

Le 27 avril 2020,

## **Taxonomie: Réponse des Voix à la Seconde consultation européenne**

The NGO Voices of Nuclear (Les Voix du Nucléaire) supports the establishment of a taxonomy as a necessary move towards the 2030 and 2050 climate goals. It however wishes to point out that this classification of sustainable activities will not be complete, and will not serve as a sound base for efficient decision-making, if nuclear energy, a key source in European decarbonisation effort, is not included. Physics and real-life experiences have demonstrated that whatever the financial amounts and political credit invested, the future energy system will not be able to be environmentally sustainable without nuclear energy.

The goal of net-zero greenhouse gases by 2050 imposes deep decarbonisation of multiple sectors.. Wide evidence shows, that at least 70% of the energy mix will have to consist of low-carbon base-load sources: nuclear, hydro and geothermal. Nuclear power can replace fossil fuel plants where geothermal and hydro cannot, in an environmentally sustainable way, as it has always done on EU territory. We are thankful to the TEG for acknowledging the Substantial Contribution of nuclear energy in fulfilling the climate objectives. However, it is still necessary to clear the points of doubt hampering further proceedings.

Many other science and technical bodies have outlined how the nuclear industry, bound by the regulations and laws of the EU (especially on its sanitary protection aspects) as well as of each member country in which it operates, fully answers the waste management and circular economy expectations set by the TEG in the technical annex: comprehensive accounting and supervision of all waste streams at all stages of the life cycle, full and resilient financial coverage of waste management, stringent regulations applied to all aspects of waste disposal facilitated by independent national and supranational regulatory bodies.

This configuration cannot be found for any other energy source. Pollution and ashes from burning fossil fuels and used materials in case of renewables create landfills of unregulated waste, including toxic and radioactive elements. If nuclear waste is deemed unsustainable by a “technical” classification, so needs to be the waste generated by the other energy sources with equivalent if not worse environmental and health effects.

Used nuclear fuel, seen as waste, is at the same time another source of energy, that can be applied in new generation of reactors, fulfilling the idea of circular economy and reducing the volume and radioactivity of the leftover waste.

The TEG also highlights the issues of biodiversity, water systems and pollution. Thanks to immense power density of nuclear fuel and therefore the high compactness of the nuclear power plants, the biodiversity and water system impacts of nuclear are limited in comparison to other sources of

energy. All possible radioactive releases are also monitored continuously, following the Euratom regulations, ensuring that they are negligible in comparison to the background radiation.

More than anything, we also want to urge the decision-makers and the organizations and processes they rely on, to make their best efforts to put to end the politically-induced indecisiveness clouding the benefits of nuclear power in sustainable development: not only it rejects the principle of technological neutrality, but it also harms the interests of the EU and of its citizens and deprives them and their representatives of their freedom of choice.

The taxonomy is a decision-making tool that should not be diverted from its objective of providing a fact-based technical information. The EU citizens deserve that their opinions be respected and the TEG, as its name suggests, must act as a warranty that the democratic process is preserved.

The NGO Voices of Nuclear hence calls for nuclear power to be included in the Taxonomy Regulation and supports, if deemed necessary, that further technical studies to be conducted as soon as possible to demonstrate the points raised above.