

**JOINT STATEMENT OF V4 MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR ENERGY
ON PATH TOWARDS CLIMATE NEUTRALITY**

Paks, November 18, 2021

The Visegrad 4 countries (V4) ministers responsible for energy:

REITERATE their commitment to the civil and peaceful application of nuclear energy and to fairly contribute to achieving the European Union (EU) climate neutrality objective in a cost effective manner taking into account considerations of fairness and solidarity, while ensuring safe, competitive and clean energy supplies at affordable prices;

HIGHLIGHT that it is crucial to respect the sovereign right of each EU Member State to determine the conditions for utilizing its energy mix, its choice between different energy sources and the general structure of its energy supply as recognised in the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, as well as the **principle of technological neutrality** in order to enable Member States to develop energy technologies in line with national circumstances and the chosen path towards climate neutrality;

UNDERLINE that the pace of climate change makes it urgent that the EU establishes a supportive framework for all the investments and technologies capable of reducing greenhouse gas emissions in order to reach the European common climate and energy objectives;

STRESS the necessity to recognise the role of nuclear energy in EU energy and climate policy and other relevant policies from the decarbonisation, security of supply and financial point of view;

ARE OF THE OPINION that the EU 2030 and 2050 targets are unreachable without applying energy efficiency first principle in parallel with advancement of renewable energy sources, safe utilisation and further development of nuclear energy, and the use of natural gas in the energy mix;

AGREE that nuclear energy is a clean and reliable source of electricity that provides stable output, thus contributing to better predictability of electricity prices and market stability;

SHARE THE VIEW that **nuclear energy base load is both complementary to and instrumental in securely integrating mass-scale intermittent renewable electricity sources;**

EMPHASIZE that electricity generation using natural gas and high-efficiency combined heat/cool and power generation are equally relevant within the current process of phasing out of solid fossil fuels capacities while increasing the EU climate ambition. Therefore **the crucial role of natural gas as a transition fuel must be fully reflected in the EU Taxonomy**, as well as in other relevant proposals and guidelines for state aid and EU funds;

DRAW THE ATTENTION to the **need to enhance the electricity transmission system and the distribution grid of the EU** in order to cope with the rising share of renewables and also taking into account the possible enlargement of the EU;

STRESS the need to pay particular attention to **safe, sustainable and economically feasible electricity supply also by ensuring sufficient reserve capacities and dispatchable energy sources** on the markets across the whole territory of the EU, irrespective of which neighbouring electricity markets they are connected to;

WELCOME the initial aim of **taxonomy to include all sustainable energy technologies** and EXPRESS concerns over the technological uneven approach of the European Commission while introducing the climate delegated act earlier this year;

WELCOME the **Joint Research Centre report**, which concluded that **nuclear is compatible with the „do no significant harm” principle and does not cause more harm to human health and environment than any other energy technology, including renewable energy technologies;**

CALL ON the **European Commission to present** the already announced **complementary delegated act**, which should also **include nuclear energy and natural gas** related economic activities on the objective scientific basis, **as soon as possible**, not later than by the end of November 2021, to ensure a level playing field and prevent energy market destabilisation and distortion;

EMPHASIZE, in this context, the necessity of an **effective, comprehensive EU enabling framework, including through competition and internal market policy, and innovative financing** to cope with the huge investment challenges of decarbonisation **to support the Member States and the Union in fulfilling the European Green Deal objectives;**

FIND IT IMPORTANT that **Member States are guaranteed utmost flexibility in using the EU ETS revenues** to support the development of all clean technologies needed to achieve the emissions reduction targets;

UNDERLINE the fact that the **EU nuclear industry represents** an excellent **global competitiveness** opportunity;

STRESS the need to **prevent loss of highly skilled jobs and the unique EU know-how** in all phases of the nuclear life-cycle and to advance with human capacity building;

FIND IT URGENT that **the EU supports nuclear R&D projects**, such as development of Generation IV and high temperature reactors; Small Modular Reactors (SMR); lifetime extension of existing nuclear power plants; construction of new nuclear power plants; renewal of the nuclear R&D infrastructure; radioactive waste and spent fuel management including their temporary and final disposal; medical radioisotopes production and possible deployment of nuclear technologies in space research;

HIGHLIGHT the growing support of Member States for abovementioned role and significance of nuclear energy development in the EU expressed e.g. by the joint letter of head of states and governments from 19 March 2021, joint declaration of ministers of 10 Member States from 11 October 2021 and last but not least by this joint statement.

For the Czech Republic:



For Hungary:



For the Republic of Poland:



For the Slovak Republic:

