Translated from French to English - www.onlinedoctranslator.com

Excerpt from below: "*From this point of view, and you know it perfectly well here, opposing civilian nuclear power and military nuclear power in terms of production and, moreover, in terms of research, makes no sense for a country like ours. The sector lives off its complementarities and it must elsewhere be considered in its complementarities. And this is also why we must constantly think about the long term, the ability to preserve our technical, technological and industrial skills throughout the sector in order to be able to protect our sovereign production capacities, in civilian and military alike. One does not go without the other. Without civilian nuclear, no military nuclear, without military nuclear, no civilian nuclear. Factories like yours that produce both for power plants and for naval vessels, organizations like the Commissariat for Atomic Energy and Alternative Energies are living proof of this."*

8 DECEMBER 2020 - SPEECH BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC AT CREUSOT ON THE FUTURE OF NUCLEAR POWER

Translated from French https://www.elysee.fr/front/pdf/elysee-module-16825-fr.pdf

Ladies and Gentlemen, Minister, Members of Parliament, President of the Regional Council, President of the Departmental Council, Mayor, General, Admirals, General Officers, General Administrator of the CEA, President and Chief Executive Officer from EDF, Company managers, Mr. Prefect, Dear friends and employees of Framatome and friendly companies, dear friends,

I am very happy to be with you today at Le Creusot. Very happy to be in this beautiful industrial region that we care about so much. And before starting and diving into the subject, I would like to have a friendly and committed thought for your colleagues and your companions in Belfort. We were talking about it with the President of the Regional Council because some are experiencing the anxieties that we have experienced here in other professions and I want to tell them that the State, the government in the person of the Minister and the various industrial sectors are with them and we will continue with the elected officials of the territory, to fight so that this other great industrial territory has the future it deserves. But today I am happy to be with you at Le Creusot, Mr Mayor, we remembered it, firstly because 4 and a half years ago I was there with you, Mr Deputy also remembers, and the period was rather to anguish.

The controversies were innumerable on the difficulties of the sector, the restructurings were there and the doubts hovered. And I believe, I'm even sure that I was telling you at the time either we manage to get a big contract on the other side of the Channel, or there will definitely be layoffs. We landed the big contract on the other side of the Channel and it's your daily life, it's Hinkley Point. You have fought and I really want to salute, Mr Bernard FONTANA, your commitment at the head of this company, to salute the commitment of your group, of the whole group, of all the work that has been done by EDF, Jean-Bernard LÉVY remembers it to take over, restructure with Philippe KNOCHE and a few others at the time who were there, and to really go up the industry. And this result and the situation in which we are today where, you were able to give me the figures, the 1,000 days without an accident, the hirings that have left, here and in the rest of the group, it is the fruit of a collective commitment but it is first and foremost the fruit of your work here in Le Creusot and everywhere in the group.

And for that I want to congratulate you. We believed in it, we got the contracts but you worked hard to make sure the date was there. And I am happy to also be in Le Creusot, you told me so, Mr. Mayor

when you arrived, dear David Marti, because 33 years ago to the day François MITTERRAND as President of the Republic here in your town announced major industrial reconversion projects at a time when questions also arose for the industrial future of the country. He had chosen Le Creusot, he had already been talking for a long time about the major industrial sectors and made a few commitments, of which, moreover, not all the fruits were visible, for some, only 15 to 20 years later. It is therefore no coincidence that we are here together today because we believe in this new French future.

And in this period where doubt hovers, where the anxiety linked to the pandemic is there, where the constraints are multiple, and you experience them in your daily life at work and at home, where obviously the short term can sometimes become our obsession, we also need to look far ahead, to look at the horizon, to build the future of the country, to offer this French future to all our fellow citizens. This French future depends on a carbon-free industrial ambition, on the reconciliation of our ecological and industrial ambition, on our ability to rearticulate the sovereignty of our industry and the need to meet our environmental requirements. The ministers here present with me know it and carry it on a daily basis and it is possible. And in this context, the nuclear sector plays an essential role. And by you, workers, engineers, researchers, managers who forge it on a daily basis in the major public groups, State administrations, industrial groups, SMEs and ETIs which mesh all our territories with all of their employees.

