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**H.E. Sir Tim Barrow KCMG LVO MBE
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In advance by email: ukrep@fco.gov.uk

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Excluding nuclear power from the green taxonomy regulation

Your Excellency,

The United Kingdom will leave the European Union precisely at the moment when green growth becomes the European Commission's major objective. During the next five years, Europe will be given an opportunity to set ambitious standards for reducing carbon emissions in order to reach climate neutrality in 2050. However, this goal should not be met at all costs.

In the framework of the taxonomy regulation, the Council opposes the European Parliament and pushes against the exclusion of nuclear energy, as shown again yesterday in the meeting of the permanent representatives in Brussels. If the EU really wants to improve its image vis-à-vis Europeans and become a credible actor in the field of ecology and renewable energy, it cannot start with a shabby attempt to make grey energy look green. Nuclear power has proven to be extremely expensive, both in terms of new builds and final storage. In contrast, renewables are becoming very competitive, as the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) shows. Now is not the time to continue to favour nuclear. It is not safe, it is not forward-looking and it is not something our children will be proud of. It is merely a relic of the past.



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In this respect, it appears clear that the United Kingdom should exercise restraint, and not contribute de facto to a blocking minority in the Council. While I deeply regret that your country will be leaving the EU soon, I also deem it unfair for it to influence such a long-term and agenda-setting policy, one that prevents the Union from being uncompromisingly green. For this reason, I urge you to please let the willing majority of EU countries set truly ambitious standards for the taxonomy regulation by excluding nuclear power.

Best regards,

Sylvia Kotting-Uhl
Member of the German Bundestag