

January 11, 2022

Ms. Ursula von der Leyen  
President of the European Commission

Open letter  
Nuclear energy that is neither "sustainable" nor "green"  
should not be included in the EU taxonomy

The European Commission's plan to include nuclear power in the EU Taxonomy as contributing substantially to climate change mitigation has greatly shocked Japanese citizens who experienced the nuclear disaster.

From uranium mining to nuclear power plant operations and decommissioning, nuclear power plants generate radioactive waste and continue to emit radioactive materials into the environment, in direct opposition to being environmentally sustainable. The inclusion of nuclear power in the EU Taxonomy and the EU giving its stamp on nuclear power as being green would not only undermine the credibility of the EU Taxonomy, but also leave a significant negative legacy for the future of the EU and the world. This is something that we cannot accept.

### **1. The Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant Disaster Is Not Over**

The disaster at the TEPCO Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant is not over. More than 30,000 people still live as evacuees without being able to return to their hometowns. Many people lost their lives, livelihoods, and meaning of life.

The decommissioning of the reactor has made little progress, and the Japanese government plans to release a large amount of water containing radioactive materials from the site into the ocean, and is trying to use the soil containing radioactive materials generated by decontamination for public works projects. Moreover, the investigation into the causes of the nuclear disaster is still ongoing.

The Fukushima nuclear disaster occurred only 25 years after the serious accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. Until this happened, the Japanese government and utility companies had irresponsibly promoted nuclear power plants, claiming that "nuclear power plants are absolutely safe."

The EU should learn from the tragedy of such nuclear disasters, and avoid a repeat of what happened in the Soviet Union and Japan.

### **2. Nuclear energy causes serious environmental contamination and human rights violations**

Nuclear power plants produce various levels of nuclear waste as long as they continue to operate. Despite the fact that high-level radioactive waste needs to be managed deep underground for more than 100,000 years, the final waste disposal site has not been decided upon in Japan, nor in many other countries. Even when the waste is disposed of

deep underground, future environmental pollution is inevitable.

Environmental contamination and human rights violations also continue to occur in the process of mining uranium, used as a fuel.

Nuclear power plants are built not in the cities which consume much of the electricity, but in sparsely populated areas away from cities. The areas which suffered most from the nuclear disaster in Japan was not Tokyo, where the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant was sending electricity, but Fukushima and its surrounding areas, where the electricity was not used. Workers who are directly engaged in operations and inspections are also always exposed to health risks. In this sense, nuclear energy can be called a symbol of great social disparity and injustice.

### **3. Nuclear energy cannot be used to combat climate change.**

As mentioned above, making nuclear energy a climate change measure is against the ‘do no significant harm’ (DNSH) principle of the EU Taxonomy.

At the same time, nuclear power plants are prone to accidents and trouble, are expensive, and are unstable. In recent years, there have been a number of reports showing that nuclear power plants are vulnerable to climate change. For example, due to extreme weather events, there are cases in which water used to cool the reactor core cannot be extracted due to rising water temperatures, forcing nuclear power plants to shut down, and there is an increased risk of flooding of nuclear power plants along coastal areas.

The severity of the damage caused by disasters at large-scale nuclear power plants is clear from the situation at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant. At the same time, there are also problems with small modular reactors that cannot be resolved. Continued use of nuclear power will encourage a social structure that consumes large amounts of electricity, and the EU will lose the opportunity to make energy and society sustainable.

For these reasons, we strongly urge that nuclear energy not be included in the EU taxonomy.

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#### **Signatories (261 organizations)**

Friends of the Earth Japan

Kiko Network

Peace Boat

Citizens' Nuclear Information Center

Institute for Sustainable Energy Policies

The Citizen's Alliance Stop Polluting the Ocean!

