



Brussels, 15 August 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  
Mr Josep Borrell, High Representative and VP for a stronger Europe in the World  
Ms Mairead McGuinness, Commissioner for Finance and Capital Markets  
Ms Kadri Simson, Commissioner for Energy  
Mr Thierry Breton, Commissioner for Internal Market***

Dear Madam, Dear Sir,

***Subject: New Reports by International Organisations confirm that nuclear energy MUST play a larger part in Europe's energy mix***

The originator of this letter, weCARE, is an Alliance of European NGOs campaigning for a very low carbon energy mix that is clean, affordable and reliable, in other words societally sustainable.

The three reports we would like to highlight are as follows:

(1) The UN Economic Commission for Europe report<sup>1</sup> of 11 August 2021, concluding that international climate objectives will not be met if nuclear energy is excluded. (2) The IPCC sixth assessment WG1 report<sup>2</sup> of 9 August 2021, underlining the extreme urgency of decarbonising the energy mix, meaning that replacing low-carbon, safe and reliable nuclear power plants by intermittent wind and solar power backed up by fossil fuels is not a good option. (3) And finally, the OECD Nuclear Energy Agency report<sup>3</sup> of 5 August 2021 indicating that long-term operation of nuclear power plants is the most cost-effective decarbonisation investment.

<sup>1</sup> <https://unece.org/climate-change/press/international-climate-objectives-will-not-be-met-if-nuclear-power-excluded>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/sixth-assessment-report-working-group-i/>

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.oecd-nea.org/jcms/pl\\_60360/the-most-cost-effective-decarbonisation-investment-long-term-operation-of-nuclear-power-plants](https://www.oecd-nea.org/jcms/pl_60360/the-most-cost-effective-decarbonisation-investment-long-term-operation-of-nuclear-power-plants)

Promoting lifetime extension of existing nuclear plants, encouraging the building of new plants, and supporting the development and demonstration of new nuclear technologies in a meaningful way, would allow the EU to keep strong leadership in a domain vital to fighting climate change, and to remain a key worldwide geopolitical player. The inclusion of nuclear in the Taxonomy for Sustainable Financing will be a useful first step in the right direction.

The declared antinuclear position of some Member States is for sure a major difficulty for the European Commission, although the performance of some such states in terms of CO2 emissions and energy prices hardly makes them good role models. The way for the Commission to overcome this is to base itself on facts and science rather than political ideology, and also to look beyond the EU at what is happening in other parts of the world. Being alone to follow a route, in this case ignoring nuclear energy, should raise questions and require a deep 360-degree impact analysis.

weCARE sincerely hopes that the growing weight of international support for nuclear power as a primary route towards decarbonisation will encourage the Commission to take a more enlightened approach to EU energy & climate policy.

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

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, Terrapraaxis UK

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

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