

## **R10 Resolution on nuclear**

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Agenda item: 6. Resolutions

### **Motion text**

#### **1 Resolution on nuclear**

30.7% of total EU's CO2 emissions is made by energy supply (Statista, 2024). A clear, realistic and ambitious energy policy is needed to achieve the goal of decarbonizing the whole industry. Our current policy lacks the realism part when considering nuclear power – which no matter the downsides plays a major role of carbon neutral electricity production in our member countries.

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#### **1 – Reality with nuclear phase-out and fossil fuel usage**

The current text considering nuclear power does not coincide with the realities in EU countries with nuclear electricity production. Even with massive investments into renewable energy sources, massive amounts of fossil fuel production is needed (Bdew, 2024). The lost nuclear electricity production was largely replaced by coal (Jarvis et al., 2022).

The main issue is that while nuclear energy provides stable electricity production, most renewable sources are weather dependent by nature (Brunner et al., 2020). Additional flexible energy demand is filled with fossil fuels because we don't yet have the technologies for additional carbon neutral flexible energy production (Zöphel et al., 2018). The issue is not just political or economic, hence needing viable policies. Positioning ourselves to advocate for phase-out of all nuclear energy – no matter how modern and safe those powerplants are – will ultimately lead to dependency on fossil fuels, whether we want it or not. The stance on nuclear power being dirty and dangerous is outdated and lacks the proper understanding of scales considering the global climate catastrophe.

#### **2 – Emerging nuclear technology**

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26 The current text doesn't mention emerging nuclear technologies, which are  
27 generally known as Small Modular Reactor Technology Developments. These  
28 technologies are fission reactors aiming for modular development, improvements  
29 in nuclear safety with passive safety elements (f. ex. lower pressure ranges and  
30 natural conduction circling) as well as other nuclear fuel such as thorium  
31 (IAEA, 2020). The possible usages of these new reactors tackle the issues of  
32 decarbonizing district heating and industrial steam processes, hence widening  
33 the potential usages of nuclear energy from electricity production to sectors  
34 which are harder to decarbonize with renewables. However, the current text notes  
35 that nuclear fusion "will be unable to provide a concrete response in time to  
36 solve the climate crisis". While the point is true, fusion technologies are just  
37 part of all nuclear technologies developed at the moment. Fusion is not relevant  
38 to address in the platform, but Small Modular Reactor Technologies should be  
39 addressed.

### 40 3 – Nuclear safety

41 Historically the global Green movement has opposed nuclear power. Major nuclear  
42 disasters (Three Miles Island and Chernobyl) as well as thousands of nuclear  
43 tests and handling of nuclear waste were large issues in the latter part of the  
44 20th century. However, the lessons learned from the disasters, accidents and  
45 problems regarding nuclear waste has made nuclear energy one of the most  
46 reliable production methods in the world (Statista, 2022). While large  
47 environmental catastrophes and loss of life as a result of a nuclear accident is  
48 technically possible, so is one from a structural failure of a dam. Nuclear  
49 power is in the same level of deaths per unit of electricity production as wind  
50 and solar power and unsurprisingly coal and oil are at the top (OWID, 2018).

51 No electricity production method is perfect. Modern powerplants regulated by  
52 national nuclear safety authorities in Europe are safe and regulated. We should  
53 focus our safety concerns on the ends of the uranium lifecycle. The mining of  
54 uranium doesn't create considerable radiation risks, but it has the risks  
55 involved with all mining. Hence, we ought to have more regulation on the mining  
56 practices in EU and to regulate the import of uranium from countries with poor  
57 mining safety practices or human rights violations. The recycling and deposition  
58 of used nuclear fuel is another problem with both radiation risks and questions  
59 about the morality of long-term deposition of the fuel. The conversation around  
60 these topics and the wider nuclear safety is an important one, but it shouldn't  
61 be influenced by scare tactics or historical sentiments.