Fridays For Future Sendai  
Fridays For Future Hiroshima  
Fridays For Future Dazaifu  
350.org Japan  
The Liaison Committee for Organizations of Victims of the Nuclear Disaster  
No Nukes Asia Forum Japan  
Radioactivity Monitoring Center for Citizen  
Citizens Against Fukushima Aging Nuclear Power Plants  
The Federation of Promotion of Zero-Nuclear Power and Renewable Energy  
Shikagenpatuwohaironisosyogenkokudan  
Becquerelfree Hokkaido  
No nukes! yamaguchi network  
Sayonara Genkai Nuclear Plant Kurume  
Protect Our Winters Japan  
YAMANOVA  
Yamada Kensetsu  
Hokkaido Electric Power Company Shareholders' Association Against Nuclear Power  
Womens democratic club/femin  
Hokkaido Green Fund  
Japan Association of Environment and Society for the 21st Century  
No-Coal-Kushiro,Hokkaido,Japan,  
Greencoop-okayama  
Sodegaura simin ga nozomu seisaku kenkyukai  
Sayonara Nukes Chiba  
Icihara Kenpo wo Ikasu Kai  
Sayonara Nukes Mitaka Action  
Green People's Power  
Ohihasama network Kurashiki  
Peace and Autonomy Plaza  
Association of the 2nd Generation of A-bomb Survivors in Yamaguchi  
Catholic Sapporo Diocese Justice and Peace Council  
No Nukes Asia Actions  
Transition Town Fuchu  
Stop Nuclear Power Plants, Toukatsunokai, Japan  
General Incorporated Association GQ Power  
Citizens' Group to Monitor Nuclear Regulation Japan  
Echo-Echanges ONG France-Japon  
No Coal Yokosuka  
Group for Civil Autonomy  
Citizens' Group to Monitor Reuse of Metals from Nuclear Reactors  
NoNukes! Noniyukukai  
Citizens Environmental Foundation (CEF)  
Hibaku Iryo wo Kangaeru Kai Kagoshima  
Hakaru-Sapporo Citizens' Station for Measuring Radioactivity in Sapporo  
Chibachuourinnkaibu taikikannkyo wo kanngaerukai  
No Nukes Hiroba in front of Kyushu Electric Power  
Nipponzan Myohoji Buddha Sangha

Save the Earth! Action 97  
Nuclear power generation zero-Ikoma  
ENAGA no kai  
Erasmus Institute of Peace Studies  
Kobe International Christ Church  
Kobe International Sustaining Organization  
Workers' Executive Committee For Movements Against Nuclear Power Generation  
Denryoku Kaikaku Project  
Kanagawa's Association of Preserving Peaceful Constitution  
Shinkuukouhantai Higashinadakujuuminnokai  
Sayonara Nukes Network in Nara  
Food Policy Center - Vision21  
Sayonara Nukes in Hokukatsu  
The Tomakomai citizens meeting of abandoning nuclear power and promoting natural energy  
No Nukes, join in Western Janan/Madam Meeting  
NPO Edogawa Citizen's network for Climate Changes (ECCC)  
Crossroads Cafe Kamakura  
Fukushima Network on Radioactive Waste Incineration  
Zenko Kandenmae Project  
Palestine Solidarity in Sapporo  
NPO Kyushu Renewable Energy Suishin Network  
De-nuclear power plant Oita network  
Shinshu Izokukai Hiroshima  
Fukushima Support Project Ibaraki  
PV-Net Hodogaya  
Anti-war senior group kyoto  
311 wo Wasurenai in Shizuoka  
Shien koryu "Nijikko"  
Oiso Energy shift Japan  
Ooma to Watashitachi Mirai ni Tsunagarukai  
Shimin no Hiroba  
Godo Shuppan  
Fair Trade & Eco Shop Ozone  
Senior·workers-coop·sendai  
Live-in-Now Group  
Power-Shift Fukuoka  
JUSHIMATSU  
Higasikukara gennkaigennpatu no hairu wo kangaerukai  
Kodaira solar  
No Nukes Shinagawa  
Tokorozawa People's Solar Power Association  
Agri-watcher club  
No Nukes! Kansai Electric stockholders' group  
People's Institute of Environment  
People's Action Against The Genkai Mox Project  
NRA lunch break protest every Wednesday

