



2026 Annual Summit in Warsaw

Joint statement of the European Business Nuclear Alliance on one-year anniversary of its launch

From objectives to delivery: why 2026 matters

One year ago, the European Business Nuclear Alliance was founded to formalise and express the shared commitment of European businesses to a strong and renewed role for nuclear energy in Europe, alongside renewable and other low-carbon solutions. This alliance is grounded in a clear conviction: achieving Europe's climate, competitiveness and resilience objectives requires a pragmatic, technology-neutral approach to decarbonisation, fully mobilising all low-carbon solutions. Scaling up investment, driving innovation and strengthening the circular economy also represent a **strategic opportunity to consolidate a competitive European nuclear value chain and to harness the potential of a dynamic, evolving and innovation driven nuclear sector.**

Nuclear energy notably contributes to ensuring access to competitive, reliable, predictable and decarbonised electricity. It supports the growth in electricity demand driven by electrification in industry, buildings and mobility, rising cooling needs and the development of data centres and electrolyzers. Prospective scenarios, including those from the 2024 Business Europe–Compass Lexecon study, converge towards electricity accounting for at least 50% of final energy consumption by 2050.

Over the past year, European policymakers have increasingly acknowledged that all low-carbon technologies are needed to deliver climate objectives and address the competitiveness gap. The Clean Industrial Deal, alongside initiatives such as the CISAF, the updated PINC or the 2040 climate target, reflects a welcome, if still gradual, shift regarding nuclear energy and technology neutrality. Beyond the Nuclear Alliance of Member States, now bringing together 16 countries, recognition of the contribution of baseload nuclear is increasing across Europe.

The World Nuclear Exhibition held in November 2025 illustrated how this political evolution is being matched by tangible industrial momentum, with nearly 1,000 exhibitors, 80% of them European, and 12 European countries represented through national pavilions. Companies are mobilising, investing, collaborating and developing new solutions and technologies (including SMRs and fusion), contributing to the strengthening of a competitive European nuclear value chain. Industry roadmaps now point towards at least 150 GW, and potentially up to 250 GW, of installed nuclear capacity by 2050.

At the same time, persistent difficulties remain in translating political and industrial commitments into concrete decisions and a sustainable, long-term strategy. Access to financing remains a critical bottleneck, notably reflecting challenges related to risk allocation, the availability of de-risking instruments and investor confidence. This is particularly acute for small modular reactors, where early public funding has created momentum but remains insufficient to attract private capital and bring projects to the next stage of development.

These financing constraints weigh on the structuring and resilience of the European nuclear value chain in a context of increasing international competition, with the United States actively

supporting its domestic industries and innovators. The risk of European industries falling behind is real. **Growing geopolitical tensions** further underline the need for diversified and resilient supply chains supported by a strong European industry.

Concerns also persist regarding the consistent application of the principle of technology neutrality. Recent developments related to the CISAF, the EIB PPA counter-guarantee pilot scheme, the low-carbon hydrogen delegated act and the European Commission's practical interpretation of technology neutrality continue to reveal differences in the treatment of nuclear energy compared with other low-carbon technologies. **Too often, nuclear energy is addressed through separate approaches or subject to additional constraints.**

More broadly, the current EU framework does not yet provide the conditions required for a competitive decarbonisation of the European economy. High and volatile energy prices, persistent asymmetries in carbon pricing and support schemes compared with global competitors, and uncertainty over policy and market conditions continue to weigh on investment decisions and sustain Europe's competitiveness gap. The absence of clear price signals, credible long-term trajectories and effective tools for end-users delays decarbonisation and electrification strategies and weakens business cases for long-term, capital-intensive investments across the energy system, including nuclear energy.

As 2026 marks the first full year of implementation of the Clean Industrial Deal, the focus must now shift decisively from objectives to delivery. In this context, the members of the European Business Nuclear Alliance call on policymakers to:

- **Deliver a coherent, effective and technology-neutral competitiveness and financing framework at EU level and ensure non-discriminatory access for nuclear investments,** including through the next MFF, the European Competitiveness Fund, the future decarbonisation bank and the EIB PPA guarantee scheme. The upcoming publication of the PINC and the SMR strategy are concrete and immediate opportunities to unroll a clear nuclear investment strategy.
- **Deploy and implement the upcoming Electrification Action Plan,** removing bottlenecks, enabling concrete and coherent trajectories for electrification across industry, transport and buildings, and ensuring a positive business case for investments.
- **Ensure that the upcoming revision of the Governance Regulation and the Energy Union Package for the Decade Ahead support a pragmatic, technology-neutral post-2030 energy and climate framework,** aligned with long-term climate goals and preserving Member States' freedom to decarbonise their energy mix in the most cost-effective way, while ensuring long-term visibility and stability for investments in clean electricity production and consumption.
- **Confirm and operationalise EU ambitions on skills and value chains,** clarifying Europe's strategy on strategic nuclear technologies and supply chains, supporting a competitive and resilient European industrial base while maintaining open and balanced international partnerships.

European businesses stand ready to invest, innovate and cooperate to deliver a competitive, resilient and decarbonised European economy, fully leveraging the contribution of nuclear energy. **The window of opportunity is open to move from an obligation of means to an obligation of results.** Failure to do so would risk undermining both Europe's competitiveness and its climate ambitions.