission reserves its position in view of the ongoing negotiations in the Council.