

PRESS RELEASE

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## The Conference on the Future of Europe Must Result in Treaty Reform

*The recently concluded Conference on the Future of Europe must result in a constitutional amendment procedure. Here, replacing the EURATOM Treaty with a Treaty on Renewable Energies, Energy Efficiency and Energy Conservation should have first priority. Renewable energy is the only energy source that is compatible with peace, freedom and respect for human and environmental rights.*

At Europe Day on May 9<sup>th</sup>, the chairmen of the Management Board of the Conference on the Future of Europe presented [the final conference report](#) with the recommendations from, among others, the national and EU citizens' panels. Earlier, the European Parliament had adopted a [resolution](#) calling for the Conference to convene a convention as part of the Treaty revision procedure in Article 48 of the Treaty on European Union. During the presentation of the report, the call was reiterated by the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, and the French President Emmanuel Macron, who is also chairing the French EU Presidency.

*“Denmark is one of the Member States that has opposed the Conference on the Future of Europe leading to changes in the EU treaties”, says Hans Pedersen from SustainableEnergy. “This is because constitutional reform supposedly lies too far from what the average Dane is interested in. None the less, since the conference was launched a year ago, the price of energy has multiplied, because the implementation of renewable energy in EU’s green transition is far too slow. The reason is that renewable energies do not have a level playing field in relation to other energy sources, among others because it is discriminated against at EU’s constitutional level”.*

*“Considering that EU’s green taxonomy is undermined by recognising natural gas and nuclear power as sustainable energy sources, the time has come for a new and more comprehensive vision for the green transition in Europe”, says Niels Henrik Hooge from NOAH Friends of the Earth Denmark. “It should now be clear to everyone that renewable energy is the only source of energy that is compatible with peace, freedom and respect for human and environmental rights. The undermining of the taxonomy may well have influenced Russia’s decision to wage war against Ukraine, because it demonstrates that the EU does not take the green transition seriously and has no intention of stopping imports of natural gas and reactor fuel from Russia”. [1]*

For more than sixty years, the EURATOM Treaty has protected European nuclear power against competition from other energy sources, which is its stated purpose. The Treaty is crucial to the development and preservation of nuclear technology in Europe because of its constitutional and institutional legitimacy and its support mechanisms that help keep nuclear power alive. Due to the support, renewable energy is put at a disadvantage. Although renewable energy's costs are decreasing, the environmental impacts of the various energy sources are still not taken into account in their pricing, which harms the implementation of renewable energy the most. In addition, previous support is already built into the infrastructure of nuclear power. Six EU Member States - Austria, Sweden, Germany, Hungary, Ireland and [Denmark](#) - have noted that the EURATOM Treaty has not improved significantly since its entry into force and needs to be updated.

*"If the Conference on the Future of Europe is not used to promote the green transition at EU's constitutional level, it could be many years before the opportunity arises again. The last major change to the EU treaties took place in 2007", says Palle Bendsen from NOAH Friends of the Earth Denmark. "In any case, it would make political, strategic and tactical sense to include all energy-related reform proposals in a constitutional amendment procedure simultaneously and preferably as early as possible".*

SustainableEnergy, Nordic Folkecenter for Sustainable Energy and NOAH support the draft [Treaty on Renewable Energies, Energy Efficiency and Energy Saving](#) conceived by the constitutional expert Prof. Dr. Michael Geistlinger from the University of Salzburg. [A statement of support](#) has been made in cooperation with Plattform gegen Atomgefahren Salzburg (PLAGE) in Austria. The draft treaty consists of an amended version of the EURATOM Treaty, which ensures that the favouring of nuclear power in the EU is abolished. It is combined with [the European Energy Transition Protocol](#) proposed by the Austrian Government in 2016.

**Note:**

[1] In 2019, 41 per cent of EU imports of natural gas came from Russia. Uranium is not produced in the EU and several member states are [dependent on reactor fuel from Russia](#).

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