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European Nuclear Society (ENS) & European Atomic Forum (FORATOM)

European Nuclear Congress Highlights Industry's New Prospects

The world's nuclear energy sector is powering up for a major event in the industry's calendar – the international nuclear energy conference and exhibition, ENC 2002, taking place in Lille, France, on 6-11 October.

Due to the revived debate about nuclear, there will be an extra dimension to this year's world nuclear expo, called 'The European Energy Event'. Organised by FORATOM, the Brussels-based trade association for the nuclear industry in Europe, this new element of the conference will take the form of an open and wide-ranging debate on nuclear in the context of energy consumption, sustainable development, security of supply, safety and deregulation.

EU Energy Commissioner Loyola de Palacio and the Commission's Director-General for Transport and Energy, François Lamoureux, will be among those taking part in the opening day discussion (Monday 7 October), along with top industrialists from the power generation sector, politicians and regulators.

Journalists are invited to cover The European Energy Event, and further details can be found on the special ENC 2002 website (<http://www.enc2002.org>).

Following positive political developments for nuclear in Europe and the US, plus continued industry expansion in Asia, the world's nuclear energy community is in an upbeat mood ahead of this year's congress. Worries about CO₂ emissions and security of energy supply have certainly underlined the case for nuclear in recent years. As a result, a more realistic attitude to nuclear is emerging. This all adds up to one thing – a feeling that the nuclear industry is on the threshold of a new era, and this spirit of renewed optimism is bound to come through in Lille.

Like many other major international events, the European Nuclear Congress (ENC), organised by the European Nuclear Society (ENS), takes place only once every four years.

This year's ENC therefore represents an ideal opportunity for nuclear specialists to get up-to-speed on what's happening now on the nuclear energy scene from different perspectives – technical, commercial and political. As in previous years, there will be the usual, successful range of scientific and technical sessions and supplier seminars, plus the Industrial Exhibition featuring more than 100 companies.

ENC 2002 is co-sponsored by the American Nuclear Society (ANS), FORATOM, the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI), the OECD's Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA) and the World Association of Nuclear Operators (WANO).

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