



European Economic and Social Committee

Nuclear Safety and Waste Management

Topical Peer Review

views and comments from the
European Economic and Social Committee

Ulrich Samm



The European Economic and Social Committee is a consultative body that represents **organised civil society**

“The European Parliament, the Council and the Commission shall be ***assisted by an Economic and Social Committee*** and a Committee of the Regions acting in ***an advisory capacity***.”

Treaty on European Union, Article 13



WHAT DOES ORGANISED CIVIL SOCIETY MEAN?

It comprises all the groups and organisations in which people work cooperatively:



They are committed to defend their interests and causes, and they often act as intermediaries between decision-makers and citizens.

With 350 members from the 28 Member States
Enforcement of **compromises**



The **European Parliament**, the **Council of the EU** and the **European Commission** are legally obliged to consult the EESC when passing new laws on a wide range of topics.

The EESC examines the proposals and draws up **opinions** based on agreement reached between its members.



The EESC also adopts **own-initiative** opinions on **topics** members believe to be **important in the interests of EU citizens**.

It also produces **exploratory** opinions, requested by EU lawmakers when they want an overview of civil society's views.



THE EESC PRESIDENCY

elected for a two-and-a-half-year term



Vice-President
(Communication)
Isabel Caño Aguilar (ES)
Workers' Group



President
Luca Jahier (IT)
Diversity Europe Group



Vice-President
(Budget)
Milena Angelova (BG)
Employers' Group



THE GROUPS

The Group Presidents are elected for a two-and-a-half-year term



Employers' Group
President
Jacek Krawczyk (PL)



Workers' Group
President
Gabriele Bischoff (DE)



Diversity Europe
Group
President
Arno Metzler (DE)



WORKING BODIES: 6 SECTIONS

ECO

Economic and Monetary Union and Economic and Social Cohesion



Stefano Palmieri (IT)
Workers' Group

INT

Single Market, Production and Consumption



Ariane Rodert (SE)
Diversity Europe Group

TEN

Transport, Energy, Infrastructure and the Information Society



Pierre Jean Coulon (FR)
Workers' Group

REX

External Relations



Dilyana Slavova (BG)
Diversity Europe Group

NAT

Agriculture, Rural Development and the Environment



Maurizio Reale (IT)
Employers' Group

SOC

Employment, Social Affairs and Citizenship



Christa Schweng (AT)
Employers' Group

Steering Committee of the European Nuclear Energy Forum (ENEF)



European Economic and Social Committee

opinions on energy related topics (selection)

energy general

Clean Energy for all Europeans Package, May 2017

Buildings / efficiency / electricity market / prosumers / costs for consumers

Accelerating clean energy innovation (H2020)

transport

Clean, competitive and connected mobility for all, 2017

Low emission mobility targets, 2018

energy union

Third Report on the State of the Energy Union, April 2018

Strengthening Europe's energy networks, April 2018

nuclear specific

Revision of the nuclear safety directive, Sept 2013, (key element for the TPR process)

Nuclear Illustrative Programme (Communication) PINC, Sept 2016

Integrated SET Plan, Feb 2016

EAEC Research and training programme (EURATOM), 2017



Energy general

- The EESC welcomes the "clean energy" package, which aims to accelerate, transform and consolidate the EU economy's clean energy transition, while retaining the important goals of economic growth and job creation
- The package stresses that **renewable energy** technologies and energy **efficiency** products and services will be key (*no mentioning of nuclear*)
- Large **investments** needed, **research** priorities
- Concerns about **Governance** (see EU energy union)
- **Citizens** at the heart of energy transition (consumers, prices, energy communities)

nuclear technologies not directly addressed but not opposed to



Transport

- Transport remains one of the greatest contributors to Europe's **greenhouse gas** emissions and also adds to severe air pollution in urban areas
- The EESC calls for clean, competitive and connected mobility for all by 2025
- Establish an efficient **Single European Transport Area** (socially fair, labour rights, environmental aspects)
- Maintain strong position in manufacturing and service provision with the goal to achieve leadership in **new technologies**
- In addition to its focus on new technologies such as **electric cars**, the Commission should consider the large potential for improvements in the existing fleet
- It is far from sure that our future mobility will be all electric. Other propulsion technologies also provide great potential for clean mobility (**fossil-free liquids, gas, hydrogen**)



European Energy Union

- EU **climate goals**, objectives according to COP21
- At least 27% for the **share of renewable** energy consumed in the EU in 2030
- This minimum target is **binding at EU level** but will not be translated automatically into nationally binding targets. To be solved by a governance regulation.
- **Governance** proposal containing consultations, peer pressure and financial measures; EESC expressed doubts about this approach
- many **controversial issues** not addressed sufficiently: coal, nuclear, gas pipelines, electric grid, renewables, costs for consumers/industry

we are far from having a functioning European Energy Union



EAEC Research and training programme

Research and Training Programme of the European Atomic Energy Community (2019-2020) complementing the Horizon 2020 Framework Programme for Research and Innovation [COM(2017) 698 final – 2017/312 (NLE)]

- Ensure **continuity** of the programme
- Greatest attention should be paid to **nuclear safety** issues
- The reduction and disposal of long-lived radioactive **waste**, control of fissile material and radiation protection must also be included in the priorities
- The level of **knowledge** about nuclear technologies must be maintained and developed
- The Euratom R&D framework programme offers significant **European added value**

- Recommendation to promote the development of non-fossil, renewable energies and take steps to rebalance the share of nuclear energy in Member States' **energy mix**

- Following numerous incidents in European power stations, it has now been demonstrated that **subcontracting** is an element of insecurity in the maintenance of nuclear power stations. The EESC is of the view that limits should be placed on subcontracting and that it should be strictly regulated.

- **Public consultation** exercise gave broadly positive feedback: 80% of participants considered the programme relevant ("agreed or **strongly agreed**"). Participants particularly appreciated the results achieved in relation to **education and training, research on waste management, safety of existing reactors and nuclear fusion research**. On the other hand, the programme does not appear to have leveraged private investment



European Economic and Social Committee

TEN/596 on the PINC

Transparent monitoring is essential to both nuclear safety and public confidence

The EESC proposes that the document should clearly endorse proposals on monitoring and reporting in Member States' **national action plans** as suggested by the European Nuclear Safety Regulators Group.

Greater efforts should be made to include **neighbouring non-EU countries**.



European Economic and Social Committee

The EESC welcomes stakeholder engagement in the topical peer review in relation to nuclear safety and is happy to engage and share their experiences within the TPR process

For further information, please contact

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