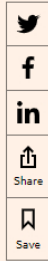


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# Letter: EU must include nuclear power in its list of sustainable sources

From James E Hansen and others

2 HOURS AGO



Nuclear power is the single biggest source of low carbon electricity in Europe today and is recognised in many of the scenarios assessed by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the International Energy Agency and other organisations as having a critical role to play in responding to the climate emergency ([Brussels Briefing](#), FT.com, December 16).

It is therefore vital that nuclear is included in the EU's new classification system for environmentally sustainable activities, which is being negotiated in Brussels. The "taxonomy" is supposed to provide clear definitions to fund managers and investors about which products are environmentally sustainable and which are not. For this initiative to serve its purpose of increasing the financial capital flowing to sustainable activities, financiers must have confidence that the definition of a sustainable activity is developed with rigour, robustness and in an objective way.

But progress is being blocked by several countries, including Germany, which claim nuclear should be excluded because of their concerns about nuclear waste. This is in spite of clear evidence that nuclear waste does not and will **not cause harm to sustainability objectives**. Nuclear energy displaces fossil fuel use, with significant air pollution and climate benefits. Without nuclear, there will be 500m tonnes of extra CO2 emissions every year in Europe, which is more than the emissions of UK or France alone. Without nuclear, our action on climate will be more difficult, more expensive, and more likely to fail. The real harm done will be to Europe's ambition to achieve net zero by 2050.

### James E Hansen

*Climate scientist and former director of Nasa's Goddard Institute for Space Studies*

### Hans Blix

*Former director-general, International Atomic Energy Agency (1981-1997), and former Swedish foreign minister*

### Martin Rees

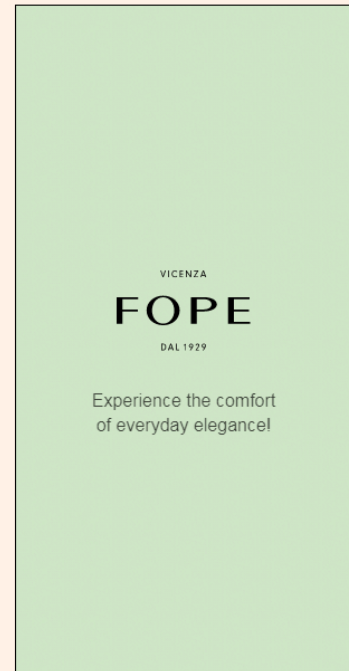
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### Bryony Worthington

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### John Belgrove

*Senior Partner, Aon*



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**Jeffrey S Merrifield**

*Former commissioner, US Nuclear Regulatory Commission (1998-2007)*

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*Former French environment minister and climate ambassador*

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**T Ben Britton**

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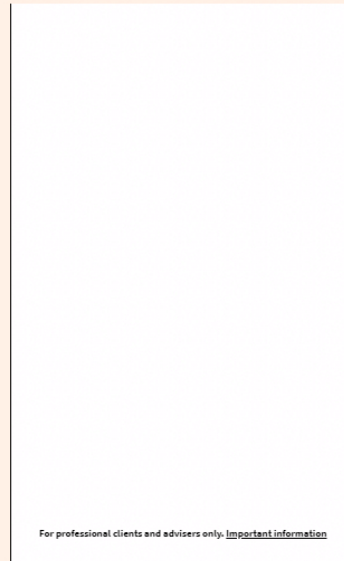
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**Ben Heard**

*Bright New World, (Australia)*



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