This future of the nuclear sector, for me, is based on, basically, three lines of force, three convictions. The first is that our energy and ecological future depends on nuclear power. I am aware, of course, that many of our fellow citizens think that nuclear power pollutes the air and that it emits greenhouse gases. The image of smoke coming out of the reactor has a long life.

However, and you know it here better than elsewhere, it is quite the opposite. Nuclear energy is the non-intermittent energy that emits the least CO2. The IPCC confirms it, the European Commission underlines it. Several European countries, such as Finland, Poland, the Czech Republic or the Netherlands have embarked on this path by studying the construction of new nuclear reactors to achieve their climate objectives, to name no more since they have decided to leave the European Union our British friends, who nevertheless chose it by giving us a lot of work. Yes, nuclear energy, when it comes to producing non-intermittent electricity while respecting and protecting the climate, is relevant, provided that the we are making progress on waste management and safety. And I know you are fully mobilized there too.

Nuclear energy is carbon-free energy, safe energy. We started with structuring research projects, also with the commitment of all the players in the sector to continue this work, to improve safety each time. France is, I think I can say it, without a doubt one of the countries whose degree of nuclear safety is the most demanding in the world. We are in the process of continuing to make progress in terms of waste management, in France and abroad, with major projects at stake. And we will continue to move forward on much-needed research as well, especially on all cycle-closing topics. And so if I do I have never been in favor of all nuclear, because it is necessary not to depend on a single source, I believe and have always assumed that if we have to rebalance our energy mix by reducing the share of nuclear, the atom must continue to be a mainstay of it for decades to come.

We are committed to reducing the share of nuclear in the production of the energy mix and in particular electricity from the laws passed under the mandate of François HOLLANDE, then updated

in 2018. But this ambition must not go without a renewed ambition, and this morning we held an Ecological Defense Council on this subject, to complement our nuclear ambition with the production of absolutely essential renewable energies, whatever the scenarios, and which must increase sharply. Because France, today, is not meeting either its commitments or its ambitions. Developing renewable energies, wind power on land and at sea, solar, hydropower, biomass, geothermal energy and many others, and we are doing this with enthusiasm in accordance with the multi-annual energy program that we have published in April 2020.

As such, since 2017 we have removed a large number of obstacles and barriers to accelerate the deployment of projects and develop these low-carbon electricity sources. We are going to continue to do so by validating, as we did this morning, avenues for wind power and by continuing to document all the scenarios. France must also meet this ambition because our entire renewable sector, I also say it here with great force, is an industrial sector, upstream and it will be downstream, is a sector in which we have started to regain production sovereignty. And we must continue to do so there too. But to renounce nuclear power totally or too quickly would be to open, as other countries have done, coal or gas-fired power stations, or to import carbon energy. And that we refused.

We made the choice of nuclear power in 1973 to gain energy independence and contrary to certain voices that I have still been able to hear recently, France has not done everything badly in its past. It has also been able to build robust strengths on which it must base its future.

This is the case with the French army model in which we believe and which we reaffirmed by an ambitious law at the start of the five-year term. And the same is also true for our nuclear ambition, which has allowed us to greatly reduce our dependence on international markets and, as I was saying, to reduce CO2 emissions through electricity production. While it is very difficult to say today which nuclear or renewable energies will be the best technology to replace our existing nuclear fleet in 2035, we must therefore look at the whole range of possibilities. Nobody today, with honesty, can say how in 2040-2050 the technological changes that are ahead of us, will allow us to build the best electricity mix. We must therefore prepare our country for responsibility by pursuing several paths.

