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FORATOM welcomes agreement on EU Nuclear Energy Forum

The European nuclear industry has welcomed the announcement made by EU Energy Commissioner Andris Piebalgs that the Czech and Slovakian governments have agreed upon a formula for co-hosting ENEF, the EU's Nuclear Energy Forum mandated to provide a roadmap for the continued development of nuclear energy in the Community. It has also reiterated its full support for helping ENEF to promote an inclusive, transparent and non-ideological debate on the key contribution that nuclear makes to the EU's energy future. The nuclear industry also sees ENEF as an important instrument for influencing future EU energy policy-making.

The agreement reached by the Czech and Slovak governments to co-host ENEF will provide a sound basis for launching a comprehensive, open and ideology-free debate on nuclear energy's key contribution to securing the EU's energy future, according to FORATOM (the trade association representing Europe's nuclear industry). The EC announcement that ENEF will be co-hosted in Bratislava and Prague has been welcomed by the European nuclear industry. Santiago San Antonio, Director General of FORATOM, declared today: "We applaud the EC's initiative to set up ENEF. This announcement brings its creation a step closer. We also congratulate Commissioner Piebalgs' efforts in driving through the process, as well as those of the Czech and Slovak authorities in reaching this historic agreement. Our industry will continue to lend its full support to the ENEF initiative and looks forward to playing a lead role in it achieving its objectives."

Thanks to ENEF nuclear energy will, for the first time, have an official EU-endorsed forum for debating its pivotal contribution to and role in the EU's energy future. It will now be treated on a level footing with other major energy sources that have had similar forums for some time. Commissioner Piebalgs' emphasis that there should be "an open debate without any taboo" on the role of nuclear energy also sends out a clear message that the days of nuclear energy being marginalised outside the mainstream energy debate - essentially for ideological reasons - are gone. Nuclear energy's contribution, as part of an overall energy mix that includes renewables, to ensuring security of energy supply and combating climate change has now been officially recognised.

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