60 years after the EURATOM treaty, the nuclear technological revolution expanded to the entire world, promoting industrial development in many countries and access to electricity for their populations. Nuclear helps reduce the share of coal in the energy mix, therefore contributing to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and the fight against climate change.

Nuclear implies safety and security requirements which makes it expensive. Is it competitive in a changing environment with the arrival of renewables or shale gas? How can we measure its competitiveness? Compare it to other sources? And between different regions of the world?

Will Europe – which used to be in the lead – decide to revive the ambition? How can we rethink our industry on this anniversary date and make the Energy Union the new ECSC? The Commission offered a PINC but we are nowhere near an industrial vision, caught up that we are in the precautionary principle and risk aversion.

The choice of a mixed energy must improve solidarity between countries and market regulation must be consistent with that choice, especially considering that energy is not a commodity like any other.

How can we relaunch investment and innovation in nuclear? What are the ethical, economic, social and scientific challenges which will allow to make nuclear a safe, sustainable and competitive power source?

We will try to answer those questions by exploring 5 issues that will be compared with other regions of the world during roundtable discussions: transparency and efficiency, prosperity, safety and solidarity.

Les Entretiens Européens will be organized with the support of the European Commission, in partnership and/or with the participation of numerous actors of the European and international nuclear sector, but also local and grid representatives, representatives from other industrial sectors, large electricity consumers and economists from different schools.

Claude Fischer,
Paris, 6th of June, 2017
Welcome
Claude FISCHER HERZOG, Director of Les Entretiens Européens

Hearings
The European ambition, 60 years after the EURATOM treaty
Bertrand de L’EPINOIS, President of FORATOM
Nuclear generation – The potential to play a central role in a low-carbon future
Jan Horst KEPPLER, Senior Economist at the OCDE Nuclear Energy Agency

Round table
Prosperity of territories: the impact of nuclear power on growth and employment
Moderated by Graham WEALE, Professor, Honorary Professor of Energy Economics and Politics at the Ruhr University Bochum, Senior Advisor to the Energy Transitions Commission.
We would like to analyse the costs related to public subsidy policies for energy transition, to corporate restructuring, to employment destruction/retraining, as well as the amount of the electricity bills in the countries that have decided to reduce or phase out nuclear energy. Simultaneously, we want to analyse the added value created by the development of nuclear in terms of growth and employment, of competitiveness in power-intensive sectors, or “local and regional projects”.

Round table
Transparency, an issue for competitiveness. The truth on costs and prices.
It is a question of comparing nuclear costs with the other technologies (in particularly solar), and considering the cost of the overall cycle, decommissioning and radioactive waste management, but also the cost related to savings that impact human lives, health and the environment. It is also about comparing prices with other regions of the world. Do they cover the same costs? European nuclear does not receive public subsidies. Is it the case elsewhere?

Moderated by Jan Horst KEPPLER

Round table
Safety, an asset for competitiveness – Safety costs: how to reduce them without reducing safety
How can we combine safety costs and affordable price? There are numerous questions related to efficiency and management, and a comparison with other sectors like aeronautics - which succeeded in reducing safety costs while increasing safety -, can be useful. How can we share safety costs in Europe, in particular with the countries that will have to modernize their fleet? Should we head towards shared waste management sites? Will standardisation allow for cost savings? In what conditions?

Moderated by Yves DESBAZIELLE, Director general at FORATOM

Round table
Solidarity as an aspect of competitiveness
Reforming the market to favour a long-term industry and creating grids consistent with a good energy mix, reinforcing nuclear’s exports… We need to examine the conditions for the construction of an actual European nuclear industry allowing training and sharing competences, research exchanges, new dismantling technologies or waste management and the development of new production capacity. Training/Innovation/Investment is a winning trio in the reinforcement and development of the industry, and it will consolidate the export strategy in a world experiencing a nuclear renaissance.

Moderated by Massimo GARRIBBA, Nuclear Director, DG Energy of the European Commission

Round table
Moderated by Andrey ROZHDESTVIN, Director of ROSATOM Western Europe

Round table
Moderated by Jukka LAAKSONEN, Senior Adviser, Nuclear Energy, Finnish Energy, Finland

Round table
Moderated by Laurent SCHMITT, Secretary General, ENTSO-e

Round table
Moderated by Anders JOHANSSON, Senior Nuclear Technology Advisor, Vattenfall AB, Sweden

Round table
Moderated by Frédéric LELIEVRE, SVP Sales, Regional Platform, INC, AREVA NP, France

Round table
Moderated by Guy BUCKENHAM, Head of Generation Policy, EDF Energy, UK

Round table
Moderated by Tuomo HUTTUNEN, Senior Advisor, Nuclear Energy, Finnish Energy, Finland

Round table
Moderated by Massimo GARRIBBA and Fanny BAZILE

11:00 - 11:30 / coffee break

11:30 - 1:00
Round table
Prosperity of territories: the impact of nuclear power on growth and employment

13:00 - 14:00 / lunch break

2:00 - 3:30
Round table
Safety, an asset for competitiveness – Safety costs: how to reduce them without reducing safety

3:30 - 4:00 / coffee break

4:00 - 5:30
Round table
Solidarity as an aspect of competitiveness

5:30 - 6:00
Provisional findings
Claude FISCHER HERZOG and Massimo GARRIBBA