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To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council

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Subject:	Proposal for a COUNCIL REGULATION establishing the Research and Training Programme of the European Atomic Energy Community for the period 2021-2025 complementing Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation <i>- Statement by the German delegation</i>
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Statement for the minutes by Germany

The Federal Republic of Germany welcomes the adoption of the Euratom Research Regulation (2021-2025). Germany agrees to the Regulation, but would point out the following:

Germany regrets the fact that, despite protracted negotiations, it was not possible to agree on wording that makes it clear that not all Member States concur that the results of Euratom's research could potentially contribute to a climate-neutral energy system (recital 2) – which, moreover, is described as safe and efficient – and that not all Member States view this Regulation as contributing towards the energy transition (Article 3(1)). Germany objects to such an interpretation, both here and in relation to any other EU projects, and documents its position in this statement, which can be referred to for any future interpretations. It is the sovereign right of each EU Member State to determine its own energy mix. However, we would have found it desirable for the statements made in the Regulation regarding the potential for nuclear power to contribute to mitigating climate change and facilitating the energy transition to better reflect the specific circumstances in the individual EU Member States. The EU Member States do not have a uniform, shared understanding of this.

The termination of the use of nuclear energy for commercial electricity generation in Germany falls within the period of validity of the Euratom Research Regulation (2021-2025). In the field of nuclear fission, Euratom research will therefore focus on technical and scientific support for the operation of nuclear power plants in Germany until the end of 2022, the subsequent post-operational phase, the disposal of radioactive waste, radiation protection and the maintenance of expertise in the longer term with a view to developments abroad. This future approach to civilian nuclear power in Germany must be taken into account in a balanced manner in relevant European decision-making processes, including in the context of any project funding under Article 10 of the Regulation and the corresponding recital (recital 14).