



1st European Nuclear Energy Forum Bratislava, 3-4 October 2016

ENEF Secretariat's Conclusions

The Forum

- o Highlights that the choice of energy sources is within the discretion of Member States, while the Commission's role is to ensure the safest possible use of nuclear energy in those Member States choosing to use it.
- o 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. The Forum participants note that the European Union is currently one of only 3 global economic actors that generate more than half of their electricity ~~from low-carbon sources~~, with 27% coming from nuclear.
- o Acknowledges the benefits of involving civil society in discussions of investment priorities in the nuclear energy sector, and increasing transparency.
- o Takes note of the intention of the Commission to focus in the coming years on the timely and correct implementation of legislation on Nuclear Safety, Radiation Protection and Radioactive Waste. All aspects – the safe operation of nuclear power plants, the protection of the population against radioactive releases in case of accidents, and the safe and responsible treatment of waste without imposing undue burdens on future generations – should be treated as a high priority, and the Commission is preparing its first report on the implementation of Directive 2011/70/Euratom the management of radioactive waste and spent fuel later this year or early next year.

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1. The 2016 Nuclear Illustrative Program of the Commission and nuclear energy in the framework of New Market Design

The Forum:

- o Welcomes the publication of the Nuclear Illustrative Programme of the Commission (PINC), which includes an analysis of the current situation of the nuclear energy sector, as well as a presentation of estimated investments until 2050 for the whole life-cycle of nuclear power plants, including investment figures concerning the post-Fukushima safety upgrades of existing nuclear power plants in a transparent way.
- o Welcomes the inclusion of estimated investments in the back-end of the cycle, which includes radioactive waste and decommissioning, since the full picture should be analysed when considering the role of nuclear energy in the energy mix of Member States.
- o Welcomes the views of the European Economic and Social Committee, expressed in their opinion on the PINC on 22 September 2016, and presented to this Forum as well as the input given by other stakeholders from the industry and the general public, especially representatives from civil society.
- o Invites the Commission to deepen its analysis of the timely and adequate availability of funding for decommissioning and waste management, and to continue reporting on the topic in a transparent manner. In this way, the Commission should ensure the application of the polluter-pays principle, without undue burdens being imposed on future generations.
- o Considering the large number of reactors to be decommissioned in the coming years, the Forum asks the Commission to ensure the best possible sharing of knowledge among Member States, operators and regulators, and thereby the highest possible level of safety and cost-effectiveness



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of decommissioning within the EU, and providing, where possible, opportunities for jobs and growth.

- Highlights that for Member States that decide to develop new capacities for nuclear energy, the Commission should ensure (within the limits of its competences) the use of the most advanced available technology, and the operation of nuclear power plants according to the highest nuclear safety standards. Similarly, where the operating lifetime of existing nuclear installations is extended, the Commission should ensure that continuing operation is according to the highest achievable safety standards.
- Notes that current market arrangements do not deliver the necessary signals for long-term investment in low carbon technologies. The Forum acknowledges the difficulties faced by potential investors for the financing of new nuclear projects.
- Recognizes that nuclear energy, while benefiting from relatively low variable costs (fuel, operation and maintenance), faces very high capital expenditures and long lead times, which mean that investors planning nuclear energy projects need to invest large amounts of capital long before the recovery or first return on investment can be expected. Member States' policies have a strong impact on these decisions.
- Recognizes further that stronger coordination between regulators is necessary to continuously improve nuclear safety and to strive for equally high standards.
- Recognizes that the nuclear industry has to demonstrate the ability to build new nuclear power plants within budget and schedule, while ensuring high safety standards.
- Recognizes that, as the Commission highlighted in the 2016 PINC, areas have been identified where cost-effectiveness can be improved, such as with the standardisation of supply chains.
- Recognizes further that stronger coordination of regulators is necessary to make sure that a design deemed safe in one EU country can be used in another EU country in order to ensure equally high levels of safety,

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2. Emergency preparedness & response

The Forum:

- Underlines the commitment to nuclear safety of all institutional and industrial actors in the European Union, as well as the protection of the public and workers from harmful effects of radiation.
- Stresses the importance of ensuring that the highest standards for nuclear safety and emergency preparedness and response are implemented and continuously improved in the EU. 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 new Directive on Basic Safety Standards as well as the amended Nuclear Safety Directive.
- Acknowledges the benefits of involving civil society in preparedness activities, in particular on local level, notably when organising nuclear and radiological emergency exercises, to increase



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transparency and public participation, in order to improve the public's understanding and confidence in the arrangements.

- Emphasizes the importance of risk communication and the need to develop and apply effective methods of communication, as well as information provision to the public.
- Recalls that the Basic Safety Standards Directive requires Member States to cooperate with each other and with third countries in addressing emergencies and to facilitate radiation protection measures, and recognises that work on improved cross-border approaches to coordinate protective actions has been carried out¹.
- Encourages the Commission, working with Member States and international organisations, to develop additional guidance as necessary to support the effective implementation of the Basic Safety Standards Directive, addressing topics such as the contaminated goods and the transition to recovery and remediation after an emergency.

¹ In the framework of HERCA and WENRA.