

# **The Perspective of Non-Nuclear EU Member States**

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# The issue

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- **14 EU-27 MEMBER STATES (A MAJORITY) DO NOT HAVE NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS IN OPERATION:** Austria, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Poland and Portugal.
- In these countries, there is generally **very little interest in EURATOM reform or repeal**. It is not on their political agenda and historically, they have not been willing to spend any political capital on this issue.
- **In reforming the EU treaties, process, politics, strategy and tactics matter.** So could there be a way to solve this problem?

# The Danish example 1/2

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- **NO DANISH NUCLEAR POWER PROGRAM.** The original program was abandoned in 1985 due to public pressure. No nuclear power plants were constructed.



*OOA, The Smiling Sun*

## The Danish example 2/2


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- In 2019, **all the political parties in the Danish Parliament** passed a resolution, **DEMANDING EURATOM REFORM**. For decades, the EURATOM Treaty has been criticised by Danish MPs.
- The Parliament **expressed its dissatisfaction** that Denmark contributes €27 million p.a. to the EURATOM program's total annual budget of €1,5 billion, although Denmark has no nuclear power itself. Thus, it wanted to **reduce the EURATOM budget framework** and make it more beneficial to non-nuclear countries.
- Furthermore, the parliament wanted to investigate, **how the European Parliament could obtain influence** on issues concerning EURATOM.
- **A PARLIAMENTARY MINORITY** also wanted to make the Danish government **cooperate with EU member states** intent on reforming or abolishing EURATOM.

# A possible way forward

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- **Danish media never covered the proceedings.** Nor was there any interest from Danish RES industry organisations.
- In spite of the parliamentary decision, **the Danish government has not changed its policy towards EURATOM.**
- **So the question is this: What could trigger a real change in Denmark's and other non-nuclear EU member states' position on treaty reform in the energy field?**

 **A POSSIBLE SOLUTION:** *Considering that EURATOM is energy-related, it makes political, strategic and tactical sense to include all energy-related proposals for constitutional reform simultaneously in a revision procedure.*

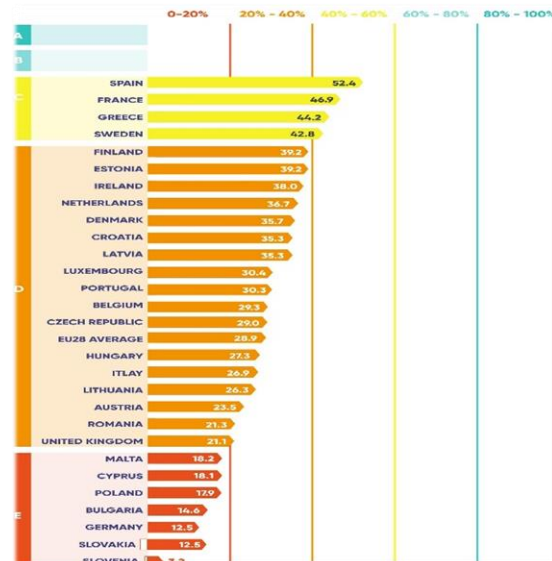
# Arguments for comprehensive treaty reform 1/3

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- EU needs a **NEW OVERRIDING VISION IN THE ENERGY FIELD**, which only a treaty on RES, energy efficiency and energy saving can provide.
- There is a substantial need for a **STABLE FRAMEWORK FOR THE LONG-TERM DEPLOYMENT OF RES.**
- In a negotiation situation it would make sense to have **AS MANY SENSIBLE OPTIONS ON THE TABLE AS POSSIBLE** in pursuing a green European energy transition.
- In non-nuclear MS, the **FOCUS IS ON RES, ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND ENERGY SAVING.**
- Currently, there is **NO GUARANTEE THAT DECOMMISSIONED NPPs WILL BE REPLACED BY RES.** Instead, they could be replaced by imports of fossil gas.

# Arguments for comprehensive treaty reform 2/3


- **NONE OF THE MS MEASURES ARE SUFFICIENT TO REACH THE OBJECTIVES OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT.** In 2019, the then 28 MS presented integrated National Energy and Climate Plans for meeting EU's 2030 climate and energy goals. They all fall short on ambition and credibility.



*Source: Ecologic Institute and Climact for the European Climate Foundation*

# Arguments for comprehensive treaty reform 3/3

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 **EURATOM COULD BE REPLACED BY A TREATY ON RENEWABLE ENERGIES, ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND ENERGY SAVING.** An option is the [European Energy Transition Protocol](#), proposed by the Austrian government in 2016, or something similar.

- **The principal argument:** *Although the costs of RES are decreasing, neither their own positive externalities, nor the negative externalities of the competing energy sources are sufficiently priced in the energy markets, which is detrimental to the growth of RES. Furthermore, past support of nuclear power is already built into nuclear power's infrastructure.*
- Since 2019, NOAH, Sustainable Energy and Nordic Folkecenter for Renewable Energy in Denmark have [supported a treaty draft](#) conceived by Prof. Dr. Michael Geistlinger from the University of Salzburg. The draft is based on the EURATOM Treaty, which is gradually phased out and combined with the European Energy Transition Protocol.



# Thank you

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See also the website of NOAH Friends of the Earth Denmark's Uranium Group: [www.noah.dk/urangruppe](http://www.noah.dk/urangruppe)