

PRESENT

In our series of 'DEBATING EUROPE' live debates

Wednesday, 7 March 2012 – Cercle Royal Gaulois, Brussels

17.30 – 18.00 Welcome and registration of participants

18.00 – 19.00 Debate

19.00 – 19.30 Networking cocktail

ONE YEAR AFTER FUKUSHIMA: THE FUTURE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY IN EUROPE

The catastrophe at the Fukushima plant on 11 March 2011 dashed hopes of a nuclear renaissance in Europe. In the wake of the disaster, Germany decided to speed up its nuclear power phase-out while a referendum in Italy blocked plans for future nuclear plants. But can Europe really make the transition to a low-carbon future without nuclear energy and will the switch out of nuclear make electricity prices much more expensive? What is the future of nuclear in Europe and can the sector win back citizens' trust? Can safety issues, including the challenge of dealing with nuclear waste, be overcome? Given the ongoing expansion of nuclear power, especially in emerging Asia nations, what can the EU do to ensure agreement on global common rules on safety? Can risks associated with the use of nuclear energy be kept at an "acceptable" level and, if so, what are these levels?

In the run-up to the debate, which will be streamed online, Debating Europe (www.debatingeurope.eu) will be collecting ideas, comments and questions from citizens to be asked of the panellists.

Featuring:



Hans Blix, Chair of the Weapons of Mass Destruction Commission (WMDC) and former Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency

Hans Blix was Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (1987-1997) and Executive Chairman of United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMVIC), the UN commission responsible for weapons of mass destruction (WMD) inspections in Iraq prior to the 2003 invasion. Despite his familiarity with the dangers of nuclear technology, Blix has argued that "due to the threat of global warming, nuclear is a necessity... we will need all the energy sources we have."



Jo Leinen MEP, Chairman of the European Parliament Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

Jo Leinen has long-opposed the use of nuclear technology in Europe, and was previously a spokesperson for the German anti-nuclear movement. He has actively campaigned against the construction of new nuclear plants and, as Chairman of the European Parliament Committee on the Environment, called for thorough "stress tests" on all nuclear power plants in Europe in the wake of the Fukushima disaster.

Moderated by **Giles Merritt**, Secretary General of *Friends of Europe*

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