



TAXONOMY: WHAT DO THE TECHNICAL SCREENING CRITERIA MEAN FOR NUCLEAR – AND HOW TO COMPLY WITH THEM?

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What does nuclear contribute to the EU's economy?

104 Nuclear reactors in operation in the EU



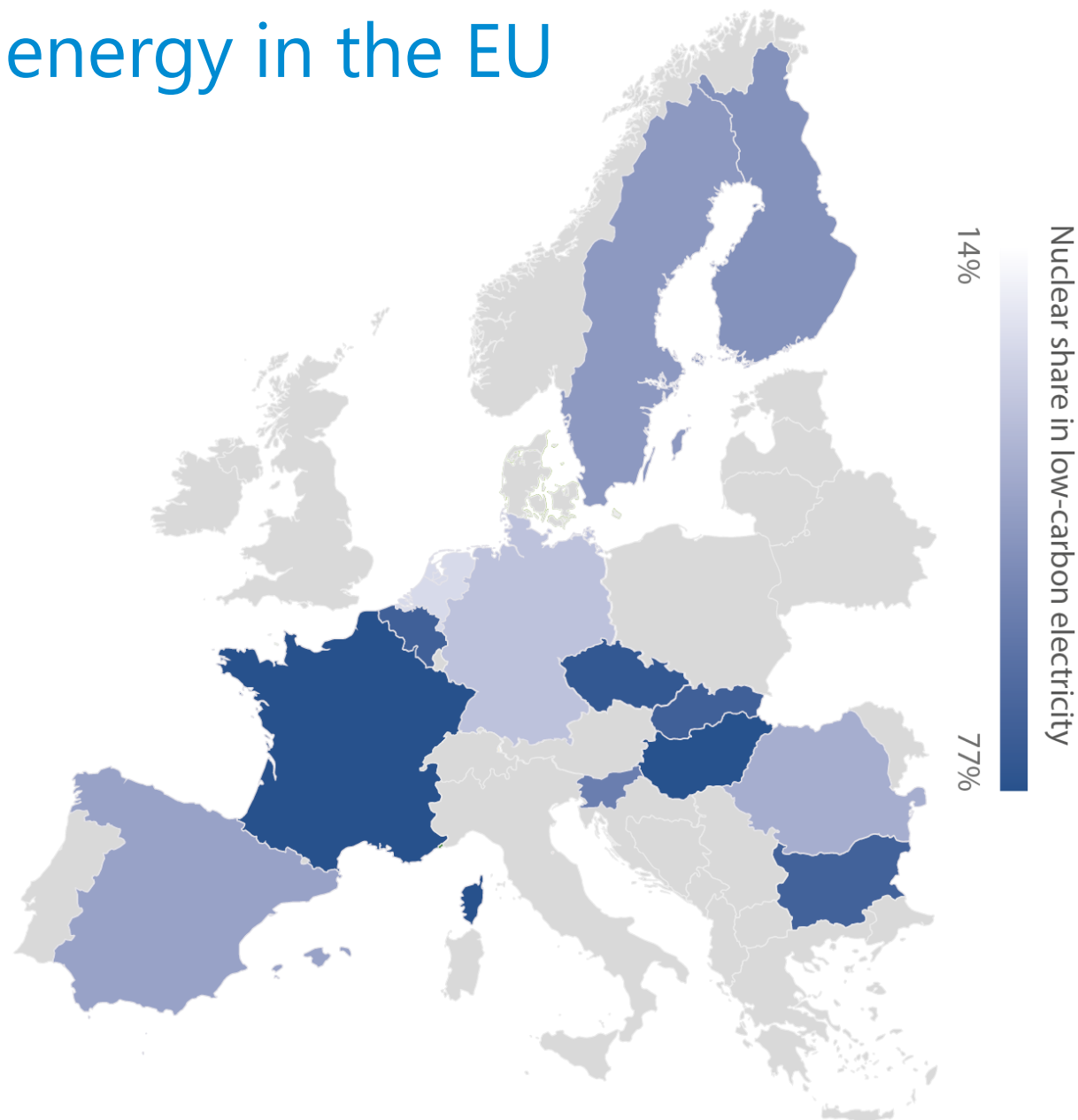
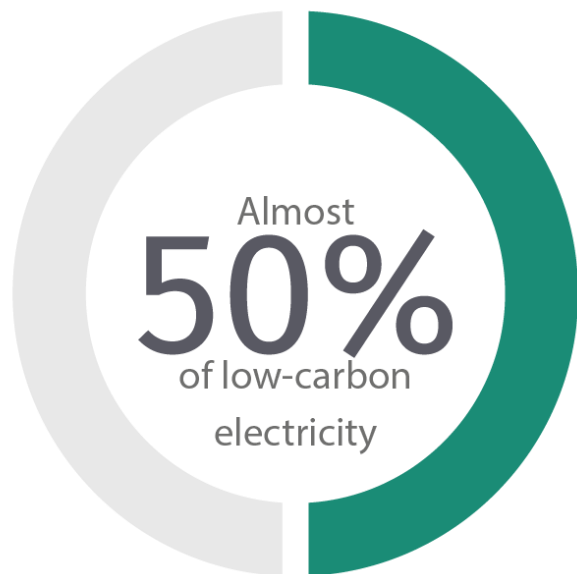
1 million jobs

€ 100 billion/year



25% of the electricity production

Nuclear energy in the EU



Who we are

We act as the voice of the European nuclear industry in energy policy discussions with EU Institutions and other key stakeholders

A conceptual image featuring a clear glass lightbulb resting on a bed of dark, rich soil. Inside the lightbulb, a small, vibrant green tree with a brown trunk is growing, its roots extending down to the base of the bulb. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green, suggesting a natural, sunlit environment. The overall composition symbolizes the integration of nature and technology, or the concept of sustainable growth.

