

**JOINT LETTER FROM THE MINISTERS OF BELGIUM, BULGARIA, CROATIA, CZECH REPUBLIC,
ESTONIA, FINLAND, FRANCE, HUNGARY, ITALY, NETHERLANDS, POLAND, ROMANIA,
SLOVENIA, SLOVAKIA, SWEDEN**

Dear Executive Vice-President Ribera, dear Commissioner Jørgensen,

On the margins of the Energy Council of 26th June 2026, the Nuclear Alliance met to discuss the upcoming post-2030 energy framework. The Nuclear Alliance welcomes this initiative that aims to align the EU energy framework with Europe's strategic priorities, including affordability, competitiveness, decarbonisation, energy security and strategic autonomy.

As highlighted in the European Council conclusions adopted on March 19th 2026, **the energy transition remains the most effective strategy to achieve Europe's strategic autonomy, strengthen its resilience, structurally lower energy prices, and deliver the clean, abundant and homegrown energy needed to power the economy of the future.** The conflict in the Middle East once again highlights our vulnerability to fossil fuel imports. Over half of the energy consumed in the European Union (EU) comes from imported fossil fuels, representing almost EUR 340 billion in imports in 2025. In a challenging global geopolitical context, this dependence, undermines our energy security and exposes our economies to disruptions beyond our control.

Europe's decarbonisation should therefore be pursued by taking advantage of all solutions within the framework of a technology-neutral approach, in line with the new EU Climate law. As explained by President von der Leyen on March 10th 2026, "it was a strategic mistake for Europe to turn its back on a reliable, affordable source of low-emission power". In the context of the increased electrification needed to decarbonize energy use, it is clearly recognized, including in COP decisions and more recently in the Accelerate EU communication, that nuclear power is part of the solution to achieve a decarbonized, robust and competitive electricity system as an essential condition for future electrification of our economies. Nuclear energy is also a decarbonized technology capable of producing constant and baseload electricity, thereby contributing to the stability and resiliency of the European electricity system. As increased electrification puts additional importance on resource adequacy system, its inherently reliable and baseload nature makes it an appropriate low-carbon complement to intermittent renewable energies, reducing the need for controllable facilities running on fossil fuels. As outlined in the eight nuclear illustrative programme (PINIC), the EU has a strong industrial leadership in nuclear technologies, with its value chain based largely in Europe and generating significant benefits in terms of competitiveness, energy security and decarbonisation. It is one of the few energy technologies in which Europe maintains extensive capabilities across almost the entire value chain. Preserving and further developing this strategic industrial ecosystem is necessary for Europe's competitiveness, technological sovereignty, energy security and decarbonization objectives.

In view of the upcoming post-2030 framework, **we are therefore calling for an overarching flexible energy framework with a clean energy target, that supports the achievement of cost-effective decarbonisation pathways through various energy vectors, making full use of nuclear energy, renewable energy and other low-carbon technologies to achieve this objective.** While

it was legitimate in the previous decade to exclusively focus on the emergence and deployment of renewables by setting quantified targets, it is now essential to **map out the path towards a gradual substitution of fossil fuels**, and to promote the use of all low-carbon energy sources, in line with the first global stocktake of the Paris Agreement carried out at COP28. Such a balanced approach, combining variable renewables with reliable low-carbon nuclear generation, will help ensure that the transition remains cost-effective, secure and socially acceptable for all Member States.

Besides, lessons learned from the 2030 framework should be taken into account: European instruments should help ensure an efficient energy transition by enabling **each Member State to reach the most cost-efficient way to decarbonisation**. This approach is more efficient than a large number of sub-targets implemented differently by Member States or lacking consistency.

We, therefore, call for a simple, flexible and consistent EU energy framework based on an overarching flexible energy framework with a clean energy target supporting a cost-effective decarbonisation pathway, allowing the EU to make the most of the EU clean homegrown energy potential, including both nuclear and renewables, recognising their complementary roles in delivering decarbonisation, security of supply and competitiveness. Such approach will enable Member States to achieve their decarbonization objectives by choosing the most effective means that are most acceptable to them and their citizens in line with article 194 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the Union. In a challenging global geopolitical context, the European Union must move beyond any ideological approach and establish an energy and climate framework that enables the EU and its Member States to build competitiveness and resilience on the road to climate neutrality by 2050.

Yours sincerely,

Signatories

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