

Brussels, 4 May 2007

FORATOM welcomes IPCC recognition of nuclear's role in climate change mitigation.

Brussels, 4 May 2007: FORATOM welcomed today the endorsement given by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in an official report entitled *Mitigation of Climate Change* of nuclear energy's status as one of a range of "commercially available climate change mitigating technologies" that contribute to the fight against global climate change.

The publication of the IPCC's Fourth Assessment Report represents the first time that the United Nations has officially endorsed the front-line role that nuclear energy - alongside renewables and carbon capture and sequestration - is playing and will continue to play in combating climate change.

The report clearly shows how nuclear energy, as a non-CO₂ emitting energy source, is not only playing a key role now in mitigating the effects of climate change, but will continue to do so in the future as advanced Generation III and Generation IV nuclear reactors provide long term technological solutions. Nuclear energy currently avoids 720 million tonnes of CO_{2eq} each year in the EU-27, which is equivalent to nearly all the CO₂ emitted annually by the 212.5 million passenger cars currently in use on the EU's roads.¹ It also states that nuclear energy, like other low carbon-emitting energy sources, is likely to increase its share of the global electricity market, from 16%-18% by 2030.

This recognition of nuclear energy's climate change credentials is the result of an evolution in thinking and political will that has seen nuclear energy re-establish itself as a major part of the solution to the problems of climate change and security of supply. It follows on from positive earlier statements made in the EU's Spring Council Conclusions and by the G7 group of finance ministers and during the EU-US Summit, in April 2007.

Commenting on the findings of the report, Santiago San Antonio, Director General of FORATOM, stressed: "They show how the debate around nuclear energy is no longer fuelled by ideological considerations, but instead by a pragmatic recognition that nuclear energy, together with other low carbon emitting technologies, provides a major contribution to the climate change conundrum. It is clearly indicated as one of a number of 'key mitigating technologies and practices that are currently commercially available.' Furthermore, its contribution is recognised in a short, medium and long term context. From now on, with the role of nuclear energy in mitigating climate change put in the spotlight, the nuclear industry will play a more active role in international discussions on climate change, such as the next round of COP/MOP talks, in December. We urge the international community to take note of the IPCC's recommendations on nuclear energy and to recognise, like the IPCC, the key role that nuclear energy plays in mitigating the effects of climate change."

FORATOM is the trade association representing the European nuclear industry.

For more information, please contact Mark O'Donovan at: Tel. 02/ 505 32 26, or email: mark.odonovan@foratom.org.

¹ For information about nuclear energy and carbon avoidance see the full FORATOM report at: [http://www.foratom.org/dmdocuments/FORATOM%20Report%20on%20EU%20Carbon%20Avoidance%20\(August%202005\).pdf](http://www.foratom.org/dmdocuments/FORATOM%20Report%20on%20EU%20Carbon%20Avoidance%20(August%202005).pdf)