



Voices of
Nuclear

The Voices' handbook for an Open Letter



To our fellow actors of the
European pronuclear civil society

A step-by-step walk-through
on how to engage European
MEPs on the “Green
Taxonomy”

As you may know, the European Parliament decided to disqualify nuclear power from entering the list of Taxonomy of sustainable economic activities labelling what is “green” and thus deserves attention (in form of investment but also inevitably preferred treatment, priority handling etc.).

This taxonomy will be instrumental to the approach the European Union will develop in its fight against climate change in all aspects and can run deep in the decision and policymaking.

The situation is critical. All of us, activists, employees, supporters of the contribution of nuclear to the European electricity mix must decisively act.

We must demonstrate our support and vigilance that our right to good

and even better living conditions are respected in the decision-making process of the European Union and our state governments alike.

This essential piece of future climate and finance legislation, with the potential to be applied to all public and private decision-making, follows two parallel paths: one technical meant to provide objective elements of decision to the other one, the political path:

⌘ *The technical path is the [report](#) elaborated by the Technical Expert Group (TEG) who launched a [consultation](#) ending today before it renders its conclusions end of 2019.*

⌘ *The political path is the decision that will result from the parliament discussing with the ministers' council based on the TEG's conclusions.*

As of today, parliament and TEG's, both reject nuclear as a sustainable investment, closing many doors not only to the renewal of the European fleet but also to its sustained operations and lifetime extensions. Hence endangering further not only the climate but also Europe's energy independence, security and the economic health of European nuclear industry.

⌘ *On the political path, In May 2019, the Voices of Nuclear wrote an Open ter to newly elected French MEPs: nuclear is not an enemy but one of the key solution to combat climate change.*

Thank you for finding herewith the tools we developed and that we make available to you so you can engage your own MEPs.

If you decide to redirect to the www.voicesofnuclear.org or to the [open-letter](#) directly, [let us know](#) so we can make appear elements representing your country and/or your organization if you have one.

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What is this issue we need to coalesce on and why are we suddenly acting so serious?

On 28 March 2019, the European Parliament chose to exclude nuclear energy from the future list of green investments as a “power generation activity producing non-renewable waste“. An expression that objectively means nothing.

This exclusion is a political choice and not an environmental one. If included in the law, it would deprive nuclear projects of the support essential to any infrastructure project, which only confident investors can provide, and hence prove very detrimental. If this provision were to pass, it would have a concrete and short-term negative impact on:

- ⌘ the European Union’s chances of complying with the Paris Agreements, Europe’s energy security. The second largest economy in the world would become even more dependent on the three energy giants, the United States, Russia and China (which produce 84% of the production of rare earths needed for renewables),

- ⌘ the European economy and energy security and independence will suffer a blow that the “green” economy will not be able to compensate.

1. Write your open letter

Chose relevant information, facts and numbers to put in your Open Letter: that will be the arguments they will need to be convinced to look further into the issue and to convince themselves.

Dear Members of the European Parliament,

On March 28th, 2019, the European Parliament opened the way to the exclusion of nuclear energy from the list of "green" investments. This list is meant to specifically guide future funding and associated measures toward environmentally sustainable measures to combat climate change. If ratified, this decision would endanger Europe's energy security and the European Union's already slim chances of complying with the Paris Agreement.

Nuclear energy is one of the lowest carbon emitting energy sources we have. It emits only 12 grams of CO₂ equivalent per kWh, the same as wind power. Over its life cycle, this is four times less than solar energy. But above all - and this is what makes it a necessary solution for climate change - it emits only 12 grams of CO₂ equivalent per kWh, the same as wind power. Over its life cycle, this is four times less than solar energy. But above all - and this is what makes it a necessary solution for climate change - it emits 68 times less greenhouse gases per unit of electrical energy delivered than modern coal-fired power plants, and 40 times less than modern gas-fired power plants.

In the summary for decision-makers of its latest report published in 2018, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) highlighted four scenarios to contain global warming below 1.5°C.

All these scenarios for the stabilization of climate change foresee an increase in the share of nuclear energy by 2050: at least by 98% and up to 501%.

Containing climate change is a literally vital issue for a large part of the world's population in the coming decades. Success is far from certain, because fossil fuels are still the fastest growing energy source. The contribution of the atom to climate stability can be significant in reversing this trend.

Nuclear power is the world's 2nd largest low-carbon energy source, and one of the few (along with hydro power) that can be scaled to fit demand. Excluding it from the list of "green" investments would significantly reduce the European Union's chances of meeting its greenhouse gas emission targets and ensuring a desirable future for its younger generations.

