

ROADMAP

Title of the initiative: **Communication "Nuclear Illustrative Programme (PINC)", update.**
Type of initiative (CWP/Catalogue/Comitology):
Lead DG/ DG ENER/D.1
Expected date of adoption of the initiative (month/year): November 2010
Date of modification: 16/03/2010
Version No: 01

Initial IA screening & planning of further work

A. Context and problem definition

(i) What is the political context of the initiative?

Under the Euratom Treaty (Article 40), the Commission is required periodically to publish illustrative programmes indicating developments in nuclear energy policy and legislation and all the types of investment required for their attainment.

(ii) How does this initiative relate to past and possible future initiatives, and to other EU policies?

An update of the nuclear illustrative programme should be published in order to review the latest situation regarding Member States' policies, nuclear investment decisions and requirements, and to highlight some key aspects for future investments.

This initiative is related to EU policies and actions in the domains of climate change, sustainability and security of energy supply, and competitiveness.

What are the main problems identified?

- Nuclear sector contributes to decarbonising electricity generation, to the security of energy supply and competitiveness. This contribution should grow in the next decades if the EU wants to achieve its goals, but it may well decline if appropriate investment decisions are not taken in time.
- Without substantial investments, nuclear generation capacity – including nuclear new build and lifetime extensions – may stagnate or even fall from 2020 onwards.
- Today, investments in nuclear are hampered by many factors, including economic and regulatory. These obstacles should be neutralised in order to facilitate investments, while maintaining nuclear safety and security.
- There is no general overview of important ongoing processes in the nuclear field in the EU: transposition of the Nuclear Safety Directive, initiatives in the domain of radioisotope production, nuclear waste regulation, progress on the nuclear liability dossier etc.
- There is a shortage of EU-wide surveys of developments related to the EU global technological leadership in the nuclear domain including:
 - design and construction of nuclear power plants and installations;
 - all stages of the nuclear fuel cycle, such as uranium enrichment and fuel fabrication and reprocessing facilities.
- There is a lack of monitoring EU developments related to knowledge and training on nuclear energy technology, which concern not only the industry, but also researchers, regulators and the health sector. The gap in existing training programmes should be closed by addressing the joint efforts in attracting and training, at an international level, the best human resources for the European nuclear energy community.

Who is affected?

EU Member States, national regulatory bodies, industry, investors (public and private), other stakeholders in the energy sector.

(i) Is EU action justified on grounds of subsidiarity? (ii) Why can the objectives of the proposed action not be achieved sufficiently by Member States (necessity test)? (iii) As a result of this, can objectives be better achieved by action by the Community (test of EU Value Added)?

This is a Euratom Treaty obligation.

While it is for each EU Member State to choose whether or not to invest in nuclear, the role of the EU is to develop, in the interest of all Member States, the most advanced legal framework for nuclear energy, meeting the highest standards of safety, security and non-proliferation. This includes: safety, cost-benefit analysis, research programmes and frameworks, plant construction, operation, decommissioning and waste management.

B. Objectives of EU initiative

What are the main policy objectives?

- Review the latest situation regarding Member States' policies, nuclear investment decisions and requirements.
- Highlight key issues for new investments and possible actions at EU level.

Do the objectives imply developing EU policy in new areas or in areas of strategic importance?

No

C. Options

(i) What are the policy options? (ii) What legislative or 'soft law' instruments could be considered? (iii) Would any legislative initiatives go beyond routine up-date of existing legislation?

The Communication is a Euratom Treaty obligation.

Does the action proposed in the options cut across several policy areas or impact on action taken/planned by other Commission departments?

Yes, most particularly policies and actions related to the fight against climate change, the security of energy supply, and competitiveness.

Explain how the options respect the proportionality principle

The choice of the civil use of nuclear energy is national competence. However, issues related to nuclear investments, such as safety, security and non-proliferation, but also licensing, are transnational and need regulation at EU level in order to achieve the objectives of the Euratom Treaty.

D. Initial assessment of impacts

What are the significant impacts likely to result from each policy option (cf. list of impacts in the Impact Assessment Guidelines pages 32-37), even if these impacts would materialise only after subsequent Commission initiatives?

N/A

Could the options have impacts on the EU-Budget (above 5 Mio €) and/or should the IA also serve as the ex-ante evaluation, required by the Financial Regulation?

No.

Could the options have significant impacts on (i) simplification, (ii) administrative burden or on (iii) relations with third countries?

N/A

E. Planning of further impact assessment work

When will the impact assessment work start?

N/A

(i) What information and data are already available? (ii) Will this impact assessment build on already existing impact assessment work or evaluations carried out? (iii) What further information needs to be gathered? (iv) How will this be done (e.g. internally or by an external contractor) and by when? (v) What type and level of analysis will be carried out (cf. principle of proportionate analysis)?

N/A

Which stakeholders & experts have been/will be consulted, how and at what stage?

N/A