



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 5.8.2013
C(2013) 5062 final*

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Senát for its Opinion concerning the Commission Communication on the comprehensive risks and safety assessments ("stress tests") of nuclear power plants in the European Union and related activities {COM(2012) 571 final}.

The Commission is very glad to see that national Parliaments take an active interest in nuclear safety at the European level. The Commission agrees that the events which triggered the accident at the Fukushima-Daiichi power plant were extraordinary and that a similar situation is very unlikely to happen in Europe. However, in response to that event and to the legitimate concerns of EU citizens, there was unanimous political will to carry out comprehensive risk and safety assessments of the nuclear power plants in the EU, and many other countries have carried out similar re-assessments, often based on the EU methodology.

As the Commission has stated repeatedly, the level of nuclear safety in Europe is already high but further improvements are always possible. Both the technical, plant specific improvements identified during the stress tests and a revision of the nuclear safety framework are necessary to ensure that nuclear power produced in the EU is subject to the most stringent safety standards. Initiatives foreseen by the Commission to further enhance nuclear safety in the EU will however not interfere with the sovereign right of each Member State to decide whether to use or not nuclear power.

Although the use of nuclear energy is a technically complex subject the Commission believes that the debate on nuclear issues must be conducted comprehensively and in a transparent way and therefore encourages the involvement of the wider public in such exercise.

The Commission hopes that these clarifications address the concerns raised by the Senát and looks forward to continuing the political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

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