

Brussels, 10 January 2007

**FORATOM welcomes recognition that EU energy initiative gives to role of nuclear energy.**

**Brussels, 10 January 2007: FORATOM, the trade association representing the European nuclear industry, welcomes the publication today of the European Commission (EC) Communication entitled *An Energy Policy for Europe*. The European nuclear industry is pleased with the recognition that it gives to the key contribution that nuclear energy makes to the achievement of the EU's security of supply, climate change and competitiveness goals. It also highlights how nuclear energy will remain a key component of the EU's energy mix.**

The Communication clearly recognises the central role that nuclear energy will play in promoting low-carbon energy and competitiveness. According to the provisional copy of the Communication: "...nuclear energy is one of the largest sources of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) free energy in Europe. Nuclear power is less vulnerable to fuel price changes than coal or gas-fired generation, as uranium represents a limited part of the total cost of generating nuclear electricity and is based on sources which are sufficient for many decades and widely distributed around the globe." The Communication also refers to nuclear energy as: "one of the cheapest sources of low carbon energy that is presently produced in the EU and has relatively low costs. The next generation of nuclear reactors should reduce these costs further." On the key subject of climate change and Kyoto commitments, the EC is equally unequivocal: "Reinforcing nuclear power generation could also represent one option for reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and play a major role in addressing global climate change. This could also feature as an important consideration when discussing future emissions trading schemes."

Commenting on this major policy initiative, Santiago San Antonio, Director General of FORATOM pointed out: "Nuclear energy has been given the official recognition that it deserves as an unavoidable component of the EU's present and future energy mix. Among major energy sources, nuclear energy is the key to helping get the EU's security of supply and climate change objectives back on track." As part of the process of developing the Action Plan, continued stakeholder consultation is essential and, with this in mind, Members of the European Parliament and the nuclear industry have suggested to the EC the establishment of a **European Nuclear Forum** along the same lines as the Florence, Madrid and Berlin fora that were established for electricity, gas and oil respectively. We look forward to continued participation with the relevant European institutions in the debate over EU energy policy.

The Communication *An Energy Policy for Europe* has been published at a time when European public opinion continues to evolve in favour of nuclear energy. As the latest *Eurobarometer Survey on Energy Technologies* shows, European citizens now rank nuclear energy as likely to be the third "most used" energy source in 30 years time - after solar and wind. It is, therefore, regrettable that the EC does not take into account its own research data which states that the share of nuclear energy and renewables in Europe's primary energy supply could double to about 40% by 2050.

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