

Joint Ministerial Communiqué on Nuclear Energy in Europe

In London today, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Hungary, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Spain and the UK affirmed their commitment to collaborate in the context of the role that they believe that nuclear energy can play in the EU's future low carbon energy mix.

They emphasised the priority of nuclear safety in Europe and reaffirmed their commitment to maintain and promote the continuous improvement of nuclear safety and its regulation. They recalled the unique work done within the European Union to implement robust stress-tests and associated peer-reviews. They welcomed the follow-up actions taken (ENSREG's action plan and national plans). They restated their will to work together, with Member State regulators and with the Commission, in the context of ENSREG, to seek continuous improvements of nuclear safety, within and beyond the EU borders, and ensure that the EU nuclear safety framework remains robust. They remained open, if there is a need to do so, to discussions on enhancing the effectiveness of the Nuclear Safety Directive.

Member States committed to press ahead with their decarbonisation objectives through the deployment of the fullest possible range of low carbon technologies, particular to their nation's needs and wishes. This could include renewables, carbon capture and storage (CCS), and nuclear power. Such neutrality of technology complements the common European goal of a decarbonised economy given that determination of the energy mix is a national competence.

Member States noted that nuclear power can play a key role in the EU to help ensure security of supply and reduce carbon emissions. Nuclear can also provide economic benefits and supply consumers with cost-effective electricity. The Member States wishing to construct new nuclear power stations signalled that an investment environment must be created taking account of the long term nature of nuclear infrastructure projects in the EU.

The Member States recognised the important role that Research and Development plays in dealing with the legacy of past operations, improving safety and ensuring nuclear energy can continue to contribute to a low carbon and secure energy future.

The Member States agreed for Ministers and officials of this network of EU countries to continue their dialogue on nuclear energy with the Czech Republic hosting a follow up meeting in the next year.