

EN

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Answer given by Ms McGuinness
on behalf of the European Commission
(22.3.2022)

1. The technical screening criteria in the Complementary Delegated Act are designed to ensure consistency with the long-term temperature goal of the Paris Agreement. In particular, the recognition of plants emitting “above 100g” is subject to a sunset clause and a set of very strict cumulative criteria to accelerate the transition from coal to gas and toward renewable or low-carbon gases.

2. The inclusion of certain nuclear activities in the EU Taxonomy is based on a specific assessment. While nuclear energy is consistently acknowledged as a low-carbon energy source, opinions differ notably on the potential impact on other environmental objectives. Therefore, the Commission requested the Joint Research Centre to draft a technical report on the ‘do no significant harm’ aspects of nuclear energy¹. Additional experts reviewed the JRC report². Their conclusions and other received feedback form the basis for the criteria defining when nuclear activities can qualify in the EU Taxonomy.

3. The issues tackled by the Complementary Delegated Act have been in the public domain for several months, marked by extensive exchanges, expert analysis and stakeholder feedback. Consultations on gas began based on the work of the Technical Expert Group. Extensive input from Member States, Members of the European Parliament, and other stakeholders was received since then. Regarding nuclear energy, the expert review process, and further stakeholder input since then, has been comprehensive. In line with the requirements of the Taxonomy Regulation³, these activities underwent extensive analysis, scrutiny and expert input. A public consultation is not a legal requirement under the Taxonomy Regulation.

¹<https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/handle/JRC125953>

²The JRC report was reviewed by two sets of experts, the [Group of Experts on radiation protection and waste management under Article 31 of the Euratom Treaty](#), as well as the [Scientific Committee on Health, Environmental and Emerging Risks](#) on environmental impacts.

³Regulation (EU) 2020/852 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 June 2020 on the establishment of a framework to facilitate sustainable investment, and amending Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 (Text with EEA relevance) PE/20/2020/INIT, OJ L 198, 22.6.2020, p. 13–43.