

Ciaran McGoldrick

Subject: FW: CNFE Mail: EC decides: Nuclear energy is green.

From: Jan Dictus <office.cnfe@gmail.com>
Sent: 03 February 2022 09:39
To: office.cnfe@gmail.com
Subject: CNFE Mail: EC decides: Nuclear energy is green.

Dear Mayor, dear Councillor, dear Colleague,

New nuclear and fossil fueled power plants (natural gas) are now 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.

For those who haven’t followed the discussion:

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 probably base their investment decisions on this EU standard. Nuclear energy and natural gas are now, under certain conditions, included in the taxonomy list as sustainable investment.

Whatever reasons the commission has for this step, these reasons cannot be environment or climate related. The commission argues that they have not called nuclear energy “green”; that the details in the taxonomy text are relevant; that it is regarded a “transition-technology”. It is clearly ridiculous to call a new NPP, with planning and building times of two decades at least, a transition technology for a transition that has to be nearly completed by 2040.

But the bottom line is, that if you or I, or our pension fund, want to invest our savings in “green energy”, there is a big chance that our money is used for lifetime extension of an old nuclear power plant. Thus, as a result, there will be less finance available for renewable energy.

An unambiguous climate policy guideline looks differently.

The Austrian government has announced to start a legal procedure against the taxonomy decision. At least that will keep the discussion running.

This time the CNFE lobbying was not successful. But we will keep alert and continue our work against nuclear energy in Europe.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or remarks.

Kind regards,

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