

PRESS RELEASE

General mobilisation for nuclear training and employment Businesses, schools, universities and institutions come together to debate the issue at the Entretiens Européens conference.

At the invitation of ASCPE and its director Claude Fischer Herzog, brought together some 300 people to take part in person or through Zoom in Les Entretiens Européens conference held on 30 April in Paris to tackle “Training: a challenge crucial to nuclear revival in France and Europe”.

Co-organized with the UMN, the University of Nuclear Professions in France, chaired by Hélène Badia, and the ENEN, the European nuclear education network, directed by Gabriel Pavel, this 22nd edition of Les Entretiens Européens brought together representatives of companies, major schools and universities or associations from several European countries (Belgium, France, Poland, United Kingdom), the French government, the European Commission and IAEA, International Atomic Energy Agency, in the very beautiful room of the Federation of Public Works, partner of the event.

Nineteen speakers took to the podium for a rich, interesting and original debate. They spoke of the concrete measures being taken on these challenges of training and employment. It is an essential issue that is now entering the public debate, and a natural extension of previous symposiums organised on the reform of the electricity market and cooperation between nuclear states to build an industrial sector in Europe. The commitment and motivation are remarkable. Having spent so many years of arguing in favour of nuclear power, it is good to see.

Many young discovered the problem and understood the opportunities open to them in this growth sector, involving a diversity of professions and levels of excellence, from specialised labour to nuclear and civil engineering, sheet metal work, and chemistry and health. After more than two decades of vilifying nuclear power and ostracising the technology, the horizon is clearing and the industry has recovered its appeal.

In her conclusions, Claude Fischer Herzog listed ten recommendations for tackling the challenges. She raised the issue of compulsory internships in international companies, required by young people as part of their degree courses, and proposed the creation of a European digital platform to match supply and demand, which could be the first step towards building a European

labour and training market. This will be necessary if we are to create a European nuclear industry that will restore Europe's position as leader in a world in the throes of nuclear renaissance! The Chairman of EDF hopes to create a series effect by building reactors throughout Europe to pool the costs and risks associated with investments, which should mobilise our companies and the member states of the Alliance under France's lead.

The Entretiens Européens were extended by a preview screening of Oliver Stone's film "Nuclear Now" in the presence of Catherine Schofer, Managing Director of Paris Première. It was hailed on its release by Werner Herzog, another great filmmaker, this time German, which makes his review even more interesting. It is a film we need to screen in companies, and in schools! Cinema has a decisive role to play (in addition to information, education and training initiatives) in raising awareness and ensuring "societal acceptance" of nuclear energy, which is at the heart of the Entretiens Européens' fight, and more broadly in promoting knowledge of the world, its peoples and their cultures, which is a key objective of the ASCPE "Open World, Regards croisés" film society.

ASCPE intends to use this new edition, the posting of its discussions on YouTube and the publication of a special issue of the Entretiens Européens newsletter based on its presentations to continue serving as an interface between society and institutions and influencing public policy.