

■ Press Release

FORATOM welcomes the central role given to nuclear in EC's 2020 energy strategy

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The European nuclear industry welcomes the European Commission's Communication Energy 2020: A strategy for competitive, sustainable and secure energy that was published today and sees it as a significant endorsement of nuclear energy's security of supply, competitiveness and low-carbon economy credentials.

FORATOM, the trade association representing the interests of the European nuclear industry, is satisfied with the important role that nuclear energy has been assigned in the EU's 2020 energy strategy. It noted, in particular, its recognition that "nuclear energy contributes around one third of the EU's electricity and two thirds of its CO₂-free electricity" and that, consequently, its "existing production capacity needs to be replaced and expanded" to sustain that contribution.

Commenting on the Communication, Santiago San Antonio, Director General of FORATOM, said: "This ambitious policy framework gives a ringing endorsement of the key role that nuclear energy plays in helping the EU meet its energy security, competitiveness and low-carbon objectives." He went on to stress that: "This strategy document confirms the political support that exists at EU level for nuclear energy. It also rightly stresses how vital it is to maintain Europe's global lead in the nuclear field and to support the further development of nuclear energy."

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