

Nuclear Alliance meeting – Paris 16 May 2023 – Draft Statement

Following their meetings on February 28th and March 28th 2023, Ministers and high-level representatives of 16¹ countries convened in Paris with the EU Commissioner for Energy on May 16th 2023 to discuss avenues for cooperation in the field of nuclear energy. As 2023 marks the 65th anniversary of the Euratom Treaty, they reasserted their commitment to the pursued strengthening of European cooperation in the field of nuclear energy as an important component of Europe's energy and climate ambition.

During this meeting, they emphasized on the key contribution of nuclear energy, as an addition to renewable energy, to decarbonise Europe's energy production and collectively reach climate neutrality by 2050 at the latest. They particularly stressed the fact that nuclear energy provides pilotable capacity and hence significantly secures Europe's fossil-free electricity supply. They call on the European Union and international partners to take into account the contribution of all affordable, reliable, fossil-free and safe energy sources to achieve climate neutrality by 2050.

Ministers discussed the positive impact of nuclear energy on the European economy: they acknowledged that nuclear power may provide up to 150 GW of electricity capacity by 2050 to the European Union (vs roughly 100 GW today). This represents the equivalent of up to 30 to 45 new build large reactors and Small Modular Reactors (SMR) in the EU and such new projects would also ensure that the current share of 25% electricity production be maintained in the EU for nuclear energy.

In this spirit, the United Kingdom is also increasing its plans for deployment of civil nuclear to up to 24GW by 2050 (around 25% of its projected electricity demand), and has ambitious plans for new large-scale GW and advanced nuclear (including Small Modular Reactors).

In terms of impact on jobs and growth, the European nuclear sector expects to create in the EU, by 2050, 300,000 additional, new direct, indirect and induced jobs. Taking into account retirements, the nuclear energy sector would recruit more than 450,000 employees in the EU over the next 30 years, including more than 200,000 highly skilled people.

The European nuclear sector expects an increase of nuclear industry contribution to GDP of an additional 92b€ [1.5% – 2% on the EU economy] and an additional 33 b€ trade surplus revenue in the EU, compared with maintaining a capacity of 100 GW by 2050, and including through substantially reduced fossil imports.

Ministers and high-level representatives discussed the need to ensure that for nuclear energy and radioisotopes, Europe keeps reducing its dependencies on Russian suppliers and they also discussed the need to guarantee the security of supply of nuclear materials, particularly nuclear fuel, for power and non-power uses. They reiterated the importance of working together and with the EU Commission, and supporting the objectives of likeminded international efforts such as through the G7, to achieve this objective by bringing about a strong European nuclear industry.

Ministers and high-level representatives of EU Member States exchanged with the European Commission and encouraged it to recognize nuclear energy in the EU's energy strategy and relevant policies, including by proposing relevant initiatives and recognizing Member States' efforts and

¹ Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Hungary, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Sweden, United Kingdom as invitee and Italy as observer

commitment to decarbonize their energy mix with nuclear energy alongside all other fossil-free sources of energy in line with the transition toward climate neutrality.

Ministers and high-level representatives agreed to work together on a road map to deepen their cooperation and trigger the involvement of the European Union in the field of nuclear energy, based on the following pillars:

- Positioning of nuclear power in the European energy strategy
 - Ensuring decarbonization, energy security and grid stabilization on a European scale, taking into account in particular the evolution of Member States' energy strategies
 - Promoting better conditions for the development and deployment of new nuclear energy capacity in the EU, including better access to financing
- Safety and waste management
 - Upholding the highest safety standards, in line with international best practice
 - Encouraging exchanges between Regulatory Bodies, enhancing the broad knowledge base of regulating current and future generations of reactor designs.
 - Promoting the exchange of best practices, experience and lessons learned on spent fuel shipment and reprocessing for further recycling of nuclear materials, transmutation, and radioactive waste management with a particular focus on waste disposal solutions, including deep geological repositories.
- Industrialization and sovereignty
 - Strengthening the Union's strategic capabilities across the European nuclear value chain, including security of supply of nuclear fuels and radioisotopes.
 - Strengthening industrial cooperation and the role of the European Union in the successful deployment of nuclear production capacities for power and non-power uses.
 - Strengthening industrial cooperation in the field of nuclear waste management to foster the creation of a European value chain in waste management and to promote life-cycle thinking for future nuclear energy production capacities.
- Skills : Ensuring the development of a skilled and diverse nuclear workforce for all nuclear applications by exploring joint initiatives
- Innovation : Promoting research and innovation, in particular for prolongation of existing nuclear reactors, small modular reactors and advanced modular reactors as well as development of nuclear fuels and decommissioning of nuclear facilities.