#### 62 Sources:

63 BdeW. (2024) Die Energieversorgung 2023 - Jahresbericht

64 Brunner, C. Deac, G. Braun, S. Zöphel, C. (2020) The future need for flexibility

65 and the impact of fluctuating renewable power generation. Renewable Energy. Vol.  
66 149.

67 ENTSO-E Transparency Platform. (2024) Actual Generation per Production Type.  
68 (Updates continuously)

69 IAEA. (2020) Advances in Small Modular Reactor Technology Developments Statista.  
70 (2022) Mortality rate from accidents and air pollution per unit of electricity  
71 worldwide, by energy source

72 Statista. (2024) Distribution of carbon dioxide emission in the European Union  
73 in 2022

74 Stephen, J. Deschenes, O. Jha, A. (2022) The Private and External Costs of  
75 Germany's Nuclear Phase-out. Journal of the European Economic Association.  
76 Zöphel, C. Schreiber, S. Muller, T. Möst, D. (2018) Which Flexibility Options  
77 Facilitate the Integration of Intermittent Renewable Energy Sources in  
78 Electricity Systems. Current Sustainable/Renewable Energy Reports. Vol. 5.

79 Our World in data. (2024). Website, read 18.7.2024.

80 <https://ourworldindata.org/grapher/death-rates-from-energy-production-per-twh>

81 **Proposal for the new text**

82 **The following text is based on the new EC amendment proposal. Our additions are**  
83 **bolded.**

84 **Nuclear energy (see Glossary 111) cannot be built in time to use it as a climate**  
85 **crisis solution. Nuclear energy, just like any energy source, has drawbacks,**  
86 **including but not limited to the exploitation of workers in the extraction of**  
87 **uranium (see Glossary 181), the long-term disposal of nuclear waste, huge**  
88 **consequences of potential accidents, the long time it takes to build and the**  
89 **increasingly expensive costs to build nuclear power plants.**

90 **Currently operating powerplants should continue to operate and produce**  
91 **electricity as long as national nuclear safety authorities deem the powerplants**  
92 **safe and reliable. The modernization efforts and continuous safety improvements**  
93 **overseen by the nuclear safety authorities are crucial for the usage of nuclear**  
94 **energy. The learnings from Three Mile Island, Chernobyl and Fukushima nuclear**  
95 **disasters must influence the improvements of nuclear safety systems and accident**  
96 **mitigation plans. While serious nuclear accidents are few and far between, the**  
97 **number of lives the production of fossil fuels and electricity claims yearly are**  
98 **in the millions.**

99 All nuclear safety deviations must be reported to the general public even if  
100 they don't meet the criteria for International Nuclear Event Scale (INES)  
101 anomalies or incidents. National laws considering all usages of radiation have  
102 to demand nuclear powerplant operators, enrichment operators, nuclear waste  
103 operators and nuclear fuel transportation operators to be fully transparent  
104 about the safety deviations.

105 FYEG prioritizes renewable energy sources over nuclear and fossil fuels. FYEG  
106 demands that renewable energy development must not endanger biodiversity and  
107 must reduce reliance on rare earth minerals that often are mined in exploitative  
108 practices. Possible phaseout of nuclear powerplants must be reliant on renewable  
109 energy and must not increase the reliance on fossil fuels even in the short run.

110 Small modular nuclear reactor technology may be developed and used for district  
111 heating purposes as well as electricity production in remote areas. Community-  
112 owned small reactors are a viable option to decarbonize district heating where  
113 renewables are not scalable to fit the demand due to Arctic conditions or lack  
114 of electricity infrastructure. Eventually we want to stop using the small  
115 modular nuclear reactors as well, when the renewable production methods are  
116 reliable enough to carry the whole electricity infrastructure.

117 The development of renewable energy limits the dependence on fossil fuels and  
118 uranium from Russia and other authoritarian states. The end goal of FYEG energy  
119 policy is a decentralized and community-owned and operated renewable energy  
120 system.

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## **Reason**

We made this resolution to reflect the conversation of the last GA and bring forward our side on this topic.