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Metsamor nuclear power station – a vital threat to Europe in the present and the future

Motion for a resolution

tabled by Mr Rafael HUSEYNOV and other members of the Assembly

This motion has not been discussed in the Assembly and commits only those who have signed it

The issue of the immediate shutdown of Metsamor nuclear power station, which is located in a seismically active zone and has been described as the “Armenian Chernobyl” by world media and experts, has repeatedly been raised in the Parliamentary Assembly.

Both the location in a seismically active zone and also the use of first-generation Soviet VVER technology mean Metsamor is a serious threat.

Following the Spitak earthquake in 1988, Metsamor was shut down. However, in spite of widespread international protests, it was put back into operation in 1995, with the second unit being restarted.

Armenia has turned down the EU's call for Metsamor to be shut down by 2011 at the latest and its offer of 100 million euros to help meet the country's energy needs.

According to seismologists, a significant number of small earthquakes of increasing intensity have occurred in the region over the last decade. In the event of a major incident at Metsamor, there would inevitably be destruction both in Armenia and also in all the countries of the South Caucasus, as well as the Near and Middle East. In the worst-case scenario, not only the region but also large parts of Europe would become a disaster zone.

For the sake of the present and future safety of the region and of Europe, and considering that Metsamor nuclear power station in Armenia does not meet modern requirements in terms of location and technical standards, the Assembly recommends the following:

- the appointment of a special rapporteur to conduct urgent and detailed investigations regarding the issue;
- the setting up of a fact-finding team comprising properly specialised parliamentarians;
- the holding on an urgent basis of a colloquy involving recognised experts on the issue from the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture, Local and Regional Affairs and the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights.

Signed (see overleaf)



*Signed*¹:

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1. ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe
EDG: European Democrat Group
EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party
SOC: Socialist Group
UEL: Group of the Unified European Left