

Dear Sir or Madam,

EURELECTRIC would like to **welcome the draft SET Plan Issues Paper No.10 on Nuclear**, which covers a relevant scope, and gives a reasonable overview of nuclear R&I objectives consistent with the concise nature of the paper. Nuclear energy is one of the key technologies for achieving Europe's decarbonisation objectives and makes a valuable contribution to security of supply and competitiveness objectives. The European nuclear industry occupies a leading role across all segments of the nuclear value chain (fuel cycle and reactors), and is a major employer in an advanced technology sector.

In this light, EURELECTRIC believes that **R&D efforts should be stepped up** with a view to promoting improved cost-effectiveness both in nuclear power generation and in waste management. Key areas include design improvements to reduce costs and improve constructability, as well as innovative technologies for example those relating to Generation IV and small modular reactors. The potential for a more efficient use of nuclear fuel should also be exploited and the disposal of spent nuclear fuel and radioactive wastes should continue to be a priority area.

Research into innovative nuclear technologies should be **supported at the EU level**, building on the strengths of the existing capabilities at the Joint Research Centre and within national organisations, universities and commercial entities.

EURELECTRIC supports the **Multinational Design Evaluation Programme (MDEP)**, with the objective of enhancing multilateral co-operation within the existing regulatory framework, to encourage multinational convergence of codes, standards and safety goals and to implement the MDEP products in order to facilitate the licensing of new reactors. National regulators should retain sovereign authority for all licensing and regulatory decisions, but EURELECTRIC believes that further efforts should be made to harmonise standards, so that ultimately design approvals are valid across the EU.