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DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR ENERGY

Directorate D – Nuclear energy, safety and ITER
D.2 – Nuclear energy, nuclear waste and decommissioning

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WeCARE
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Subject: Your letter of 15 August on the new reports regarding nuclear energy source

Dear Mr Deffrennes,

Thank you for your letter of 15 August to Ms Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission, and to six Commissioners in which you presented three reports on the role of nuclear energy in the EU's energy mix and expressed your organisation's view on the topic. Your letter has received the full attention in President von der Leyen and the Commissioners' offices, and was transmitted to me to reply to you on their behalf.

The inclusion of nuclear energy in the Taxonomy Regulation has been subject of intense debate. The Technical Expert Group¹ confirmed the substantial contribution of nuclear energy to the climate change mitigation objectives, acknowledging that nuclear energy has near to zero greenhouse gas emissions in the energy generation phase. However, opinions differ notably on the potential impact on other environmental objectives, such as the environmental impact of nuclear waste.

The Commission considers that the credibility of the assessment of nuclear energy in the context of taxonomy is crucial. It requested the Joint Research Centre (the Commission's internal scientific service) to draft a technical report on the 'do no significant harm' aspects of nuclear energy. The JRC report was then reviewed by experts on radiation

¹ Technical annex to the TEG final report on the EU taxonomy.

protection and waste management under Article 31 of the Euratom Treaty, as well as by experts on environmental impacts from the Scientific Committee on Health, Environmental and Emerging Risks (SCHEER). The JRC report and the experts' reviews have been published on the Commission's website.

The Commission is now carefully analysing the findings of the report, the reviews by the experts, as well as all of the other extensive feedback submitted by other interested stakeholders. The Commission will complete its assessment and will adopt a complementary Climate Delegated Act as soon as possible, after the end of this specific review process. This complementary Delegated Act will cover nuclear energy activities, subject to and consistent with the results of this specific expert review process underway.

Yours sincerely,

Electronically signed

Zuzana Petrovičová
Head of Unit