This is why the multiannual energy program provides for the government to carry out a complete work program with the nuclear industry, allowing us to study all these options without any taboos. We must first study the technical feasibility of an electricity mix with a very high level of renewable energies. A report commissioned from the International Energy Agency and RTE will be published early next year. We conducted the examination, a transitional review this morning in the Defense Council, and will specify all the conditions for implementation to achieve this by 2050. At the same time, we need to ensure the conditions for taking a decision on the possible launch of a program to build new reactors and on the EPR2. This study work on the construction of new reactors is essential and I would like it to continue and be completed in the coming months so that all the necessary elements are available before the end of the five-year period. So, on the basis of this documented work which will be shared with all French people, we will be able to choose with full knowledge of the facts, to choose in complete transparency. As I indicated, the final decision to build new reactors must be prepared and must be taken no later than 2023, when Flamanville 3 will have entered service. Our ecological environmental future therefore depends on nuclear power with scenarios that we will have to refine together in the coming months, but with investments and studies that have already been launched, as I have just said.

The second conviction, the second line of force is that our economic and industrial future also depends on nuclear energy. 3,000 companies, 220,000 jobs, including 10,000 in this region, 5,000 recruitments planned for 2021, despite the difficulties that everyone knows. Few sectors offer so many prospects, especially to our youth. You recalled the figures for several of you whom I questioned earlier, the whole of the sector is at the rendezvous of these commitments in terms, in particular, of recruiting the youngest. A presence in particular through the network of subcontractors in all regions of France is also the economic strength of this sector. Rare are the sectors that are anchored in this way throughout the territory. With also know-how that is exported all over the world and a trade surplus of 7 billion euros. Rare are also the sectors which are thus at the forefront among the world's flagships, with this ability to export our know-how as well as our production.

We must consolidate this major asset, which has been shaped over decades. This is why, within the framework of France Relance, we have made the choice with the Government, the ministers here present, to invest nearly 500 million euros in the nuclear sector. First with a fund of investment endowed with 100 million euros which will be put in place from 2021 to help consolidation and support strategic players. The sector needs it for the most fragile players, to help with consolidation, to give visibility. This is essential. It will be supplemented by a modernization fund for industrial companies in the sector, endowed with 70 million euros, also making it possible to modernize and gain in competitiveness on all of our sites and to help, in doing so, the approach of relocation which was presented earlier by several of you.

Finally, investments by France Relance will also enable the French SMR project. These small nuclear reactors full of promises which will be carried out. We have developed several projects, EDF, along with the entire industry, carries them with great courage and commitment. We know all the difficulties we experienced on the EPR. We know the need to continue, as I said, the studies and to commit ourselves right now to this segment which is full of promise. With an envelope of 50 million euros, the recovery plan invested over two years in the realization of a preliminary draft and thus engages France in the world competition on the SMR. We need to quickly catch up, also consider all possible partnership options and position ourselves in this segment.

We will also train through this ambition, those who, tomorrow, will carry our excellence high by creating several centers of training and excellence, welding, in particular in Bourgogne Franche-Comté and by setting up a university for nuclear professions. This is also an organization that makes it possible to go further in terms of learning, in terms of training, including lifelong training, to improve skills, improve quality and continue to attract our young people, and I say here with great force.

It is important that the young people who today leave training are sometimes in retraining. To clearly hear the message that the nuclear sector is hiring, that it is hiring workers, technicians, engineers, researchers, that we need this young people and that we are also giving ourselves the means to continue to train them in our territories in the best conditions. When I say that nuclear power is also part of our economic and ecological ambition, I want to emphasize here how much the nuclear sector is essential to the development of the ambition in terms of hydrogen which is supported by the Government. Today as we develop it, no European country can produce hydrogen with a decarbonized electricity mix as we can do thanks to nuclear power. All those who make green hydrogen today in Europe do so by massively seeking renewable energy abroad, by carrying out operations producing hydrogen abroad, thus inducing massive transport and logistics costs. to

re-import the hydrogen thus produced on European soil. We have an economic and environmental advantage through nuclear power.

