

From: [VON DER LEYEN Ursula \(CAB-VON DER LEYEN\)](#)
To: [CAB VON DER LEYEN ARCHIVES](#)
Subject: FW: 46 environmental NGOs request that nuclear power be better considered in the European taxonomy in the name of climate
Date: samedi 27 mars 2021 09:46:16
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.gif](#)
[image003.gif](#)
[image004.png](#)

Ursula VON DER LEYEN

President



European Commission

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From: Les Voix du Nucléaire <[REDACTED]@voixdunucleaire.org>
Sent: Saturday, March 27, 2021 1:51 AM
To: VON DER LEYEN Ursula (CAB-VON DER LEYEN) <[REDACTED]@ec.europa.eu>
Cc: [REDACTED] CAB-VON DER LEYEN) <[REDACTED]@ec.europa.eu>; [REDACTED] (CAB-VON DER LEYEN) <[REDACTED]@ec.europa.eu>; [REDACTED] (CAB-VON DER LEYEN) <[REDACTED]@ec.europa.eu>
Subject: 46 environmental NGOs request that nuclear power be better considered in the European taxonomy in the name of climate

Dear Ms. President of the European Commission,

As the discussions on the European taxonomy for sustainable investments are unfolding, we turn to you, as citizens of this world and inhabitants of this planet who care deeply for the well-being of people and nature, because **this well-being is threatened by the European Union's continued reliance on fossil fuels.**

Like you, we are committed to offering younger generations a world as welcoming and resilient as the one we inherited, with a stable climate. But disruptions to nature are becoming more and more acute and their effects more palpable. Growing uncertainties threaten our future.

Scientific assessments have made clear that nuclear energy is needed to address the related causes and the challenges ahead of these disruptions.

Despite this, the limited recognition this low carbon, dispatchable energy source receives from the European Commission is at best paradoxical, and certainly counterproductive.

The irrationality of some decisions being taken by several Member States – and increasingly also the Commission - targeting the normal development of nuclear energy can be traced back to the media and political treatment of nuclear, as was again recently demonstrated during the Fukushima Daichi accident commemorations and the repeated false claims about its effects on health. **Its continuous multi-faceted misrepresentation has hindered the deployment of nuclear power, the European Union's first source of low-carbon energy, and forced us to keep fossil fuel plants online, hampering our efforts to fight climate change, preserve Europe's energy sovereignty and reduce air pollution.**

The public has been misled by rigged information about nuclear, with opinion driven by fear, leading to a situation where policies and politicians seek to, and succeed, in shutting down clean and safe long-term nuclear energy sources, and cancel planned ones.

Populations have accepted the systematic obstruction of nuclear energy development because the scientific evidence continues to be overshadowed by the myths built around it.

Pollution from fossil fuels is the clear and present danger we face. Fossil fuels are the ones responsible for continuing carbon emissions and air pollution, claiming 1.5 million lives every year in Europe alone.

The European Union is responsible for its greenhouse gas emissions as the second consumer market in the world (12 % of global emissions). It is a major player through its regulations and standards, its influence in international transport regulations, as the largest donor of development aid and as the largest contributor to sustainable finance. Outside and within, it promotes its vision and technical approach of how to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

We, as European citizens, granted the European Union the wonderful capacity to undertake actions with decisive impacts on the future. The decisions that it makes regarding the energy transition will be critical for decades to come and impact millions.

If we fail to appropriately include nuclear energy, we, as members of the European Union, will have to bear responsibility for promoting a strategy that is clearly inadequate to decarbonize our economies and hence preserve climate and populations.

We, as citizens of the world, ask for the European Union to recognize the value and importance of its leadership and take responsibility for it.

Because energy is the lifeblood of our societies, we want to ensure that this crucial issue is addressed at the level required by the challenges we face.

Dear Mrs. Von der Leyen, we ask that all low-carbon energy sources be considered equally in the on-going and future discussions held at the European Commission level, including on the taxonomy for sustainable investments. We ask that the EU supports evidence-based assessment of all options at hand. We ask that scientifically accurate facts about nuclear

energy be told.

We look forward to witnessing the European Union promote, under your leadership, balanced and considered decisions to the benefit of all its people, restoring the enlightened approach to science that made it the great union of countries that it is.

