

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Swedish government first in Europe to reverse its nuclear ban?**

**The Swedish government announced today that it intends to reverse the country's long-standing ban on nuclear energy and allow the building of new nuclear reactors to gradually replace its existing nuclear fleet.**

The intention of the Swedish government to end the nuclear phase-out policy that was brought in following a national referendum in 1980, and to allow for a new generation of nuclear reactors to be built, shows that Sweden clearly sees the expanded use of nuclear energy as a key component of its low-carbon energy policy. The policy reversal, which has to be ratified by the Swedish Parliament, also reflects how public opinion in favour of nuclear energy in Sweden has increased significantly in recent years. A nationwide public opinion poll carried out in June 2008 showed that, as a result of growing concerns about climate change, 82% of Swedes are now in favour of continuing with nuclear in spite of the ban. In addition, 40% now support the building of new nuclear power plants.

According to Santiago San Antonio, Director General of FORATOM, the trade association representing the European nuclear industry: "The decision of the Swedish government to reverse its phase out policy is a clear vindication of the security of supply and climate change credentials of nuclear energy, and of its vital contribution to Europe's low-carbon energy future. With a growing number of countries in Europe reviewing their nuclear phase-out policies, extending the lifetime of their nuclear power plants, or launching new build programmes, there can be no doubt that nuclear is once again at the top of Europe's energy agenda."

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