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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
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Subject:	AOB item for the meeting of the General Affairs Council on 19 November 2026 Technological neutrality in the next Multiannual Financial Framework *- Information from Czech Republic and France*

NON PAPER BY BELGIUM, BULGARIA, CROATIA, CZECH REPUBLIC, FRANCE, HUNGARY, POLAND, ROMANIA, SLOVAKIA, SLOVENIA

The next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) aims at equipping the European Union with a long-term investment budget matching its strategic priorities. Regarding energy policy and energy technologies, these include competitiveness, strategic autonomy, decarbonisation, and sustainability.

Without prejudice to all other signatories' positions on the next MFF, this non paper calls for the **new MFF and each of its different funds and financing instruments to support nuclear on equal footing with renewable energy**, in line with the **principle of technological neutrality.**

The principle of technological neutrality for the energy sector is enshrined in the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, in particular in its Article 192(2) combined with Article 194(2). The new MFF must ensure compliance of the European Union's budget with this principle.

Nuclear activities contributing to the Union's climate, energy, resilience, competitiveness and research objectives should be eligible for support through relevant EU financial instruments established under the TFEU. The Euratom Treaty does not, in itself, preclude the use of TFEU-based financial instruments to support nuclear activities, provided that such funding is in compliance with the rules laid down by the Euratom Treaty and contributes to its objectives.

Therefore, the nuclear projects should be included *per se*, alongside renewables, as eligible to the next MFF instruments, as this sector directly contributes to:

i. the overall objective of the first pillar of the next MFF: **the Union's sustainable prosperity,** by strengthening its industrial base and fostering the attractiveness of territories. Nuclear energy, along with renewables, should therefore be eligible for funding under the National and Regional Partnerships pillar's funding instruments;
ii. the overall objective of the second pillar of the next MFF: the Union's Competitiveness, by strengthening the clean transition and decarbonisation, as well as resilience and strategic autonomy. Nuclear energy and other nuclear- related activities, along with renewables, should therefore be eligible for funding under the European Competitiveness Fund, the Connecting Europe Facility - Energy and Horizon Europe.

The co-signatories of this non-paper welcome the removal of all exclusions of nuclear energy in the European Commission's proposals for the next MFF. Likewise, we commend the recent granting of direct EU financial support, through TFEU instruments, to promising nuclear projects. Next MFF will enable us to further develop this support.

However, the European performance framework and climate expenditure tracking frameworks, as it currently stands, do not appropriately recognize the contribution of nuclear energy projects to climate change mitigation and resilience, even though they contribute to the same objectives as renewable energy projects. The coherence and equal treatment between all decarbonized energy sources must be ensured in this framework, especially regarding the implementation of DNSH requirements through transparent, proportionate and non-discriminatory criteria, consistent with applicable EU law and the specific characteristics of nuclear technologies, and regarding the application of the climate spending target.

In this context and in order to inform the next stages of the trilogues negotiations on the next MFF, without prejudice to the European Council's decisions, **the co-signatories of this non paper reassert that projects supporting the development and deployment of nuclear technologies in Europe, while strengthening European industrial capabilities, supply chains and technological expertise must be eligible to all relevant next MFF funds and financing instruments**,, in line with the principle of technology neutrality, as enshrined in the EU treaties and in the revised EU Climate law, and in line with Article 2(c) of the Euratom Treaty and with the European Commission's 2026 revision of its Nuclear Illustrative Programme (PINC). We stand ready to engage constructively in the next stages of the trilogues negotiations and would welcome the recognition by co-legislators of the strategic importance of an explicit inclusion of nuclear energy in the next MFF.