Respectfully,

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European Union organisations

Voices of Nuclear (France), 100TWh (Belgium), Association des Écologistes Pour le Nucléaire (France), Atomida (Denmark), Belgian Citizen Initiative for Nuclear Energy (Belgium), Cérémé (France), Comitato Nucleare e Ragione (Italy), Deutscher Arbeitgeber Verband e.V. (Germany), Ecomodernisme (Belgium), e-Lise Foundation (Netherlands), FOTA4Climate (Poland), Fundacja Aquila (Poland), GISOC (France), Horizon238 (Belgium), Instytut Zrównoważonej Energetyki (Poland), Mothers for Nuclear (Germany, Austria, Switzerland), Nuklearia (Germany), Ökomoderne e.V. (Germany), Patrimoine nucléaire et climat (France), Progrès nucleaire (France), Saving Our Planet (France), Sauvons le Climat (France), Stichting Energie transitie en Kernenergie (Netherlands), Stowarzyszenie Ekologów na Rzecz Energii Nuklearnej (Poland), Suomen Ekomodernistit ry (Finland), Svenska Ekomodernisterna (Sweden), UARGA (France)

Rest of the World organisations

Alberta Nuclear Nucleus (Canada), Alpas Pinas (Philippines), Bright New World (Australia), Californians for Green Nuclear Power (USA), Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness (USA), Climate Coalition (USA), Ecomodernist Society of North America (USA), Energy Reality Project (Canada), Environmental Progress (USA), Generation Atomic (USA), Get Into Nuclear (UK), Go Green with Nuclear (Taiwan), Green Nuclear Student Alliance (South Korea), Klimavenner for Kjernekraft (Norway), Mothers for Nuclear (USA), Nuclear Mythbusters (Taiwan), Nuclear New York (USA), Stand Up For Nuclear (non affiliated), TerraPraxis (UK)

Ms. Ursula VON DER LEYEN
President
European Commission

March 26th, 2021

Title: 46 environmental NGOs request that nuclear power be better considered in the European taxonomy in the name of climate

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² The World Bank, « Households and NPISHs Final consumption expenditure (current US\$) | Data ». Available at: data.worldbank.org

³ P. Friedlingstein et al., « Global Carbon Budget 2020 », *Earth System Science Data*, December 2020. Available at: essd.copernicus.org

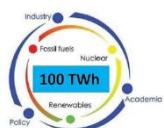
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European Union organisations

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Association des Écologistes
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Atomida
Denmark



Belgian Citizen
Initiative for Nuclear
Energy
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Poland

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Fundacja Aquila
Poland



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Belgium



Instytut Zrównoważonej
Energetyki
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Mothers for Nuclear
*Germany, Austria,
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Nuklearia
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Nuklearia

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Stowarzyszenie
Ekologów na Rzecz
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USA



Nuclear Mythbusters
Taiwan

Nuclear New York
USA



Stand Up For Nuclear
non affiliated



TerraPraxis
UK



Mme Ursula VON DER LEYEN
Présidente
Commission Européenne

Le 26 mars 2021

Titre: 46 ONG environnementales demandent que le nucléaire soit mieux pris en compte dans la taxonomie européenne, au nom du climat

Mme la Présidente de la Commission Européenne,

Alors que les discussions sur la taxonomie des investissements durables se poursuivent, nous, citoyens européens, soucieux du bien-être des personnes et de la nature, nous tournons vers vous car **ce bien-être est menacé par la dépendance de l'Union européenne aux combustibles fossiles.**

Comme vous, nous voulons offrir aux jeunes générations, nos enfants, petits-enfants et ceux qui viendront après eux, un monde aussi accueillant et résilient que celui que nous avons trouvé, au climat aussi stabilisé que possible. Mais les perturbations sont de plus en plus fortes et leurs effets palpables. Crises et incertitudes pèsent de manière croissante sur l'avenir.

Les connaissances scientifiques nous permettent d'identifier précisément les causes de ces maux et font apparaître sans ambiguïté le besoin d'un recours à l'énergie nucléaire pour y faire face.

Malgré cela, le soutien limité que cette source d'énergie semble rencontrer au niveau de la Commission européenne nous apparaît aussi paradoxale que regrettable, en particulier dans un contexte de Green Deal.

