

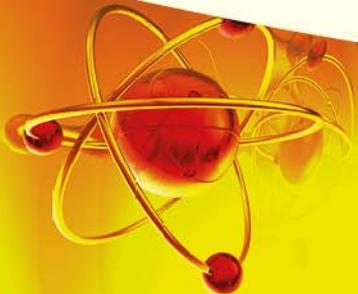
European Economic and Social Committee

Symposium: Benefits and limitations of Nuclear Fission for a Low Carbon economy

26-27 February 2013

Background information

- the Council (28 June 2011) requested that the EC "*organise a symposium in 2013 on the benefits and limitations of nuclear fission for a low carbon economy*".
- "*The symposium will be prepared by an interdisciplinary study involving, inter alia, experts from the fields of energy, economics and social sciences*".
- Mr Barroso requested on 19 December 2011 the opinion of the European Group on Ethics (EGE) to contribute to the debate on a sustainable energy mix in Europe by studying the impact of research on different energy sources on human well-being.

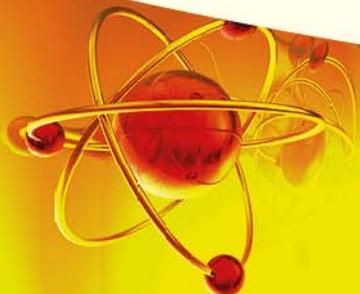


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The studies

- On January 16, 2013, the EGE adopted an "*Ethical framework for assessing research, production, and use of Energy*". The EGE recommends to achieve equilibrium between four criteria - access rights, security of supply, safety, and sustainability - in light of social, environmental and economic concerns.
- The Interdisciplinary Study on "*benefits and limitations of nuclear fission for a low carbon economy: defining priorities for Euratom fission research & training (Horizon 2020)*" was presented in the context of the Symposium on 26-27 February 2013.



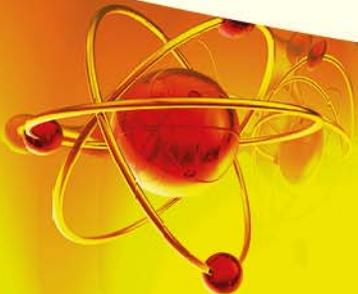
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The Symposium

- It was held in Brussels, on 26 and 27 February 2013, and attended by about 350 people from industry, politics, government, science and civil society.
- Special emphasis was given to research needs for a sustainable, secure, reliable and competitive energy mix, including nuclear fission.
- The goal was also to strengthen the links between science, civil society, industry and policy makers in order to keep a sustained focus on increased safety, risk-mitigation, safeguards and security.

<http://www.eesc.europa.eu/?i=portal.en.events-and-activities-symposium-on-nuclear-fission>

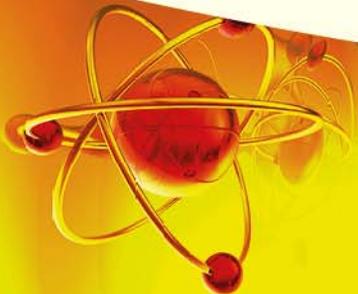


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Extract of the event's conclusions (1)

- European nuclear fission research must be seen as a joint enterprise involving stronger links between science, civil society, industry and policy makers, with consequences on the way research associations and technology platforms interact with the general public.
- Following Fukushima, future Euratom research cannot be "business as usual" and its orientation should be on safety, risk-mitigation, safeguards and security, as well as waste management and decommissioning; scientific support to policy on nuclear safety should notably be further developed, including the harmonisation of national standards;

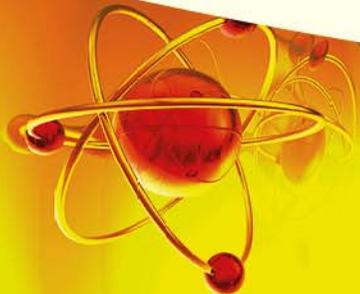


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Extract of the event's conclusions (2)

- Europe, through the Euratom programme, should keep its competences at the highest level, to allow all citizens to benefit from publicly financed, transparent, independent knowledge in nuclear fission safety; skills have to stay up to date, supported by continuous strengthening of the human resource base;
- In line with the changing research and innovation scene world-wide, Euratom should take a full part in international discussions, forming partnerships to promote the highest safety standards; Consideration shall be given, through the JRC, to establishing a permanent EU Nuclear Safety Laboratory.



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