



27 July 2021

## Press release

### Major trade unions in the energy sector from 10 EU countries to the President of the European Commission

## It's time now to include nuclear energy in a delegated act of the European taxonomy

Major trade unions of Belgian, Bulgarian, Czech, Finnish, French, Hungarian, Romanian, Swedish, Slovakian and Slovenian employees in the energy sector have sent a new collective letter to Mrs Von der Leyen, President of the European Commission, to urge the Commission to include nuclear energy in a fair and efficient way by a quasi-simultaneous promulgation of the delegated taxonomy acts.

This second letter is a follow-up of a first initiative dated 28 January 2021 from 11 energy trade unions of six European countries asking for the inclusion of nuclear power in the European taxonomy on the basis of neutral technology and science based evidences, and insisting on the key role of nuclear energy in enabling Europe to achieve its carbon neutrality. New countries have now joined this second initiative asking for the respect of a fair treatment of various energy sectors and their employees.

Since this first letter, the European Commission's Joint Research Center has concluded that nuclear should be included in the taxonomy and two other expert groups have agreed that the existing European legal framework provides adequate protection in terms of public health and environment in the EU.

Furthermore, seven European heads of states have pointed out in a letter to the Commission that discrimination against nuclear power would also lead to a significant loss of high-quality jobs in many European countries in addition to drawbacks for low-carbon energy production. There are serious concerns about the reliability of the supply of electrical power. Extension of existing nuclear and new nuclear development are planned in several EU countries and would be seriously affected in their financing if nuclear energy is not included in the taxonomy.

The European Union can in no way afford to deprive itself of proven and available low-carbon solutions as it wants to achieve its climate neutrality objective and not lose the leadership battle to the US and other states.



Our trade union federations also point out that the energy mix falls within the competence of the Member States, each of which has its own geographical, historical and industrial context, and must therefore be able to determine the range of carbon tools adapted to their context and make their own technological choices.

Therefore it is of utmost importance that the European taxonomy respects technological neutrality and scientific consensus and the taxonomy rules should apply equally to all technologies.

Our organizations are committed to the success of European climatic ambitions and « Fit for 55 » agenda, and we want to contribute to the European objectives of energy security, economic recovery, industrial relocation, energy and industrial sovereignty, in a socially just and sustainable way to achieve Europe's climate objectives.

***“ The trade unions call again on a dialogue with the purpose of nuclear energy to play its full potential and build an economically efficient and socially just carbon free Europe by 2050. ”***