This is that we can produce this carbon-free blue hydrogen thanks to the electricity thus produced on our soil. Finally, our strategic future, our status as a great power goes through you, goes through the nuclear industry, deterrence, submarines, our aircraft carrier, everything that makes France an independent power, listen, respect, rely on you, on your know-how, on what you design, produce in a factory like the one in Le Creusot. We saw it just now in the parts machined here.

From this point of view, and you know it perfectly well here, opposing civilian nuclear power and military nuclear power in terms of production and, moreover, in terms of research, makes no sense for a country like ours. The sector lives off its complementarities and it must elsewhere be considered in its complementarities. And this is also why we must constantly think about the long term, the ability to preserve our technical, technological and industrial skills throughout the sector in order to be able to protect our sovereign production capacities, in civilian and military alike. One does not go without the other. Without civilian nuclear, no military nuclear, without military nuclear, no civilian nuclear. Factories like yours that produce both for power plants and for naval vessels, organizations like the Commissariat for Atomic Energy and Alternative Energies are living proof of this.

In this regard, on the strength of the work that has been carried out since the beginning of the five-year term, the strategic review of the military programming law, work which was carried out by the Minister of the Armed Forces, the CEMA, the DGA and the CEA. I came to Le Creusot here to give you some perspectives.

Nuclear power will remain the cornerstone of our strategic autonomy. It is of course deterrence in all its components, it is the propulsion of our nuclear ballistic missile and attack submarines. It is also the nuclear propulsion of our aircraft carriers. The Charles DE GAULLE, as you know, will reach the end of its life in 2038. This is why I have decided that the future aircraft carrier which will equip our country and our navy will be, like the nuclear-powered Charles DE GAULLE.

Your factory in Le Creusot, which has been producing essential parts for our navy for a long time, will produce among other several major parts of the nuclear boiler room of the future aircraft carrier by forging them by machining them here. It's a source of pride for your plant, your city, your region and, I must say, for the entire nuclear community.

Through these choices, we confirm France's desire to preserve its strategic autonomy, its deep conviction that we can continue to invest in industry with a strong ecological ambition and continue to combine our civil industrial ambition with our military nuclear power.

Ladies and gentlemen, this Creusot plant is a concentrate of the qualities of French nuclear power. Dear André, Mr Minister, you know how much, having always defended it, it is a secular tradition here, you recalled it, Mr Fontana, just now, more than 200 years of industrial history and a foundry that preceded us here. But it's also a story of fears, doubts and each time, the courage to overcome them. Because there is this industrial history here.

The spirit of the place, in a way. The fortitude of the inhabitants and there are know-how and skills. That is to say, what happens from generation to generation, what is written in books, learned each time improved, but what passes from hand to hand, from knack to knack, by these ancestral

know-how that we have constantly improved. And in this land of history, you also carry this pride which is ours, this French know-how in nuclear and industrial matters. The one we hold on to. Some sometimes doubted it, it may have been threatened and we strongly want to get out of this crisis by giving it even more energy, by reinvesting because this is the place for women and men to continue to build the future of our country, to to continue to produce, to continue to be proud of the industrial tool, of this know-how and to tell themselves that their children in turn will be able to build their future here because there is a future here, in the sector which is yours, in the trade which is yours, with the know-how which is yours. Because we reinvent them every day, but because we believe in them.

So four and a half years after these moments of doubt, I am extremely proud and happy to be able to tell you that thanks to you and through the commitment of the entire French nuclear industry, choices that are ours and investments of the nation we can look to the future with strength. Always demanding because there will certainly be tomorrows that will remain difficult and nothing is given, but in any case with a certain taste for the future, the one that we have been able to wrest by work, the years accumulated and today this ability to invest and to believe in it. We will all get there together because you did it, because you persisted and because we believe in it. Thank you. Long live the Republic and long live France! the years accumulated and today this capacity to invest and to believe in it. We will all get there together because you did it, because you persisted and because we believe in it. Thank you.

Long live the Republic and long live France!