

## **Industry Warns Against Ban on Nuclear Energy Projects**

**Brussels, 9 November 2000:** Nuclear industry organisations are warning that developing countries will suffer if certain technologies are excluded from part of the international drive to curb carbon dioxide emissions.

Some countries want nuclear energy projects to be banned from the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), one of the measures under the Kyoto Protocol designed to promote 'clean air' energy projects in the developing world. The mechanism would allow industrialised nations to gain special 'credits' for pursuing projects that would control, limit or avoid greenhouse gas emissions – and contribute to sustainable development – in less developed countries.

In response, the International Nuclear Forum (INF)\*, an alliance of nuclear energy associations, has issued a position paper stating that any exclusions would be "to the detriment" of the very countries that stand to gain from investments generated by the CDM.

The statement is addressed to government delegates attending the sixth Conference of the Parties (COP 6) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), taking place in The Hague (13-24 November).

On the CDM issue, the European Union is calling for agreement at COP 6 on a list of projects involving renewable energy sources, energy efficiency and demand-side management. Other CO<sub>2</sub>-free energy sources, such as nuclear and large-scale hydroelectric schemes, would not be ruled out, but would not receive preferential treatment. However, several countries, along with world business leaders, have registered their opposition to limits being imposed on the eligibility and use of different technologies.

The INF statement makes the following points:

- \* All technology options may be required and should remain available.
- \* CDM activity should not be limited by project 'lists'.
- \* Countries have the sovereign right to determine their own development paths.
- \* Their energy decisions should not be restricted by international policy.
- \* Requirements for sustainable development can only be determined at national level, where domestic needs are best understood.

The position paper highlights the significant role that nuclear power plants play in terms of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions avoidance. About 17% of the world's electricity is nuclear-generated. Without that contribution, greater use would have to be made of fossil fuels for power generation. It is estimated that the world's use of nuclear power avoids emissions totalling 1.8 billion tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> every year. The corresponding figure for the EU, where 35% of electricity is nuclear-generated, is an estimated 800 million tonnes.

The full text of the position paper is on the FORATOM website: [www.foratom.org](http://www.foratom.org).  
Further information about the INF can be found at [www.climatechange.org](http://www.climatechange.org).

\* INF members: Canadian Nuclear Association, European Atomic Forum, European Nuclear Society, Japan Atomic Industrial Forum, Korea Atomic Industrial Forum, Nuclear Energy Institute (US), Uranium Institute.

### **Contacts**

Jack Ashton, Media Relations Manager, Tel: +32 2 505.32.26, e-mail: [ja@foratom.skynet.be](mailto:ja@foratom.skynet.be)  
Karen Daifuku, Communications Director, Tel: +32 2 505.32.20, e-mail: [kd@foratom.skynet.be](mailto:kd@foratom.skynet.be)

## **FORATOM Press Release**

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#### **Note to Editors**

Although nuclear power is not on the EU's proposed list of preferred technologies, the Community's Energy Commissioner, Mrs. Loyola de Palacio, told a news briefing this week (Tuesday 7 November): "Nuclear is 'clean' under the Kyoto aims – that's a fact... From my point of view, it's very clear and no-one can say under a rational and logical approach any different. Under the Kyoto Protocol approach, for me there is no doubt."

The Commissioner said: "From the environmental point of view (nuclear energy) cannot be rejected if we want to maintain our Kyoto commitments."

She warned that, in order to meet the targets, "very important and radical" choices would have to be made, and the EU would have to address five issues:

- \* increasing the use of renewable energies, such as wind and solar;
  - \* increasing energy efficiency;
  - \* controlling the increasing demand for road transport;
  - \* switching from coal to less-polluting gas; and
  - \* not abandoning nuclear power.
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