



We need to keep the taxonomy credible and science-based

Joint letter from Members of the European Parliament to the Council of the European Union

Brussels, 19 January 2021

Dear Energy Ministers,

We, members of the European Parliament, are concerned about the draft complementary delegated act including nuclear & fossil gas as "transitional activities" sent by the Commission on 31 December 2021. We are concerned about the meltdown of the EU taxonomy regulation, where words no longer have any meaning, and where a mechanism initially intended to set up a gold-standard for sustainable investment and to fight against greenwashing loses all credibility.

Nuclear power's low emissions are not sufficient to classify it as a solution in the fight against climate change. There are good reasons nuclear power has not been included in the taxonomy developed by the Commission's original group of technical experts, because of its inability to meet the taxonomy's "do no significant harm" principle.

Indeed, the risks of nuclear power are undeniable: nuclear power has caused several major disasters, it lacks resilience to climate change, it is highly water consuming and uranium mining and processing takes place outside the EU, where it cannot be monitored. With nuclear power, 300,000 tons of highly radioactive material have already been accumulated around the world. This heavy environmental burden will be left to future generations for many thousands of years. There are still unresolved issues around long-term storage for radioactive waste and decommissioning of nuclear power plants after they reach the end of their operational life.

Therefore:

- The inclusion of nuclear and fossil gas energies is incompatible with the scientific principles set out in the taxonomy regulation.
- The inclusion of nuclear cannot fulfil the DNSH criteria of the Taxonomy.
- Nuclear power can be considered neither a green activity, nor a transitional activity.
- The high cost of nuclear energy does hamper the development and deployment of low-carbon alternatives like renewable energy.
- New fossil gas investments are not in line with a 1.5°C pathway
- This delegated act will lock the EU in fossil fuel use beyond 2050



Taxonomy is built on scientific principles, which cannot simply be changed at political discretion. Classifying investments that have no long-term future as "green" under the Green Deal would break the credibility of the taxonomy. Major private investors had warned that such an inclusion would force them not to use the EU taxonomy. This will send the wrong signal and could jeopardize the EU's progress on its climate commitments.

We call on the Council to object to this delegated act including nuclear and fossil gas fossil activities in the EU Taxonomy.

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