Datsu Hibaku Jitsugen Net  
Machida Citizen's Network  
Hakaru waku Hiroba (Hachioji Citizens Radioactivity Measurement Room)  
Group Mirai  
The Voice of Gifu Citizens for saving Peace, Human rights and Environment  
Hanedakuko Zobin Mondai wo Kangaeru Kai  
Sayonara Genpatsu Gifu  
Hokkaido Active Citizen's Association of Science  
Wakasa no Genpatsu wo Kangaeru Kai  
Tokyo seikatsusha network  
Citizens Against Fukushima Aging Nuclear Power Plants  
350 Shizuoka  
Uchira Komattennen @ Kyoto  
Citizen volunteers who promote dialogue  
No more Nankin Nagoya  
Fukushima wo omou Jikkoiinkai  
Sayonara Genpatsu Düsseldorf e.V. (SGD)  
Akatsuka Narimasu 9jo no Kai  
Stop Nuclear Waste Campaign Kansai  
No war no genpatsu Fukuoka  
Kodaira Kankyo no Kai  
The Community of Yamaguchi-city people to accomplish the Constitution of Japan  
Solidarity Labor Union in Yamaguchi  
Asia Wide Campaign-Japan in Yamaguchi  
No Nukes citizens group in Hiroshima  
Anti-Nuclear Power Action in Kagawa  
Nuclear Accident Evacuees Association in Okinawa  
Tomeyou genpatsu kansai network  
Zenrokyo tahshokusha union  
Kitaku shiminhatsuden syoiinkai  
Seikatsusha Network at Nakano  
Neyagawa citizens party for Renewable Energy  
Sayonara Nukes Fukui Network  
Citizen association Tama  
Ome civil alliance for peace and constitutionalism  
Antiwar-tigers-hyogo  
Datsu Genpatsu!Itoshima Network  
Sayonara Nukes Tokorozawa Liaison  
Fukushima Genpatsu Saiban wo Sasaeru Kai Tokorozawa  
We'd Like to Hand the Better Future to Children / Osaka-no-Kai  
Agenda Project  
Niigata Citizens Forum for No-Nukes Society  
Friday Hachioji Demonstration March against Nuclear Power  
Get together for peace  
Sayonara Nukes Belgium  
Greens Japan  
Nuclear-free Japan

Datsugenpatsunohi Jikko Inkai  
Kita-ku Citizens' Group Against the Release of Radioactive Contaminated Water  
Ueda Citizens' Energy  
Ponte fra Italia e Giappone - TomoAmici  
JAN (Japanese Against Nuclear) UK  
Tanba jiyu gakko  
Aizu Radiation Information Center  
Fukushima Action Project  
Transition Town Kawanishi  
Hokkaido Women's Group Aiming to End Nuclear Power  
Yosomono-Net Francz  
No Nuke Wastes! Civil Network in Gifu  
Kyoto Stop Nuclear Generation Plaintiffs' Group  
Osaka Citizens Against the Mihama,Oi and Takahama Nuclear Power Plants (Mihama no Kai)  
Sendai Nuclear Power Plant 30 kilos area inhabitants network  
10,000 People for the Future of Energy in Hokkaido  
Thanks & Dream, The Great East Japan Earthquake & Nuclear Disaster Evacuees Association  
Kawasaki Citizens Against Nuclear Power  
Higashimurayama Energy  
Citizens' Group on Nuclear Dangers Takarazuka  
Nagano City Environmental Protection Association  
Peace Forum Shonan  
ATSUGI SHIMIN HATSUDENSHO  
NPO genkiryoku hatsudensho  
Deutsch-Japanische Gesellschaft Dortmund  
Sayonara Nukes Duesseldorf  
Metropolitan Coalition Against Nukes  
Green Osaka  
Montréal KIZUNA  
Sayonara Nukes Berlin  
Stichting Dialogue Netherlands-Japan-Indonesia  
Iwate Committee to protect the Sanriku Sea from Radiation  
Green New Deal for Japan  
Children's Trial Against Radiation Exposure  
No Nukes Miyagi Kaze no Kai  
No Nukes Kobe  
Minnano housyasen sokuteisitu tetoteto  
Citizens' Group for Nature and Future in Miyazaki  
A group of "Goodbye Nuclear" Sticker  
Nipponzan Myohoji Narita Dojo  
Anti-Nuclear Local Government Lawmakers and Citizens' League  
Peace Making Network of Interfaith  
Citizen network in western Chiba to support victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake  
Seisho Coalition with the Children of Fukushima  
National Network to Stop Restarting