SUSTAINABLE FINANCE TAXONOMY

Goal

To direct investments towards sustainable projects & activities

Importance of Taxonomy

Finance

Access to finance

Policy

Influence future policy

Message

Science is clear: nuclear is low-carbon & sustainable

Sustainable finance taxonomy



Joint Research Center

- Nuclear already recognised as contributing to Climate Mitigation objectives
- Focus on 'Do No Significant Harm' (DNSH) criteria
 - Sustainable use and protection of water and marine resources
 - Transition to a circular economy
 - Pollution prevention & control
 - Protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems
- Attention to long-term management of high-level radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel

JRC conclusion

The analyses did not reveal any science-based evidence that nuclear energy does more harm to human health or to the environment than other electricity production technologies already included in the Taxonomy as activities supporting climate change mitigation.

Nuclear is taxonomy compliant

Assessment of nuclear

- JRC Assessment - Positive
- Two additional groups of experts reviewed the work
 - Article 31 of the Euratom Treaty (independent radiation protection and public health experts attached to the European Commission)
 - Sub group of the Scientific Committee on Health Environment and Emerging Risks (SCHEER, under DG Sante)

Article 31 of the Euratom Treaty

- Confirms conclusions of JRC
- Public health & environmental protection: Existing legal framework deemed adequate
- Outside EU (eg backend): EU legislation + international recommendations & standards deemed adequate
- Deep Geological Repositories: Appropriate, safe & considered an existing technology
- Precautionary principle: finds that existing legislation manages uncertainties and risks appropriately
- Gaps in knowledge: finds that JRC work is based on well-established scientific research, and that any gaps are unlikely to change the conclusions
 - Like with all fields, can always do more research, but this should not be seen as a 'gap'

SCHEER

- Broadly speaking, they agree with the conclusions of the JRC
- However, they have some concerns
- They also make clear that:
 - They were asked to focus solely on the JRC report and thus could not conduct an additional assessment
 - They did not have enough time to bring on board additional experts to help with, for example, the assessment of Deep Geological Repositories
- They appear to bring into question national regulatory bodies
- They suggest that the DNSH are not enough to ensure that an activity does not cause harm, particularly outside the EU
- Knowledge gaps: They did not have enough time to answer the question as to whether there are gaps in the knowledge

A conceptual image featuring a clear glass lightbulb resting on a bed of dark, rich soil. Inside the lightbulb, a small, vibrant green tree with a brown trunk is growing. The background is a soft-focus green, suggesting foliage. A semi-transparent white rectangular box is overlaid on the right side of the lightbulb, containing the title text.

COMPLEMENTARY DELEGATED ACT

General comments

- Nuclear remains a *transitional* technology
- On Disclosure Requirements under Art 8 and the NFRD, they now require reporting as follows:
 - Share of taxonomy aligned activities
 - Share of taxonomy eligible, but not aligned, activities
 - Share taxonomy-non-eligible nuclear energy related activities

Technical Screening Criteria - Waste

The Member State in which the project is located must have operational final disposal facilities for very low, low and intermediate radioactive waste.

- Goal of Commission is to push MS to move ahead this
- Issue for some countries?

Technical Screening Criteria - Waste

The Member State in which the project is located must have plans in place final disposal facilities for High level radioactive waste which are operational by 2050

- To comply, the MS in which the project is located must have plans for **one operational repository** (regardless of whether it is linked to the project or not)
- Problematic for:
 - Newcomer countries, eg Poland, as they will not need such a repository in 2050
 - Small MS, eg Estonia, as a shared repository is a much more suitable solution

Technical Screening Criteria - Projects

The normal operation and maintenance of existing NPPs is *not included*

- Only capital expenditure destined for the life-time extension of the existing fleet is included.
- BUT: this is the intention expressed by the Commission.
- **The text itself refers to the operation & maintenance NACE code**
 - As such, regardless of the Commission's intention, such activities are covered

Technical Screening Criteria - ATF

Both New Build and LTO projects will need to make use of Accident-Tolerant Fuels as of 2025

- The CDA itself states that such fuels are already available on the market
- As such, we consider that several fuels in use today can be considered as meeting this criteria
 - These are fuels which have been developed with the primary goal of providing additional protection against accidents.
 - Research and testing of 'Enhanced Accident-Tolerant Fuels' is also ongoing in different parts of the world, including Europe.

Technical Screening Criteria – Other issues

- Article 41 notification procedure: Commission grants itself extensive powers over the monitoring and assessment of projects
 - Issue being reviewed by legal experts
- The nuclear fuel cycle is currently not included in the CDA as an 'enabling activity'
- Non-EU investments remain excluded

Current status

- Commission: CDA sent for 4 month 'scrutiny' in March 2022
 - Council and Parliament have until 11 July to either adopt or reject the proposal. They cannot modify it
 - Whilst Scrutiny could be prolonged by a further 2 months (up to 11 September) this is not currently on the table
- Council: De facto adopted by the Member States as only 8 objected to the CDA
- European Parliament:
 - Vote in the ENVI/ECON committee scheduled for today
 - Vote in Plenary currently scheduled for 7 July 2022
 - In order for the Parliament to reject the CDA, this would need the support of 353 MEPs
 - At this stage we remain cautiously optimistic

Thank you!

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