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FORATOM welcomes Poland's decision to build nuclear power plants

FORATOM, the trade association representing the European nuclear industry welcomed today the announcement by Polish Prime Minister, Donald Tusk, that Poland has “adopted a Resolution on nuclear energy...and by 2020 electricity will be generated by one or two nuclear power plants.”

The decision to accelerate Poland's nuclear new build programme is one of a number of policy measures aimed at diversifying the country's energy sources and ensuring greater energy security. Currently, over 90% of Poland's electricity comes from coal and 40% of the gas it consumes is imported from Russia. Reacting to increasing energy security concerns and to the EU's ambitious CO₂ reduction targets, Mr. Tusk emphasised that the Polish government is keen to go nuclear for the first time. It is carrying out feasibility and environmental impact studies on nine potential sites for the country's first nuclear power plant(s) in cooperation with partners in France and Korea.

Santiago San Antonio, FORATOM's Director General placed the announcement within a wider European context: “We welcome the Polish government's decision to develop its nuclear new build programme. Slovakia, Bulgaria, Romania, France and Finland are already building new nuclear power plants. The UK has decided to construct a new fleet of reactors. Italy intends to rebuild its nuclear sector. So, the drive for nuclear new build in Europe is gathering momentum. Once again the energy security and climate change credentials of nuclear energy have helped convince an EU Member State to invest in a nuclear tomorrow.”

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