

Ms Kadri Simson  
Commissioner for Energy  
European Commission  
Rue de la Loi  
1049 Brussels - Belgium

Brussels, 27 March 2020

Dear Commissioner Simson,

We hope that you and your colleagues in the Commission are keeping safe and well and managing to adapt to life and work in the new circumstances of the current COVID-19 pandemic.

Despite these challenging circumstances, we would like to seek a meeting with you, virtual or physical depending on the timing, to discuss a number of pressing issues related to nuclear safety and transparency.

By way of introduction, Nuclear Transparency Watch was established in 2013 with the mission to promote greater transparency and safety in nuclear issues. As a European network set up with cross-party support from the European Parliament, NTW looks at all activities of the nuclear cycle, including outsourcing, policies for plant life-time extension, emergency preparedness and liability issues, costs of nuclear safety and radioactive waste management. NTW members include NGOs, academics, public representatives and other civil society actors from different backgrounds and though they might diverge on opinions concerning the use of nuclear energy, they agree on the need for a high level of nuclear safety and transparency in the sector.

The accelerating pace of climate change and mounting evidence of its potentially catastrophic effects has brought renewed focus on nuclear energy and revived the possibility of a resurgence of the nuclear industry. While the pros and cons of pursuing that option are hotly debated, what is hard to contest is the need for greater transparency and safety in an industry about which there is considerable public concern.

NTW has already established fruitful cooperation with the Directorate for Nuclear Energy, Safety and ITER on several issues, like promoting transparency in the nuclear sector based on the Aarhus Convention, the issue of nuclear emergency preparedness and response, and better implementation of the Nuclear Waste Directive.

However, we would like to discuss some specific issues with you, including the following:

- the debate on sustainability taxonomy and potential lack of transparency vis-à-vis the role of nuclear,
- the approach to the organisation of the European Nuclear Energy Forum (ENEF) and promotion of nuclear transparency,
- the need to strengthen the implementation of the Nuclear Waste Directive at the political level,
- lack of transparency in the lifetime extension of ageing nuclear power plants at national level,
- opportunities to upgrade the EURATOM treaty,
- some concerns about the lack or decrease of independence of nuclear regulators in the EU.

We are interested to find potential synergies between the Commission and NTW to fruitfully improve the safety and transparency for which we aim.

We look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely,

Nadja Železnik, Chairwoman of Nuclear Transparency Watch

