

## PRESS RELEASE



*« A Demanding Citizen Voice for Nuclear Energy Serving the Greater Good »*

**Voices of Nuclear are resuming their activities after a period of dormancy thanks to financial support, which, although modest, remains crucial, including support from the French government.**

**The adventure continues for this NGO with over 600 members who proudly advocate for nuclear energy as a proven and sustainable common good in service of humanity.**

Paris, May 29, 2024

The association “Voices of Nuclear / Les Voix du Nucléaire,” founded in 2018, is a pioneering NGO dedicated to recognizing the essential role of nuclear energy. It is now resuming its activities after a period of dormancy that began in December 2023 due to lack of funding. The Voices have three main objectives:

- **Promote the role of nuclear energy in an energy transition that respects planetary boundaries and populations.**
- **Ensure unbiased treatment of nuclear energy in all its applications for global decarbonization.**
- **Serve as a citizen interlocutor, independent and constructive, engaging with industry, governments, and international actors.**

### **NEW RECOGNITION FROM THE STATE, SUPPORTED BY THE INDUSTRY**

The Voices of Nuclear have gained increasing recognition through the efforts of their volunteers within numerous national and international bodies, including the IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency), the IEA (International Energy Agency), the UNFCCC (organizer of COP conferences), and the European Small Modular Reactor Alliance. To support their presence beyond national borders on climate-related issues, the French government has granted a subsidy to the association.

According to Myrto Tripathi, President and Founder of Voices of Nuclear:

*“The State’s support reflects an awareness of the role that NGOs play in the global environmental fight. France, with its extensive experience in civil nuclear energy and proven climate results, has a unique message to convey. While the evolving international landscape and policies of many countries show encouraging signs toward nuclear energy, decisive structural decisions are still lacking. We must engage with citizens and opinion leaders, explaining that nuclear energy is fundamentally respectful of nature and life—a force for the greater good. Let’s turn words into action, into electricity.”*

With renewed support from long-term partners, Voices of Nuclear can establish a permanent structure to bolster the commitment of the many volunteers who have sustained the association since its inception.

## **NUCLEAR ENERGY: A CITIZEN CAUSE**

**We are emerging from three decades of institutionalized anti-nuclear sentiment.** The **suffocating strategy** employed by the anti-nuclear movement has perpetuated the **self-fulfilling prophecy** of **“too long, too expensive,”** weaving a deadly web of misinformation.

We have only 30 years left to solve this problem. The year 2050 is not merely a political deadline; our choices must prioritize efficiency more than ever. There is no time for gambling.

**The Voices of Nuclear call upon citizens around the world,** whether connected to the nuclear industry or not, to participate in this new chapter of their mission by joining or supporting the association.

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# ANNEX

## The three strategic axes of *Voices of Nuclear*

### 1. PUBLIC OPINION

#### Democracy

60% of the French population supports nuclear energy<sup>1</sup>. This segment of the population also deserves a civil society capable of giving them a voice and representing their views. Prior to the establishment of *Voices of Nuclear*, this group was often overlooked and their opinions were dismissed.

64% of the French population believes that information from NGOs is the most reliable (ahead of the French Nuclear Safety Authority)<sup>2</sup>.

#### Correct information

The tide is gradually turning at the European and global levels, thanks to the benefits of nuclear energy that the *Voices of Nuclear* have helped highlight and recognize. However, misinformation about its disadvantages still persists. Notably, nuclear energy remains absent from discussions and programs at COP events, and its potential for decarbonization is often overlooked.

### 2. PROJECT ECOSYSTEM: Ensuring Unbiased Treatment of Nuclear Energy

#### Skills

The French nuclear industry will require over 60,000 engineers in the next 10 years<sup>3</sup>, in addition to those required by other sectors. However, the French educational system currently produces only 40,000 engineers annually, and young people tend to be less favorable toward nuclear energy than the average population.

#### Objective Treatment

We must work toward a fair and unbiased competitive environment. This includes equal access to financing, transparent regulations and legislative frameworks, unbiased media coverage, academic curricula, and overcoming short-term media and political pressures. All these factors are essential for the long-term success of the industry.

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<sup>1</sup> CREDOC, Enquêtes « Conditions de vie et aspirations », 2023.

<sup>2</sup> Baromètre 2022-2023 de l'ASN .

<sup>3</sup> Étude GIFEN, 2023, périmètre France.

## **Timelines**

Mechanisms of participatory democracy should not artificially delay projects. A one-year delay in launching an EPR2 reactor results in an additional 4 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, 10 tons of PM2.5, 700 tons of NO<sub>x</sub>, and 20 tons of SO<sub>x</sub> into the atmosphere.

## **3. CITIZEN DEMAND AND INDEPENDENCE**

### **Interlocutors and Checks**

Nuclear energy will eventually replace fossil fuels as the foundation of energy systems. The industry needs constructive and critical civil society interlocutors to accompany it and remind it of its role and responsibilities when necessary.

*Voices of Nuclear* advocate for the right of citizens to reap the benefits of nuclear energy.