Citizens' Group Considering Nuclear and Climate Crisis in Komae  
Seikatsu Club consumers cooperative Kanagawa  
Fukushima Childrens' Fund  
Citizens' Network on Hamaoka Nuclear Power Plant in Shizuoka  
Nuclear Phase-out TEPCO Shareholders Movement  
Chernobyl Children's Fund, Japan  
NPO Kirakira Citizens's joint Power Plant  
Okinawa Kuminosato  
The Tent Plaza in front of METI  
Associate Energy Co.  
Sayounara kasiwazakikariwagenpatu purojekuto  
Wind of Citizens toward Uniting for Peace  
ECOMESSE – NPO for environmentally conscious city development  
Citizens' Conference in Sendai for No Nukes  
Goodbye Nukes Shikoku Network  
XRShikoku  
Shimin no iken 30 no kai Tokyo  
Shonanhamakusaikuseikai  
Group of Concerned Scientists and Engineers Calling for the Closure of the Kashiwazaki-  
Kariwa Nuclear Power Plant  
The Takagi Fund for Citizen Science  
YWCA of JAPAN  
Setagaya Energy for All  
Hachiouji people's support for Fukushima children  
NPO koganei shimin hatuden  
Seikatsuclub(shiga) COOP  
Nuclear Disaster Information Center  
OUR Energy  
43 hiroba  
TEPCO Shareholder Derivative Suit  
Genpatsu no Haishi wo Motomeru Kai  
Seikatsu Club Consumers' Co-operative gunma  
AWC-Japan  
Peoples' power network  
Environment Watch TOKYO  
Plaintiffs' Association for the Lawsuit against The Nuclear Reactor Suppliers  
Musashino civil demonstration for nonukes and peace  
Network for Human Rights of Disaster Evacuees  
Transition town koganei  
Citizens' Energy in Tottori  
Citizens' Group for Future of Energy in Tottori  
Liaison for Food Safety  
Rietdekker Sakurai  
Citizens Green Kochi  
Tsuki Ikkai Genpatsu Eigasai  
AWC-Kyoto  
Group not to forget FUKUSHIMA

People21  
Research Forum on Fukushima Nuclear Disaster  
Nippon Kirisutokyokai Hokkaidonakakai Yasukuni Shakaimondai Iinkai  
Takagi School  
Machida Citizen's Initiative on Nuclear Accidents  
Hiroshima Network to Stop Kaminoseki Nuclear Plant  
Itabashi's network aiming to eliminate nuclear power  
Junkan Worker's Club  
People Thinking of Local Autonomy for No-Nukes Hokkaido  
Mekong Watch  
The Forum on Shrinking Society  
Miyagi Kinnyou Demo no Kai  
350 Chushikoku Network  
Fukushima Nuclear Disaster Communication Center  
NGO Climate Crisis Action Fujisawa  
Fujisawa econet  
NPO Mitaka Shimin Kyodo Hatsuden  
I Women's Conference Hiroshima Branch  
Ichimoku  
I Women's Conference Fukuyama  
Higashi Yamato Citizen' Group on Energy  
Group Ten Thousand Plaintiffs for the Lawsuit to Stop the Nuclear Fuel Cycle  
IITATE Power Co.LTD  
Citizen network hokkido