

■ Press Release

Brussels, 18 June 2010

Nuclear back on track in Sweden as ban is lifted

FORATOM, the European trade association representing the European nuclear industry, applauded the announcement by the Swedish Parliament that it is reversing the country's long-standing ban on nuclear energy.

Today's historic vote in the Swedish Parliament officially brings to an end the nuclear phase-out policy that was first introduced in 1980 and paves the way for the building of new nuclear reactors in Sweden. The policy reversal also reflects how public opinion in Sweden in favour of nuclear energy has continued to increase recently, in spite of the ban, as shown by the latest Eurobarometer survey on nuclear safety (April 2010)*.

According to Santiago San Antonio, FORATOM's Director General: "The Swedish government's decision is further evidence of the growing belief across Europe that nuclear energy has a vital contribution to make not only to Europe's low-carbon energy future, but also to ensuring its security of energy supply. Policy reversals, the extension of operational licenses and the launching of new build programmes confirm that nuclear energy is unquestionably back at the top of Europe's political agenda."

If you require further information please contact Mark O'Donovan at FORATOM:
Tel.: 02/ 505 32 26; email: mark.odonovan@foratom.org.

* Swedish citizens are the EU citizens that recognise the most the benefits of nuclear power:

- 73% think that nuclear helps to limit climate change (EU average: 46%)
- 87% believe that nuclear helps to increase energy independence (EU average: 68%)
- 74% think that nuclear ensures more stable and more competitive energy prices (EU average: 51%)