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Culture, Education and Youth Mariya Gabriel

Brussels, 13 March 2023

**Subject: Open letter calling for the inclusion of nuclear as a strategic technology under the Net-Zero Industry Act**

The signatories of this letter welcome the recently launched Green Deal Industrial Plan initiative which aims to support the EU's decarbonisation efforts, ensure security of supply, strengthen European resilience and tackle affordability.

The Net-Zero Industry Act (NZIA) is an important part of this plan as it will set the scene for industrial players in the years to come and determine the degree of EU strategic autonomy in terms of key technologies needed for the energy transition.

Not only does nuclear account for the greatest share of the EU's electricity mix (currently around 25% of all electricity produced and 50% of low carbon electricity), the European nuclear sector is composed of a highly skilled manufacturing capacity based in the EU. The nuclear value chain is currently well-established in different EU Member States. With an annual turnover of around €100 billion, the sector has a significant impact (both direct and indirect) on the EU's GDP (around €500 billion according to a 2019 report by Deloitte<sup>1</sup>).

Nuclear technologies are key to significantly decarbonizing industrial sectors (e.g. mining, steel manufacturing, chemicals, aviation...) as they provide large volumes of low-carbon electricity, and potentially also heat, steam and hydrogen in future. The EU masters all technologies in the fuel cycle. In addition to existing large reactors, Small and Advanced Modular Reactors (SMR and AMR) technologies are developing rapidly, and all are expected to make a significant contribution to the European strategic objectives.

In addition, the value brought by nuclear extends beyond energy. For example, the European nuclear sector is an important player in the medical field providing essential diagnosis and treatment technologies. Ensuring sovereignty over all these applications also means scaling up European production of the nuclear fuel supply.

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<sup>1</sup> [Nuclear energy - Powering the economy Full Study](#)

Support for maintaining this European value chain is essential in order for the nuclear industry to deliver what is needed to reach Net Zero by 2050.

The European nuclear industry has identified two important challenges which will affect the existing nuclear fleet and new build projects:

- Maintaining and developing the European nuclear supply chain
- Attracting skilled workers and revitalizing nuclear education and training programmes

These two aspects are at the heart of the NZIA objectives.

The US has recognised the importance of supporting its nuclear sector by including it under the Inflation Reduction Act. By supporting the European nuclear sector through the NZIA, the EU will remain a key player in the global competition for clean technologies.

Taking into account all of these elements, we see no valid reasons why this clean technology should be excluded from the NZIA, particularly given that nuclear activities have been – quite rightly – included under the Sustainable Finance Taxonomy.

We therefore insist on the inclusion of nuclear as a strategic technology under the Net-Zero Industry Act.

Yours sincerely,

**Signatories:**







Hungarian Nuclear Forum



NucleairNederland



Slovenian Nuclear Forum