



Brussels, 12 October 2021

Ms Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission

Mr Frans Timmermans, Commission VP for the European Green Deal

Mr Valdis Dombrovskis, Commission VP for an Economy for People

Mrs Mairead McGuinness, Commissioner for Financial Services and Markets

Ms Kadri Simson, Commissioner for Energy

Mr Thierry Breton, Commissioner for Internal Market

Here we go... Europe is facing the reality check!

Surging energy prices and doubts about energy security make it doubly important to keep existing nuclear power plants operating, while promoting investment in new nuclear and other very low carbon energy sources

Dear Madam, Dear Sir,

For about a month now, in most EU Member States, the TV news has been reporting daily on the skyrocketing prices of energy, announcing hard times for consumers, leading to increased energy poverty for households and loss of competitiveness for industry. Social unrest might ensue and temporary solutions aiming at artificially reducing the energy bills by distributing public money or reducing energy taxes will further impact countries' debts, already deeply affected by the Covid crisis.

Moreover, the European Union's energy independence is at stake if nuclear power production is not at a sufficient scale. Indeed, the development of intermittent energy sources for the production of electricity will inevitably increase the Union's reliance on natural gas imports for backup.

What more can be done... not in 2030... but now? The European Union has limited leverage on the prices of fossil fuels, oil and gas in particular; coal is definitively to be

discarded as quickly as possible; and one can only applaud the increasing price of CO2 to help fight climate change.

While some Member States follow dogmatic anti-nuclear policies, others are convinced that nuclear energy is a present and future main contributor to a sustainable decarbonisation path; sustainability being understood as the combination of cleanliness, affordability and reliability of supply.

Basing itself on Reports by distinguished International Organisations (IEA, OECD NEA, IPPC, UNECE,...) weCARE asserts that nuclear energy is a sustainable source of energy and should be supported at EU level, starting with the continuing operation of existing plants during the next 10 to 20 year transition phase, and proceeding further to the deployment of future nuclear-based systems for the long term decarbonisation of heat and power.

The First Taxonomy Delegated Act is under scrutiny by the Member States until 7 December. weCARE urges the European Commission to proceed, before that date, to the publication of its Complementary Delegated Act. It is indeed crucial for Member States to understand how nuclear energy will be treated in the Taxonomy, in order for them to decide on the fate of the First Delegated Act.

We remain at your disposal for any interaction you would like to have with weCARE, as a representative of civil society at European level, to discuss our position.

Yours faithfully,

Marc Deffrennes
Richard Ivens
Serge Crutzen

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weCARE is a Brussels-based alliance of NGOs campaigning in Europe for Clean, Affordable and Reliable Energy for societal sustainability. The weCARE website describes the aims and specific activities of the alliance and lists the current member organisations: 100TWh BE, Jihocesti TatKove CZ, Ekomodernist FI, Sauvons le Climat FR, Patrimoine Nucléaire et Climat FR, 18for0 IE, Stichting EnergieTransitie en Kernenergie NL, Institute for Sustainable Energy PL, European Association for Energy Security SK, Terrapraxis UK

weCARE is listed in the EU Transparency Register under number 473723535459-78.

Copies of this Letter are sent to a number of Permanent Representations.