



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR RESEARCH

Directorate J – Energy (Euratom)

Brussels, 7 May 2007

**Preliminary announcement of
the Launch Conference of the European Technology Platform
on Sustainable Nuclear Energy**

Dear Madam, Dear Sir,

On 21 September 2007, the European Commission will host the Launch Conference of the Sustainable Nuclear Energy Technology Platform (SNE-TP). You can find more details on the concept of a technology platform and the Launch Conference of the SNE-TP in the Annex to this letter.

The purpose of this letter is to inform a large number of interested parties of this event and ask them to fill in and return the attached mark of interest for participation. We will collect these marks and define, from there, the final list of participants who will then receive, in a more formal way from the Commission, a nominative letter of invitation for the event.

In case you would be interested in attending the launch conference, please fill in the attached form and return it no later than **31 May 2007**, keeping in mind that this does not constitute a formal registration, but a mark of interest for participation.

Should you have further questions, you may call me at 32-2 296 00 62 or Mrs Antoine at 32-2 298 67 74.

Respectfully yours,

SIGNED

Marc Deffrennes
DG RTD J.2



**LAUNCH CONFERENCE
OF THE EUROPEAN TECHNOLOGY PLATFORM
ON SUSTAINABLE NUCLEAR ENERGY**

BRUSSELS – 21 SEPTEMBER 2007

Background

European technology platforms

European technology platforms, a concept supported by DG RTD as one way to foster the Lisbon Agenda, focus on strategic issues where achieving Europe's future growth, competitiveness, and sustainability depends upon major technological advances. They bring together stakeholders, led by industry, to define medium- to long-term research and technological development objectives (the vision document) and lay down markers for achieving them (the strategic research agenda).

Technology platforms play a key role in better aligning EU research priorities to industry's needs. They cover the whole economic value chain, ensuring that knowledge generated through research is transformed into technologies and processes, and ultimately into marketable products and services.

Technology platforms are effective in:

- (1) sharing a agreed common vision among stakeholders (the industry, academic and research community, users, national authorities, financial institutions, third-country partners, the public at large, etc.)
- (2) reducing the fragmentation of R&D efforts by fostering coordination and complementarities
- (3) mobilising public and private funding sources, including public-private partnerships.

Technology platforms work in three stages:

- (1) Stakeholders, led by the industry, come together to agree on a common vision for the technology, leading to the formal creation of a technology platform.
- (2) Stakeholders define a strategic research agenda, setting out the necessary medium- to long-term objectives for the technology and the required R&D efforts to achieve them.
- (3) Stakeholders implement the strategic research agenda with the mobilisation of significant human and financial resources.



Today about 30 technology platforms have been launched. The platforms belong to their stakeholders. They are thus not the ownership of the Commission, but if they fit with the overall objectives and policies of the Community, the Commission usually hosts the launching event of the platforms.

More information on technology platforms can be found on <http://cordis.europa.eu/technology-platforms>.

The Technology Platform on Sustainable Nuclear Energy (SNE-TP)

Energy is today high on the agenda of the EU and the Commission, with its three main challenges: security of supply, sustainability (saving resources and limiting greenhouse gas production), and competitiveness. On 10 January 2007, the European Commission issued a set of communications called the Energy Package. This package was, to a large extent, taken on board by the European summit in March. Inside the package, one can find the Communication COM(2006) 847 “Towards a Strategic Energy Technology Plan”. The Council asked the Commission to produce this plan for the end of the year 2007, for analysis by the European summit in the spring of 2008.

The Annex to the above-mentioned documents contains specific reference to nuclear energy as one option to make part of a low-carbon energy mix.

A representative group of European nuclear community stakeholders, having worked for some months on the creation of their platform, therefore proposed to launch the Sustainable Nuclear Energy Technology Platform in the course of 2007, before the publication of the SET Plan by the Commission.

The Commission welcomes the proposal and proposes to host the event. The event will contribute to foster a large consensus on the vision document of the technology platform and lay the ground for a widely accepted strategic research agenda.

The Launch Conference of the SNE-TP

The event will take place in Brussels, at European Commission premises (the Charlemagne Building) on 21 September in the morning. It will be made up of speeches by top-level representatives from the Commission, the industry (the nuclear industry, but also users of electricity and process heat), academic and research organisations, national authorities, etc. The Commissioner for Research, Mr Potočník, has announced his readiness to participate as the host for the event.



Speakers will address, inter alia, the content of the Vision Document of the SNE-TP (which will be available at the conference), how the development in nuclear fission technology proposed through the platform will contribute to the three main challenges (security of supply, sustainability including safety and waste, competitiveness), and what they, stakeholders of the platform, expect from it and how they are ready to contribute to it.

The conference will last about two and a half hours and will be followed by a standing lunch allowing further bilateral exchanges between the participants.