Finally, nuclear energy is the guarantor of a significant part of our energy security and independence, as we face fossil resource depletion, for the world in general and for Europe in particular. Thanks to the strategic fuel reserves that States can build up, equivalent to many years of consumption, nuclear energy contributes to European resilience in an increasingly unstable world.

Therefore, we are asking the Members of the newly elected European Parliament to reconsider this decision.

Asking for the reintegration of nuclear energy into the list of sustainable investments may represent a difficult political challenge. Nevertheless, it is a pragmatic and necessary measure, adapted to the challenges of the planet and respectful of our heritage and of our future.

Beyond its strategic importance for Europe's future, it would also be a strong message, and a useful reminder on the international scene, that European leadership in climate policy is both realistic and legitimate.

Your name, Your organization if you have one

2. Prepare a list of MEPs to whom you wish to send your message

We suggest you choose those who will be open on this question. You are trying to convince them to reverse a decision from the previous Parliament, so you want the pro to be alert and the con to keep busy on other matters.

That is why at the French front we decided to put aside Green and Far-left MEPs, these parties being historic anti-nuclear parties and advocating getting out of nuclear in their current platform.

Moreover, most of us being environmental activists, we did think that Green parties have other crucial battles to fight and surely could find a better use of their time.

3. Engage the MEP personally, one-by-one

Our Open Letter was sent as an attachment to the email sent personally and individually to each of the newly elected French members of the European Parliament (MEPs) by the Voices of Nuclear. Of course, any additional personalization of the email is encouraged if you know the person, heard them speak, etc.

Eventually, think of asking a confirmation of reading.

Suggestion was provided to all our members to add their own voice to that of the Voices with a personal, cordial and polite email to the MEPs whom you particularly wish to encourage on this matter.

We provided everything needed so that whoever wanted to send a personal email, in addition to that of the Voices could do so, with the least effort.

Here are the standard models of the MEPs' email addresses:

name.surname@europarl.europa.eu

name-name.surname@europarl.europa.eu

name.surname-surname@europarl.europa.eu

Here is the email we sent to accompany the Open Letter and sum up the mechanics at play and what we expected of the MEP's:

Dear Members of the European Parliament,

Nuclear energy accounts for 50% of carbon-free energy in Europe.

Our association, Voices of Nuclear, aims to help set the record straight on nuclear energy and hence contribute to rationalise decisions regarding it.

In view of recent political decisions in France and in Europe, we take the liberty of writing to you today to bring to your attention the importance of a provision (Taxonomy of sustainable economic activities) on which you will be called to give your opinion in future discussions between the Parliament and the Council.

On 28 March 2019, the European Parliament chose to exclude nuclear energy from the future list of green investments as a “power generation activity producing non-renewable waste“. An expression that objectively means ... nothing.

This exclusion is a political choice and not an environmental one. If included in the law, it would deprive nuclear projects of the support essential to any infrastructure project, which only confident investors can provide, and hence prove very detrimental.

If this provision were to pass, it would have a concrete and short-term negative impact on:

- ⌘ the European Union’s chances of complying with the Paris Agreement
- ⌘ the Europe Union’s energy security and independence. The second largest economy in the world would become even more dependent on the three energy giants, the United States, Russia and China (which produce 84% of the production of rare earths needed for renewables),
- ⌘ [to be replaced by a paragraph on a key issue in your country related to nuclear] the French economy, which would be directly affected, as nuclear power is the 3rd largest industry in France with 220,000 direct jobs, 2,600 companies and 6 billion euros in export sales.

We thank you for having chosen to represent [to be replaced by a wording relating to your country] the French people in the European Parliament, including the 220,000 direct workers in the nuclear sector and all those whose activity and employment they sustain and hope you will do your best to allow reassessment of the Parliament decision on this critical issue.

4. Share your initiative on social networks and with your acquaintances

The more repetition of the same message they get, the more it is likely to pass.

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Hope for the best!

But don't measure your success by the number of personal responses you get, it is not how it works. 😊

6. Bonus: plan a press conference

We decided to organise a press breakfast. That way, we made sure our message was heard.

Let us know if you need help on that!!

GO CLEAN, GO NUCLEAR

On the Voices of Nuclear website

ENG: [Open letter to MEPs](#)

FR: [Lettre ouverte aux nouveaux deputes](#)

Myrto

On the behalf of the Voices team

