From: Chief Executive

Sent: Tuesday 4 January 2022 09:54

To: Ciaran McGoldrick

Subject: FW: CNFE Mail: A (belated) Christmas present for nuclear industry, a slap in the face for European citizens.

Good morning Ciaran,

I hope you had a nice break & happy new year!

Please see below correspondence from CNFE for noting at your next SPC.

Kind regards,

Caroline

-------- Original message --------

From: Jan Dictus <office.cnfe@gmail.com>

Date: 03/01/2022 08:29 (GMT+00:00)

To: office.cnfe@gmail.com

Subject: CNFE Mail: A (belated) Christmas present for nuclear industry, a slap in the face for European citizens.

Dear Mayor, dear Councillor, dear Colleague,

The decision has been postponed for months, on Silvester day a draft was published: Europe is abandoning its climate policy.

New nuclear and fossil fueled power plants (natural gas) will be classified as “sustainable investments”. Gas and nuclear energy are painted green and much more finance will be available for these energy sources. It sends the EU’s climate and energy policy on a completely wrong path.

What has happened? The European Commission has been working for months on a new EU standard for sustainable investments, the so-called EU taxonomy. This standard defines, for example, which energy sources are considered sustainable. So the taxonomy is a sustainability label. Banks, insurance companies, small investors, and other financial market players will base their investment decisions on this EU standard. European and national subsidies and taxpayers’ money will flow into nuclear power and gas because these energy sources were given the sustainability label, the same as the construction of wind turbines and solar systems.

By painting nuclear and gas green, Ursula von der Leyen and her First Vice-President Frans Timmermans break the promise of their own “European Green Deal”. It is the first clear change of course on Europe's path to climate neutrality - a departure from actual sustainability and the 1.5 degree target.

Investments in nuclear energy come at the expense of investments in energy efficiency measures and the deployment of renewable energy such as wind and solar which lead to much faster greenhouse gas reductions.

While nuclear energy indeed produces relatively few greenhouse gas emissions, the risk of a nuclear incident in Europe is fully ignored by the European Commission. Also, the nuclear waste remains a burden for the next generations.

CNFE, together with other organizations, have lobbied for years to avoid the present decision of the Commission. We will continue doing that. The new German government has announced to vote against this EC-proposal. The Austrian government has announced to fight the taxonomy decision in court. CNFE will, where possible, support this legal initiative.

The draft taxonomy says nuclear plants should be considered “sustainable” if the host country can ensure they cause “no significant harm” to the environment, which includes safe disposal of nuclear waste. This applies to all “new nuclear installations for which the construction permit has been issued by 2045,” the text says.

The nuclear industry will certainly argue that this accounts for so called “small modular reactors”. They are said to be cheaper, easier to build and particularly safer than “normal” nuclear plants. In our next CNFE Mail we will present you a report that studies the economic aspects of SMR’s.

For now, CNFE staff and secretariat wishes you and your beloved all the best for 2022, in good health!

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