

**FORATOM STATEMENT ON “AN ENERGY POLICY FOR EUROPE”
OF 10 JANUARY 2007**

The European nuclear industry welcomes the European Commission’s initiative to launch a broad debate on an Energy Policy for Europe.

The nuclear industry believes that in order to develop a successful energy Action Plan, highlighting the importance of improving security of energy supplies and meeting the reduction targets for greenhouse gas emissions while enhancing EU’s competitiveness, continued stakeholder consultation is essential. With this in mind, the nuclear industry would like to encourage the European Commission to establish a high level discussion forum on nuclear power with participation of the Energy Commissioner, senior Commission officials, Members of the European Parliament and top level industry representatives.

In order to meet the ambitious goals the EU has set in its Energy Policy for Europe, efficient demand-side management and wider promotion of renewable energies cannot alone meet the EU’s ever-growing need for electricity. World electricity consumption is forecast to more than double by the year 2050. The OECD estimates that 750GW of new capacity needs to be built in the EU by 2030 in order to meet the increasing demand and replace existing plants. All energy sources are needed in order to meet the growing thirst for electricity.

Nuclear energy has a key role to play in enhancing competitiveness, combating climate change and reducing external energy dependency, thereby promoting sustainable development.

The Commission’s 5th Illustrative Nuclear Programme (PINC) highlights the importance of nuclear energy in securing Europe’s low-carbon energy future. Nuclear energy today supplies almost one third of the EU’s electricity (31%) and will remain, for the foreseeable future, the largest and most reliable component of the low-carbon energy mix. The nuclear industry firmly believes that the biggest shortcoming of the Energy Policy for Europe initiative is its failure to present a comprehensive strategy regarding future investment in nuclear energy. Therefore, the European Commission should propose concrete measures, through the upcoming Action Plan, to promote the role of nuclear in the overall energy strategy.

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