

EU Nuclear Power Output Rose 3% in '99

Brussels, 3 March 2000: Total output from nuclear power plants in the EU rose by about 3% last year, according to new figures compiled by the UN's International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Figures for 1999, which have just been officially confirmed by the member states concerned, show that the total amount of 'nuclear electricity' generated in the EU rose from nearly 800 billion kilowatt-hours (800 TWh) in 1998 to just over 825 billion kWh last year – an increase of just over 3%.

There are more than 140 power reactor units in operation in eight of the 15 EU countries. Each year the nuclear plants meet about 35% of the Community's total electricity demand.

In Germany, total nuclear output rose from 145.2 billion kWh to 160.4 billion. There was a corresponding rise in the nuclear share in overall electricity production – from about 28% to 31%. The figures show Germany's continued reliance on nuclear power, despite plans by the Social Democrat-Green coalition government to start a phase-out.

In Sweden, overall nuclear generation was virtually unchanged at around 70 billion kWh, and the nuclear share rose slightly to almost 47%, despite the closure for political reasons of the Barsebäck-1 nuclear unit late last year.

France, which has Europe's largest nuclear park consisting of almost 60 reactor units, increased its total nuclear output in 1999, despite the major disruption to the power transmission network, caused by severe storms at the end of the year. The total production figure rose from 368.4 to 375 billion kWh. The nuclear share was more or less unchanged at 75%.

Belgium, with the EU's second highest nuclear share, boosted its nuclear output from nearly 44 billion kWh to 46.6 billion, increasing the share from just over 55% to nearly 58%. Finland's nuclear share rose significantly from about 27% to 33%, with production rising by about one billion kWh to just over 22 billion.

Nuclear generation in the UK was virtually unchanged at just over 91 billion kWh, although the nuclear share figure rose slightly to almost 29%. There was also little change in the figures for Spain and the Netherlands, where the nuclear share figures were roughly 31% and 4% respectively.

The figures highlight the major contribution that nuclear power plants continue to make towards achieving the EU's economic and energy supply objectives – without emitting any greenhouse or acid rain gases.

Further details are given in the attached table.

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TABLE

Nuclear Power Generation in EU countries 1998-99

Country	1999 Production (TWh)	1999 Nuclear share (%)	1998 Production (TWh)	1998 Nuclear share (%)
Belgium	46.60	57.74	43.89	55.16
Finland	22.07	33.05	20.98	27.44
France	375.00	75.00	368.40	75.77
Germany	160.40	31.21	145.20	28.29
Netherlands	3.40	4.02	3.59	4.13
Spain	56.47	30.99	56.68	31.66
Sweden	70.10	46.80	70.00	45.75
UK	91.19	28.87	91.14	27.09
Total	825.23		799.88	

Source: International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)