

ENEF Secretariat's Conclusions

1. The role of nuclear in the Energy Union and security of supply

The Forum:

- Welcomes the Strategic Framework and the Roadmap for an Energy Union, as adopted by the Commission on 25 February 2015, which aims at moving Europe towards a more secure, sustainable, competitive and affordable energy system. The Forum participants express their commitment in achieving these objectives.
- Recognises that nuclear energy represents, for a considerable number of EU Member States, a significant share of their energy mix and that it is, for several of these Member States, a vital part of the solution to meet the ambitious EU's energy security and decarbonisation objectives in the most cost effective way. The Forum participants note that the European Union is currently the only global economic actor that generates more than half of its electricity without producing greenhouse gases, with 27% coming from nuclear.
- Stresses the importance of avoiding Member State's dependence on a single fuel supplier and of enhancing the diversification of the energy mix.
- Notes that current market arrangements do not deliver the necessary signals for long-term investment in low carbon technologies. The Forum acknowledges in particular the difficulties faced by potential investors for the financing of new nuclear projects.
- Underlines that the review of the market design will be crucial in dealing with these issues. The Forum invites the industry to fully participate in the forthcoming consultation process announced by the European Commission.
- Welcomes the announcement by the European Commission of the publication of a nuclear Illustrative Programme, in pursuance of Article 40 of the Euratom Treaty, to provide a comprehensive picture of investment needs across the nuclear fuel cycle.
- Calls on operators to define long-term investment strategies that would allow capital-intensive projects to be developed.
- Encourages the nuclear industry to demonstrate the ability to build new nuclear power plants within budget and schedule, while ensuring high safety standards.
- Highlights the need to pursue and further enhance current efforts on Research and Development and invites the industry to make sure that adequate expertise and knowledge, including highly skilled and experienced staff, is available.
- Welcomes the review of the ETS market functioning announced in the Roadmap for the Energy Union, as a means to stimulate low carbon investments.
- Stresses the importance of increasing its interactions with other energy discussion fora and especially with the Berlin forum, with the objective of bringing together different strands of energy policy in a process that will lead to more and longer-term policy coherence. If necessary an ENEF Task Force will be established to address specific and topical issues related to nuclear energy.

2. EU as world leader on nuclear safety

The Forum:

- Underlines the commitment to nuclear safety of all institutional and industrial actors in the European Union.

- Stresses the importance of ensuring that the highest standards for nuclear safety are implemented and continuously improved in the EU, while guaranteeing non-proliferation of nuclear materials. The Forum underlines the importance of promoting these standards internationally, through close cooperation with third countries and relevant international organisations.
- Encourages EU Member States and the Commission to closely cooperate to ensure the full and timely implementation of recently adopted legislation on the basis of the Euratom Treaty, in particular the amended Directive on Nuclear Safety, the Directive on the Safe Management of Spent Fuel and Radioactive Waste and the new Directive on Basic Safety Standards.
- Welcomes the commitment of nuclear operators to adhere to these new legislative requirements as fast as possible and to ensure the timely implementation of the stress tests recommendations.

3. Creating a market for decommissioning in Europe

The Forum:

- Acknowledges that the European nuclear industry is moving to a phase of replacing or prolonging nuclear capacity, with increasing activities in the back-end of the cycle such as radioactive waste management and decommissioning.
- Considers that the ability to perform such activities in a safe manner and at an industrial scale is essential to the credibility of the nuclear energy sector and will contribute to the lowering of costs. The Forum recognises that waste management and decommissioning activities are closely linked and that synergies have to be explored.
- Calls for further harmonisation of the industrial practices, to the extent to which the technological diversity allows so, and encourages the sharing of best practices among Member States with a European perspective in mind.
- Calls for increasing the transparency on the assumptions used to estimate the costs of decommissioning in Europe, including costs of waste management.
- Reminds all Member States of the need of ensuring that dedicated and secured funds are set aside for decommissioning activities and that operators provide sufficient funding by regularly reviewing the adequacy of accrued funds, including assessing scenarios in case of early closure decisions.
- Encourages legislators and regulators to facilitate SMEs' participation to the decommissioning supply chain to increase market efficiency and foster technological development.

4. The crucial involvement of civil society

The Forum:

- Recognises that the general public acceptance deficit is a central issue to be addressed in view of the key role of nuclear energy in the European electricity generation. All actors involved have to strengthen their efforts to provide transparent and complete information about future developments and to engage actively in a dialogue with the civil society as appropriate.
- Welcomes a strong and effective participation of the civil society in the national and European decision making process, in particular during the legislative transposition and implementation phase.
- Encourages the civil society, industry and all local and public actors to engage in debates that are transparent, provides fact-based information on the risks and benefits of nuclear power and discusses the role that it can play with respect to energy security, affordability and climate change mitigation.