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DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR ENERGY

Directorate D - Nuclear energy, safety and ITER
The Director

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weCARE
Mr Marc Deffrennes
Mr Richard Ivens

To be sent by email:
marc.deffrennes@hotmail.com,
richard.ivenes@telenet.be

Subject: Your email message of 5 May 2020 to President Ursula von der Leyen, Executive Vice-President Frans Timmermans, Executive Vice-President Valdis Dombrovskis and Commissioner Kadri Simson on “Sustainable Energy: RES and Nuclear”

Dear Mr Deffrennes, Dear Mr Ivens,

Thank you for your email dated 5 May 2020 (registered: Ares(2020)2401054) to President Ursula von der Leyen, Executive Vice-Presidents Frans Timmermans and Valdis Dombrovskis and Commissioner Kadri Simson, , in which you shared your valuable thoughts on the sustainability with special regard to the role of nuclear energy in the European Union. Let me reply to you on their behalf.

First, I would like to thank you for your participation in the meeting of 11 February 2020 in Brussels with the colleagues of DG ENER. The European Commission appreciates the efforts of weCARE in combating climate change.

Concerning the principle of sustainability, the Technical Expert Group (TEG) in their final report (published on 9 March 2020) on the EU Taxonomy on Sustainable Finance recognised that “Nuclear energy generation has near to zero greenhouse gas emissions in the energy generation phase and can be a contributor to climate mitigation objectives. Consideration of nuclear energy by the TEG from a climate mitigation perspective was therefore warranted.” and “Evidence on the potential substantial contribution of nuclear energy to climate mitigation objectives was extensive and clear. The potential role of nuclear energy in low carbon energy supply is well documented.” However, “it was not possible for TEG, nor its members, to conclude that the nuclear energy value chain does not cause significant harm to other environmental objectives on the time scales in question.” Therefore, “TEG recommends that more extensive technical work is undertaken on the DNSH aspects of nuclear energy in future and by a group with in-

depth technical expertise on nuclear life cycle technologies and the existing and potential environmental impacts across all objectives.” According to this recommendation, the Commission is currently considering the most appropriate approach towards guaranteeing an objective (neutral), technical, science-based and hence robust proposal concerning nuclear energy.

It is important to emphasise that the Member States of the European Union have the right to decide on the use of energy sources and the generation structure of their energy supply. When it comes to nuclear energy, the role of the European Commission is to develop in the interest of all Member States the legal framework under the Euratom Treaty to meet the highest standards of safety, security and non-proliferation. On a global scale, the European Union has today the most advanced regional set of rules in these matters.

Should you have any further inquiries, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Kolos Molnár, e-mail: kolos.molnar@ec.europa.eu.

(e-signed)

Massimo Garribba