

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, PUBLIC HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY II

The two-sided coin of nuclear energy: How should the cross-border risks posed by nuclear power plants be regulated within and on Europe's borders whilst ensuring energy security?

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The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Fully aware of the lack of common policies related to nuclear power plants (NPPs) in Europe creating tensions between nations,
- B. Recognising that energy falls under the shared competencies of the EU and thus Member States have control over the placement of NPPs,
- C. Approving the joint effort of some border countries which share NPPs and their potentials,
- D. Noting with approval the classification of nuclear energy as a reliable carbon-free source of energy in the 2015 Paris Agreement¹,
- E. Welcoming Research and Innovation programmes of the European Commission, such as Horizon 2020,
- F. Noting with concern that the new Generation IV reactors² have developed slower than initial plans indicated despite being well-funded,
- G. Bearing in mind that the marginal costs of constructing NPPs are higher than those of constructing fossil fuel plants, whilst the costs of keeping plants running is lower in NPPs,
- H. Acknowledging the fact that NPPs have some of the lowest levels of CO₂ emissions and highest levels of energy production compared to other types of power plants (PPs),
- I. Noting with regret that renewable sources of energy are highly dependent on weather conditions and thus are not sustainable for providing base-load electricity,

¹ **The Paris Agreement** is an agreement within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) dealing with greenhouse gas emissions mitigation, adaptation and finance starting in the year 2020.

² **Generation IV reactors** are a set of nuclear reactor designs currently being researched for commercial applications. They are motivated by a variety of goals including improved safety, sustainability, efficiency, and cost.



- J. Taking into account the lack of public awareness of and interest in nuclear energy due to past accidents, resulting in unclear and unrealistic perception of its potential,
- K. Bearing in mind that NPPs are potential targets for terrorist attacks;

Cross-border relations and policies

1. Urges the European Commission to issue a directive which
 - a) requires EU Member States to build their future NPPs in accordance with bilateral agreements with neighbouring states which establish proper evacuation radii appropriate to the size of the countries in question,
 - b) enforces said evacuation radii as the minimal distance between the border and the NPP;
2. Calls upon the European Commission to issue a recommendation for enhanced cooperation between neighbouring EU Member States in the field of nuclear energy sharing by following the example of the Croatia-Slovenia relations;
3. Calls upon the Conferences of the Parties (COP) to amend Article 2.1 of the 2015 Paris Agreement as indicated in Annex 1;
4. Requests all EU Member States to ratify the 2015 Paris Agreement;
5. Re-emphasises the urgency for EU Member States' implementation of the EURATOM Treaty Article 40³ on nuclear waste management;

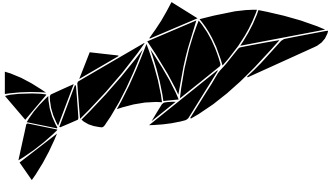
Research and Development

6. Calls upon the Directorate General Energy (DG ENER) to further allocate funding to the development of new nuclear technologies, especially to Generation IV reactors;
7. Urges national governments to provide state aid to nuclear power research and development institutes which work specifically on Generation IV reactors and nuclear fusion;
8. Encourages major European nuclear research centres, such as the European Organisation for Nuclear Research (CERN) and Cambridge Nuclear Energy Centre, to collaborate in the development of new nuclear technologies, especially Generation IV reactors;

Safety and Security

9. Expresses its appreciation for the liability measures provided by the European Liability Insurance for the Nuclear Industry (ELINI) concerning the insurance of inhabitants who live close to NPPs;
10. Encourages European Nuclear Safety Regulators Group (ENSREG) to include monitoring of the ecological impacts of NPPs in addition to their safety and security checks;

³ **Article 40 of the Euratom Treaty** provides an overview of investments in the EU for all the steps of the nuclear lifecycle.



Environmental and Social

11. Emphasises the use of nuclear power and phasing out of fossil fuels in the European energy mix by
 - a) calling upon the Directorate-General Environment (DG ENV) to increase the carbon tax⁴,
 - b) inviting EU Member States to lower the kilowatt-hour tax on nuclear energy;
12. Encourages Member States to introduce teaching on the importance on different forms of energy production in national school curricula.

Voting results **Did not pass**

In favour: 108
Against: 110
Abstentions: 1
Absent: 4

⁴ **A tax on fossil fuels**, especially those used by motor vehicles, intended to reduce the emission of carbon dioxide.



ANNEX

Paris Agreement Article 2.1 states that:

“This Agreement, in enhancing the implementation of the Convention, including its objective, aims to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change, in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty, including by:

- (a) Holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2 °C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels, recognizing that this would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change;
- (b) Increasing the ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and foster climate resilience and low greenhouse gas emissions development, in a manner that does not threaten food production; and
- (c) Making finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development.”

(the committee proposes) and

(d) Recommending that states prioritise nuclear energy in filling the energy gap left by phasing out of fossil fuels”