

DECLARATION OF INTENT

FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF LONG-TERM COOPERATION IN THE NUCLEAR ENERGY SECTOR

BETWEEN

THE MINISTRY FOR ENERGY TRANSITION OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC AND THE MINISTRY OF CLIMATE AND ENTERPRISE OF THE KINGDOM OF SWEDEN

The Minister for Energy Transition of the French Republic, of the one part,

And

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Energy, Business and Industry of the Kingdom of Sweden, of the other part,

Hereinafter referred to as "the Signatories",

RECALLING the declaration between France and Sweden of cooperation on European affairs and the French-Swedish strategic partnership for innovation and green solutions, signed on 17 November 2017 in Gothenburg and updated in Paris on 7 June 2019;

RECALLING the decision taken jointly by the President of the French Republic and the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Sweden, in Paris on 3 January 2023, to give civil nuclear cooperation between the signatories an important role in their strategic bilateral relationship;

RECALLING the upcoming French-Swedish strategic innovation partnership for sustainable, digital and resilient societies to be signed by the President of the French Republic and the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Sweden;

CONSIDERING the obligations arising from the France's and Sweden's memberships of the EU and the EURATOM;

RECOGNISING that, together with the application of the highest standards of safety, security and non-proliferation, nuclear energy provides safe and secure access to low-carbon, reliable, dispatchable and affordable energy that mitigates the negative impacts of climate change;

RECOGNISING the essential role of nuclear power generation for Europe's energy sovereignty and energy security;

EXPRESSING their ambition to enable industry to build new nuclear power reactors in France and Sweden;

CONSIDERING the benefit of sharing expertise between the French and Swedish stakeholders in the field of nuclear energy;

NOTING French industry's interest in submitting an offer for French nuclear power reactors in Sweden;

DESIRING to promote the highest standards of nuclear safety, security and non-proliferation, at bilateral level and in international forums such as the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Nuclear Energy Agency and the International Energy Agency;

DECLARE their intention to develop long-term cooperation in the field of civil nuclear energy, in particular in the following areas:

1. At the European Union level, the signatories will endeavour to promote a regulatory, industrial and financial framework favourable to the realisation of nuclear installation projects with a high level of safety and ensuring institutional support for nuclear energy in compliance with the principle of technological neutrality and with the objective of strengthening Europe's sovereignty and energy security;

2. In the field of the construction of new nuclear reactors, the signatories will endeavour to facilitate:

- the exchange of experience and good practice in the field of public participation in decisions concerning the construction of nuclear installations;
- exchanges of experience on possible financing models for the construction of new nuclear reactors within the European regulatory, economic and financial framework;
- the promotion of innovative and cost-efficient financing for low-carbon energy production projects;
- cooperation and information exchange between the French and Swedish nuclear industries;
- the participation of French and Swedish industrial and institutional stakeholders in international exchange platforms; and
- the participation of industrial stakeholders in the competitiveness clusters of both countries,

3. In the field of power reactors in operation, the signatories will endeavour to facilitate technical exchanges for the participation of their industry in support of reactor maintenance, life extension and power upgrades of the reactors.

4. In the field of the nuclear fuel cycle, the signatories will endeavour to encourage:

- the reinforcement of the security of supply of nuclear materials and fuels, in the framework of the reinforcement of European energy sovereignty, by endeavouring to promote cooperation between their industries to diversify supply and reduce EU dependence on Russian nuclear materials and services; and
- the strengthening of bilateral cooperation in the field of spent fuel management, radioactive waste management and the associated logistics operations, aiming at the development of long-term radioactive waste management solutions that are safe for current and future generations and respectful of their environment, and in particular with a view to the start of construction work on French and Swedish deep geological repositories and their gradual operation.

5. In the field of research and development, the signatories will endeavour to encourage:

- the exchange of experience and cooperation in research and development in the field of peaceful uses of nuclear energy; and
- the development of centres of research and excellence, whose role is crucial for the support of new nuclear projects.

6. In the field of human capacity development, the signatories will endeavour to facilitate the exchange of experience and cooperation between French and Swedish competence centres and to work together on the many challenges to be met in this field in the context of the development of a nuclear new build programme.

7. In the field of nuclear safety and radiation protection, the signatories note with satisfaction the close relations that exist between the French Nuclear Safety Authority (ASN) and the Institute for Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety (IRSN) on the one hand and the Swedish Radiation Safety Authority (SSM) on the other hand, allowing in particular for the exchange of experience and best practices in the preparation and adoption of the regulatory texts necessary for the implementation of nuclear installation projects as well as in the licensing procedures for nuclear reactors.

The signatories also welcome the multinational cooperation in the *Joint Early Review* initiative on the nuclear safety of the NUWARD reactor conducted by ASN and its Finnish and Czech counterparts.

8. In the field of nuclear security, the signatories note with satisfaction the close relations that exist between the Ministry for Energy Transition and IRSN on the one hand and SSM on the other hand, allowing for the exchange of experience and best practices, in particular through ENSRA (European Nuclear Security Regulators Association).

9. The signatories will endeavour to strengthen bilateral dialogue and cooperation through the establishment of regular exchanges between representatives designated by each signatory.

Signed on 19 December 2023 in Brussels, in two original copies in the French and English languages.

For the Ministry for Energy Transition of the
French Republic

For the Ministry of Climate and Enterprise of
the Kingdom of Sweden

Ms Agnès PANNIER-RUNACHER, Minister
for Energy Transition

Ms Ebba BUSCH, Deputy Prime Minister and
Minister for Energy, Business and Industry of
the Kingdom of Sweden