



## **YEPP Resolution: Nuclear energy as a transition technology towards a future energy policy of the European Union**

### **Recognizing that:**

- The European Council in 2007 adopted ambitious energy and climate change objectives for 2020 – to reduce (compared to their 1990 level) greenhouse gas emissions by 20%, to increase the share of renewable energy to 20%, and to make a 20% improvement in energy efficiency. EU energy and climate goals have been incorporated into the Europe 2020 Strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, adopted by the European Council in June 2010, and into its flagship initiative “Resource-efficient Europe”.
- These goals are however not yet within EU reach and further efforts will be required to move into the low carbon energy system that has been fixed as a goal for the EU by 2050.
- The European Council has also given a long-term commitment to the decarbonisation path with a target for the EU and other industrialised countries of 80 to 95% cuts in emissions by 2050.
- Nuclear Energy is a fundamental strategic point within the EU's Energy Policy
- (Energy 2020) and its contribution is fundamental to reach the EU Energy goals. Nuclear power stations currently generates around one-third of EU electricity and two-thirds of its carbon-free electricity.
- Nuclear energy sector represents a source of energy with low carbon levels and relatively stable costs, which makes it attractive from the point of view of security of supply and fighting climate change.

### **Acknowledging that:**

- The EU must continue to be a world leader in developing systems for safe nuclear power, the transport of radioactive substances, as well as the management of nuclear waste.
- The EU, with the EU Directive on Nuclear Safety, has established a legal framework for the safety of nuclear power plants.
- Communication from the European Commission, doc. 7110/10 of 5 March 2010.
- Speech of Christian Cleutinix (Euratom Supply Agency – European Commission) at the Fifth International Energy Week IEW 2010, Session: Innovative priorities of Atomic Energy (Moscow, October 26, 2010) "Nuclear Energy Technologies in the Framework of EU Energy Policy Developments".
- Europe 2020 - A strategy for competitive, sustainable and secure energy (COM (2010) 639 final of 10 November 2010) and a foreword by Commissioner Günther Oettinger.
- Member States shall provide for national rules, the licence of nuclear power plants and the safety supervision. This means that national safety authorities do the inspections of the nuclear power plants and check whether contingency plans and safety standards are in place. Member States have to set up and continuously improve national safety rules. The Directive (2009/71/Euratom) makes the Safety Standards of International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) partially legally binding and enforceable in the EU.
- The EU is responsible for radiation protection and safeguards measures.

- Radiation protection aims to ensure the protection of the health of workers and the public against dangers from ionizing radiation. EU experts go to nuclear power plants and other places to check whether the Member States have established the facilities necessary to carry out continuous monitoring of radioactivity.
- International collaboration on nuclear safeguards plays a major role in ensuring nuclear security and establishing a solid and robust non-proliferation regime.

**YEPP calls on:**

- The European Union not taking decisions related to Energy Plan on the wave of emotion. The explosion of the nuclear power plant in Fukushima should make people reflect on the importance of research to implement security for the new nuclear power generations.
- The European Union to focus on nuclear safety, and consequently to introduce obligatory stress test of nuclear power plants for all EU Members.
- The European Union to commit neighbouring countries and the international level towards introducing obligatory stress tests.
- EU and its member states to work on the enhancement of nuclear energy while continuing working to develop renewable energy technology in order to establish it as an economically viable alternative to nuclear energy.

*Adopted by the YEPP Congress in Berlin on 14 May, 2011.*