



## **Conclusions of the 3<sup>rd</sup> European Nuclear Energy Forum Bratislava, 3 & 4 November 2008**

The third plenary meeting of the European Nuclear Energy Forum has taken place in Bratislava on 3 and 4 November 2008, with a very large support of a high-level audience of around 200 participants. In addition to Messrs Robert Fico and Mirek Topolánek, respectively Prime Minister of the Slovak and Czech Republics, high representatives of Governments, several Members of the European Parliament representing different political groups and the European Economic and Social Committee participated actively, as well as the Presidents and CEOs of major companies, representatives from energy intensive consumers and NGOs as well as other key decision makers and organizations at national and EU level.

Regarding transparency, risks and opportunities of nuclear energy, the following aspects and proposals have in particular been highlighted by the Forum:

### **1. Transparency of nuclear energy**

- Improved transparency, as well as objective and reliable information need to become a priority for all key actors in the nuclear Community in order to build trust and understanding. To this effect the Forum calls for:
  - facilitating national debates on the development of the energy sector which should be open to all interested parties.
- In order to develop an appropriate consultative process in the nuclear field, the Forum underlines the need for:
  - examining the most appropriate modalities for the implementation of the Aarhus Convention in the nuclear field;
  - identifying best practice at local, national and European level.
- The Forum proposes concrete and realistic initiatives at national and European level, in particular:
  - facilitating initiatives from the European Economic and Social Committee, the Group of European Municipalities with nuclear facilities (GMF) and the French National Association of Local Information Commissions (ANCLI) which should be developed during successive EU Presidencies to ensure continuity of the process and to promote exemplary initiatives;
  - establishing a road map on better information and transparency.

### **2. The risks of nuclear energy**

- Nuclear safety is and will remain an absolute priority.
- The Forum supports the establishment of an EU legal framework for nuclear safety responding to the public demand as underlined by all Eurobarometer surveys. This will allow moving from a voluntary and indicative context to legally binding rules, providing additional rights to EU citizens.
- An EU Directive on nuclear safety should be based on the IAEA safety fundamentals and the obligations contained in the International Convention on Nuclear Safety. It should establish the framework for continuously improving the highest possible nuclear safety standards in line with the EU citizens' demand.

- The Forum asks the Commission to develop the highest standards for nuclear safety, security and non proliferation, based upon best available technology and best practices, including best regulatory practices. Europe has to become a model for the rest of the world. The Commission should take into account the inputs from all interested stakeholders, especially the High Level Group on Nuclear Safety and Waste Management, the Western European Nuclear Regulators Association (WENRA), as well as the opinion from the European Nuclear Energy Forum.
- Member States should strengthen the independence and accountability of their nuclear regulators and reinforce their capacity to intervene, in particular at the level of human and financial resources.
- Further efforts in the field of education and training need to be developed establishing the bridge between universities, companies and civil society, taking into account the need for nuclear safety as well as the requirements of nuclear medicine.

### **3. The opportunities of nuclear energy**

- New concepts of the EU electricity grid
  - The electricity network has an essential and complementary role to play in addition to electricity generation.
  - There will be a considerable replacement of the EU electricity generation in the coming decades: more than 50 % of the EU electricity generation capacity needs to be renewed and accompanied by efficiency measures by 2030.
  - In this context, it is time to reconsider the EU grid concept. The new European smart grid should be more secure, efficient and integrated in order to address the challenges of climate change and energy security and should take into account:
    - the need of guaranteeing a reliable, stable and price-worthy provision of energy services to the EU economy,
    - the uptake of an increasing amount of decentralized power plants resulting from the rapid development of renewable energy, and
    - the need of a significant expansion of energy efficiency, which is important for the definition and maintenance of the new grid.
- Translation of all cost aspects of nuclear energy into energy prices for the final consumer. The Forum examines various possible options, amongst others:
  - A first possible option is the Finnish model where large energy intensive industries become shareholders of nuclear power plants, allowing them to benefit from cost related energy prices.
  - Another possible option are negotiations between electricity companies and energy intensive users, as far as these do not impair the flexibility and openness of the European electricity market.

The Forum will continue to invest on energy scenarios for the mid and long term.

*The next plenary session of the European Nuclear Energy Forum will take place in Prague on 28 and 29 May 2009 during the Czech EU Presidency.*