De nombreuses décisions, au niveau de l'Union européenne et des États membres, affectant sévèrement le rôle que peut jouer l'énergie nucléaire, peuvent être reliées au traitement médiatique et politique dont elle est l'objet, comme en témoigne les déclarations trompeuses concernant les effets sanitaires de l'accident de Fukushima Daïchi dont nous venons de commémorer le 10ème anniversaire. **La représentation faussée dont l'énergie nucléaire est l'objet contribue à empêcher son déploiement, et ce, alors qu'elle est la 1^{ère} source d'énergie bas carbone en Europe et qu'elle présente un bilan sanitaire parmi les meilleurs.**

Ces fausses informations ont perturbé le débat démocratique au point de pousser de nombreux États à mettre à l'arrêt des centrales nucléaires propres et sûres, construites pour plusieurs décennies, ainsi qu'à annuler des projets de construction. **Ce recul du nucléaire a imposé le maintien en activité des centrales fossiles, pénalisant nos efforts pour lutter contre le changement climatique, préserver la souveraineté de l'Europe et bénéficier d'un air plus sain.**

Si les populations semblent accepter qu'une obstruction politique au développement de l'énergie nucléaire se matérialise régulièrement en dépit des preuves scientifiques, c'est parce que ces preuves continuent d'être éclipsées par les mythes construits autour de cette énergie par ses opposants.

C'est la pollution due aux énergies fossiles qui est le danger concret et immédiat auquel nous sommes confrontés, pas la radioactivité.

Ce sont les énergies fossiles, charbon, pétrole et bien sûr gaz, qui sont responsables en Europe de la grande majorité de nos émissions de gaz à effet de serre et du décès prématuré de 1,5 million de personnes chaque année¹.

L'Union européenne, deuxième marché mondial², est responsable de 12 % des émissions de gaz à effet de serre de la planète³. Le poids de ses normes et standards, son influence dans la réglementation internationale des transports, son rôle de premier donateur d'aide au développement et premier contributeur de la finance durable font d'elle un acteur à l'influence déterminante. Cette influence, elle l'exerce aussi bien auprès des Etats membres qu'à l'échelle mondiale, promouvant sa vision et ses choix techniques sur la manière de répondre au changement climatique.

Nous, citoyens européens, avons donné à l'Union européenne sa formidable capacité d'action et d'influence. Les décisions qu'elle prendra en notre nom concernant la transition énergétique impacteront les décennies à venir et la vie de millions de personnes.

Nous, citoyens européens, serons responsables, si nous persistons à pénaliser le nucléaire et son développement, d'avoir soutenu et promu une stratégie de transition énergétique déjà notoirement insuffisante pour préserver le climat et les populations.

Nous, citoyens du monde, demandons à l'Union européenne d'assumer la responsabilité de son leadership.

Parce que l'énergie est vitale pour nos sociétés, nous voulons nous assurer que cette question essentielle est traitée à l'aune des défis auxquels nous sommes confrontés.

Mme la Présidente de la Commission Européenne, nous vous demandons, avec autant de conviction que d'humilité, que toutes les sources d'énergie à faible émission carbone soient équitablement prises en considération dans les discussions en cours ; nous demandons que l'Union soutienne l'évaluation objective des options qui s'offrent à elle ; nous demandons enfin que les faits concernant l'énergie nucléaire soient reconnus et partagés sans parti pris.

Nous espérons vivement voir l'Union européenne, sous votre direction, prendre des décisions équilibrées au bénéfice de tous, et retrouver l'approche éclairée et scientifique digne de ce qu'elle est et doit rester : un ensemble plus grand que la somme des pays qui la composent.

Respectueusement,

¹ Vohra, Karn et al., « Global mortality from outdoor fine particle pollution generated by fossil fuel combustion: Results from GEOS-Chem », *Environmental Research*, avril 2021. Disponible sur le site: www.sciencedirect.com

² The World Bank, « Households and NPISHs Final consumption expenditure (current US\$) | Data ». Disponible sur le site: data.worldbank.org

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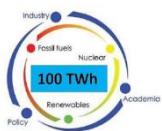
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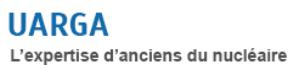
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