



To: Mr. Donald Tusk, President, the European Council
Mr. Jean-Claude Juncker, President, the European Commission

Concerns: **Suspension of participation of Nuclear Transparency Watch (NTW) and the European Environmental Bureau (EEB) in the European Nuclear Energy Forum (ENEF)**

Brussels, 26 November 2018

Dear President Tusk, dear President Juncker,

It is with much regret that Nuclear Transparency Watch (NTW) and the European Environmental Bureau (EEB) hereby suspend their cooperation with the European Council and the European Commission in the organisation of and participation in the European Nuclear Energy Forum (ENEF).

As you know, ENEF is organised on a mandate of the European Council as a platform that brings together all stakeholders to discuss the future of nuclear energy in the Union. After two constructive attempts from civil society to help create such a platform (one after the establishment of the Forum in 2007 and another in 2015), we have to conclude that ENEF is not able to fulfil that mandate. For that reason, the members of NTW have unanimously decided to withdraw the cooperation of NTW, followed by a decision by the EEB to do the same.

We call on the Council and the Commission to terminate ENEF, that consists now of an annual event alternating between Prague and Bratislava, and seek more constructive ways to facilitate the necessary discourse on the role of nuclear energy in the Union. This is necessary in order to enable the Member States and Union institutions to take a comprehensive view on the issues that need to be taken into account in the development of Union policies.

ENEF has in the course of the more than a decade of its existence failed to fulfil its mandate. In spite of sincere attempts from the European Commission to create an inclusive platform of all stakeholders and constructive input from members of the Steering Committee of ENEF, the one-sided pro-nuclear interests of the two organising Member States have resulted in events with a major orientation towards the propagation of nuclear technology. And although there has been some interest in the conferences in the organising countries, its outreach was very limited to almost non-existent on the European level.

Important failures of ENEF that contributed to our decision to suspend cooperation include:

- The failure to engage all Member States of the Union, including nuclear and non-nuclear countries, resulting in poorly informed one-sided positions on the issue of nuclear energy;
- The failure to engage all stakeholders in the discussion, more specifically the failure to actively and systematically include nuclear regulators, stakeholders from other energy sectors than the nuclear one, stakeholders with a strategic bird-eye view on the overall Union and global energy policy developments;
- The failure to generate wide interest in ENEF among other departments and Directorates of the European Commission than DG ENER's nuclear ones, as well as other European institutions (incl. the European Parliament, the European Ombudsman, the EIB and others);
- The failure of the organising Member States to position this platform for discussion on nuclear energy as a part of the overall Union energy policy developments;
- The failure to elicit Europe-wide media interest in the discussions concerning issues relevant for the development of nuclear energy within context of the overall Union energy policies;
- The failure to introduce discussion processes that allow all participants to exchange information, viewpoints and opinions in a way that facilitates cross-fertilisation.

NTW and the EEB wish to explicitly acknowledge the attempts from the European Commission DG ENER to overcome the many hurdles in order to fulfil the mandate from the Council. NTW and the EEB have sought, together with the European Commission and some of the other Steering Committee members, to constructively develop ENEF into a platform that would result in valuable insights and a basis for comprehensive viewpoints on the role of nuclear power in the Union. During their active engagement, NTW and the EEB have several times raised the alarm that ENEF was not developing according to its mandate from the Council and found an open ear for those concerns from the side of the Commission.

However, it has become clear that the failure of ENEF is systemic. In principle, the Forum could fulfil the Council's mandate if it were organised by a broader group of Member States, with broader participation, facilitating more participative and interactive discourse, and with targeted efforts to interact with media outlets from throughout the Union. Under the current set-up, however, the Forum largely functions as a political public relations tool for two Member States with an open and comprehensive pro-nuclear agenda. It therefore diverts attention, capacity and resources from what the discourse should really be about.

We hope and trust that the positive and constructive cooperation that exists between the European Commission on the one hand and NTW and the EEB on the other will not suffer through our decision to suspend our cooperation within the framework of ENEF. On the contrary, we hope that our action will free energy and capacity to generate more fruitful avenues to further common European goals in this area.

It is the above considerations that have led NTW and the EEB to call on the European Council and the European Commission to terminate the European Nuclear Energy Forum, which in its current set-up largely functions as a publicly funded gathering of one-sidedly pro-nuclear industry interests.

Because, in the current setup, the participation of civil society within ENEF only serves to legitimise an agenda of propaganda, without allowing important voices to contribute to a sustainable,

future-oriented energy policy for the Union, NTW and the EEB also call upon other members of civil society to follow suit and also suspend their cooperation with and participation in ENEF.

Furthermore, NTW and the EEB call on the European Council, the European Commission and other relevant stakeholders, including civil society, to engage in meaningful and inclusive dialogue in appropriate fora to be able offer direction to the Union's energy policies, and we reaffirm our willingness to play a constructive and active role in any future initiative with that perspective.

Sincerely,



Nadja Zeleznik

Chair of Nuclear Transparency Watch



Jeremy Wates

Secretary General of the EEB

Cc:

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