



Statement to the 11^{ème} EPSU Congress

BUCHAREST June 18-20, 2024

Public services now!

Presented by CFE-CGC Energies and FNME-CGT - France

Bucharest, June 19, 2024

On behalf of the trade unions of Collège France Benelux*, Fédération du Gaz (Romania), FLAIE CISL (Italy), EVDSZ (Hungary), UNIOS (Czech Republic), Syndicat des travailleurs de l'énergie (Slovenia)

And with the support of Ukraine

A call to embrace technological diversity to achieve the Green Deal's ambitious climate targets

We all share the same fight for an energy transition that is climate-efficient, economically sustainable and socially just, and that brings progress rather than regression.

We also share the view that deregulation of the energy sector has led us into a deep crisis from which we cannot emerge without a public energy service that gives everyone - individuals, public services and industry - access to abundant, affordable, low-carbon energy, regardless of how it is produced. This is the principle of technological neutrality, which allows each country to adapt its energy mix according to its own natural resources, geography and history.

While developing renewable energies, many countries in the European Union and beyond, within the EPSU affiliates, have opted for nuclear power to ensure a significant share of their decarbonized electricity production. Nuclear power already accounts for around a quarter of Europe's carbon-free electricity; tomorrow, with the trajectory announced by the countries of the European Nuclear Alliance*, including the United Kingdom and, on our doorstep, Ukraine, which has announced a massive construction program, it will be even more....

Nuclear power produces abundant, low-carbon, controllable electricity, which our societies need simply to function, prosper and meet their decarbonization objectives. The future of nuclear power is not limited to today's high-power plants, but also

includes the developments we will need (SMR, Generation IV). European countries have mastered the entire value chain, and nuclear power is already generating a large number of skilled jobs throughout Europe and beyond (and will do so even more in the future), all of which are of a public service nature.

However, we regret to note that a certain number of texts issued by EPSU do not comply with the principle of technological neutrality, and in fact discriminate against nuclear power (and sometimes even hydropower) by using terminology such as "green jobs", "green energies" and "renewable energies".

In most cases, these formulations should be replaced by "all low-carbon energies" or "decarbonized", which would be much more inclusive, including certain low-carbon energies essential to the energy transition, such as nuclear, hydraulic and renewable energies, and would be more in line with scientific, technical and economic realities.

We insist that renewable and non-renewable energies are a means to an end, not an end in themselves.

This is also the thrust of the evolution of European energy policy, such as the vote on the taxonomy, and recently, the formal adoption, with the support of all but one member state, of the Net Zero Emission Industry (NZIA) regulation.

We call on EPSU to embrace technological diversity to achieve the ambitious climate targets pursued by the Green Deal, and to respect an agnostic approach to "Net Zero" technologies.

We call on EPSU to recognize the contribution of all decarbonized energy sources to climate objectives and strategic autonomy.

We therefore insist that EPSU texts concerning the energy sector respect the principle of technological neutrality.

That's why we've tabled a number of amendments to the action program, on which the compromise proposals are unsatisfactory.

Thank you.

***Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden**

(1)

France: FGF-FO; INTERCO-CFDT, FSS-CFDT, FNEM-FO, CGT-SP; FNME-CGT; CGT Santé; UFSE-CGT; UNSA; CFE-CGC Energies; Fédération CFDT PSTE; FFAE-CFDT; FSU

Belgium : CG-FGTB / AC-ABVV ; CGSP-ALR / ACOD-LRB ; CGSP-G / ACOD-G, CGSP-M / ACOD-O ; CGSP-P / ACOD-P ; ACV/CSC ; CSC / ACV ; ACV Puls ; SETCA / BBTK ; SLFP / VSOA ; USF

Netherlands: FNV, NU'91



Declaration 11th EPSU Congress EPSU

BUCHAREST June 18-20, 2024

Time for Public Services!

Presented by CFE-CGC Energies and FNME-CGT - France

Bucharest 19th june

On behalf of the trade unions of Collège France Benelux (1), Fédération du Gaz (Romania), CISL (Italy), EVDSZ (Hungary), UNIOS (Czech Republic), Syndicat des travailleurs de l'énergie (Slovenia).

And with the support of Ukraine

A call to embrace technological diversity to achieve the Green Deal's ambitious climate goals.

We all share the same fight for an energy transition that is climate-efficient, economically sustainable and socially just, and that brings progress rather than regression.

We also share the view that deregulation of the energy sector has led us into a deep crisis from which we cannot emerge without a public energy service that gives everyone - individuals, public services and industry - access to abundant, affordable, low-carbon energy, regardless of how it is produced. This is the principle of technological neutrality, which allows each country to adapt its energy mix according to its own natural resources, geography and history.

While developing renewable energies, many countries in the European Union and beyond, within the EPSU affiliates, have opted for nuclear power to ensure a significant share of their decarbonized electricity production. Today, nuclear power already accounts for around a quarter of decarbonized electricity in Europe; tomorrow, with the trajectory announced by the countries of the European Nuclear Alliance*, with the United Kingdom in particular, and with, on our doorstep, Ukraine, which has announced a massive program to build, it will be even more....

Nuclear power produces abundant, low-carbon, controllable electricity, which our societies need simply to function, prosper and meet their decarbonization objectives. The future of nuclear power is not limited to today's high-power plants, but also includes useful developments. European countries control the entire value chain, and nuclear power is already generating a large number of skilled, well-paid, long-term jobs throughout Europe (and will do so much more in the future), all of which are public service in nature, and nuclear power is very much a public service

However, we regret to note that a certain number of texts emanating from EPSU do not obey the principle of technological neutrality and in fact discriminate against nuclear power (and sometimes even hydraulic power), for example by using terminology such as "green jobs", "green energies" and "renewable energies".

In most cases, these formulations should be replaced by "all low-carbon energies" or "decarbonized", which would be much more inclusive, including certain low-carbon energies that are essential to the energy transition, such as nuclear, hydraulic power, renewable energies and would be more in line with scientific, technical and economic realities.

We insist that renewable energies are a means to an end, not an end in themselves.

This is also the direction in which the European energy doctrine has evolved, as demonstrated in taxonomy, and in the Net Zero Emission Industry Act.

We call on EPSU to embrace technological diversity to achieve the ambitious climate goals pursued by the Green Deal, and to respect an agnostic approach to "Net Zero" technologies.

We call on EPSU to recognize the contribution of all decarbonized energy sources to climate goals and strategic autonomy.

We therefore insist that EPSU texts concerning the energy sector respect the principle of technological neutrality.

This is the meaning of the amendments tabled to the action program, on which the compromise proposals are not satisfactory.

Thanks

***Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden**

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