



**SNETP Position Paper**  
**on the European Commission's Communication for a policy framework**  
**for climate and energy in the period from 2020 to 2030**

February 2014

On 22 January 2014, the European Commission issued its Communication for a policy framework for climate and energy in the period from 2020 to 2030. It promotes "*a competitive, secure and low-carbon EU economy*", with proposals to set a targeted reduction of domestic greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions of 40% below the 1990 level; an EU-wide binding target for renewables of 27% (with Member State flexibility to achieve it); increased improvements on energy efficiency; a reform of the EU emissions trading scheme (ETS); and a new governance, set of indicators, and reports on economics.

SNETP generally supports the establishment of a framework for the 2030 horizon, in order to establish regulatory certainty, which is key to drive long-term investments required in the energy sector; this is particularly true for nuclear research, development, demonstration and innovation, as highlighted in the platform's *Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda* (SRIA<sup>1</sup>).

SNETP fully supports the EC's GHG reduction target of 40%. In addition, SNETP welcomes the flexibility given by the EC to each Member State to find the best fitted technological solutions, according to "*their specific circumstances, preferred energy mix and needs in terms of energy security and allowing them to keep costs to a minimum*" for the implementation of this GHG reduction. This flexibility is a positive but insufficient step towards a fully technology neutral objectives for the future EU energy system.

SNETP recognises and supports the emphasis given to economics and competitiveness, which acknowledges the impact of energy prices on European citizens and industry. SNETP also acknowledges the importance assigned to the security of energy supply, and

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<sup>1</sup> Available at [www.snetp.eu](http://www.snetp.eu)

the fact that, in the associated impact assessment, nuclear energy is recognised as one of Europe's "*endogenous energy sources*".

The need for supporting research and innovation is explicit. Nuclear energy is an integral part of the SET-Plan<sup>2</sup>; regrettably, available financing for nuclear research, development and demonstration available under the current Multiannual Financial Framework is not in the required order of magnitude for European programmes in the sector<sup>3</sup>. For the period following 2020, nuclear technology should be, as other low-carbon energy sources, included in the scope of the EC's "*focus on scaling up investments in large scale demonstrators, stimulating the demand for innovative technologies, and ensuring appropriate regulatory frameworks across the single market*".

SNETP acknowledges the growing importance of a system approach, and the current and future evolutions of power grids. The platform is determined to support R&D for system integration, including the need for optimising the integration of nuclear facilities with future power grids, while evaluating the implications of forcing grid integration. The platform is fully open to cooperate with representatives of transmission system operators (TSOs) and with peer European platforms such as the Smart Grids ETP. The International Energy Agency (IEA) and the OECD Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA)<sup>4</sup> have produced reports on system integration which provide a valuable basis. Potential synergies with other low-carbon energy and with energy storage technologies can also be investigated.

Finally, SNETP is prepared to cooperate on research and analyses to support the implementation of the future framework and generally all fact-based decisions at the EU level.

*For further information please contact the SNETP Secretariat ([secretariat@snetp.eu](mailto:secretariat@snetp.eu)).*

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<sup>2</sup> European Sustainable Nuclear Industrial Initiative (ESNII) established under the SET-Plan: [www.esnii.eu](http://www.esnii.eu)

<sup>3</sup> SNETP Position Paper on the MFF available at [www.snetp.eu](http://www.snetp.eu) / Publications / Position Papers

<sup>4</sup> Nuclear Energy and Renewables: System Effects in Low-carbon Electricity Systems, OECD 2012 / NEA No. 7056(<http://www.oecd-nea.org/ndd/pubs/2012/7056-system-effects.pdf>)