

Brussels, 9 October 2008

Nuclear part of Europe's low-carbon energy future, says EU President

Brussels, 9 October: Speaking yesterday at a seminar in Brussels entitled *Paving the Way for Europe's Low-Carbon Energy Future*, EU President José-Manuel Barroso emphasised how the EU must significantly increase its low-carbon energy production - including nuclear, renewables and clean coal - if it is to meet its climate change and energy goals and help “transform Europe into a low-carbon economy.”

EU President José-Manuel Barroso used yesterday's seminar entitled *Paving the Way for Europe's Low-Carbon Energy Future* as a platform for restating how the EU's climate change and energy package is crucial to helping Europe meet the major energy security and climate change challenges it faces and to promoting its future low-carbon economy. The seminar, which was initiated by FORATOM and co-organised by EURELECTRIC and BUSINESSEUROPE, was attended by representatives of low-carbon energy producers, senior EC officials and MEPs, and a broad range of stakeholders.

President Barroso began by stressing how today's unprecedented global financial crisis has made the EU all the more determined to “move ahead with its climate change package” and fulfil its 20-20-20 targets and. He then delivered his core message, namely that all low-carbon energy sources, including nuclear energy and renewables, must be exploited if the goals of the package are to be achieved and Europe's low-carbon future is to be secured.

By once again calling for a “real debate on the future of nuclear energy “ and emphasising that “nuclear energy accounts for around one third of electricity generation in Europe and represents a secure and competitive low-carbon energy source,” President Barroso clearly endorsed the security of supply, climate change and competitiveness credentials of nuclear energy. He added that the European Nuclear Energy Forum (ENEF) is a vital component of that debate.

Commenting on President Barroso's speech, Santiago San Antonio, Director General of FORATOM pointed out: “We welcome President Barroso's focus on the need for promoting low-carbon energy sources, which highlights nuclear energy's place in the vanguard of efforts to promote a low-carbon energy policy. As a non-CO₂ emitting energy source nuclear is a significant part of the low-carbon energy solution.”

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