Joint Statement on the World Nuclear Exhibition

As the World Nuclear Exhibition opens in Paris, the European Business Nuclear Alliance reaffirms the shared commitment of European business federations to strengthening a resilient, competitive and forward-looking nuclear value chain. Nuclear energy plays a key role in Europe's energy transition and in achieving its climate, industrial and competitiveness objectives, alongside renewables and other low-carbon solutions.

With around 1000 exhibitors and 13 EU national pavilions, **the WNE illustrates the strength and vitality of the European nuclear ecosystem**. Across the continent, businesses are mobilising to invest, innovate and produce low-carbon solutions. They contribute to industrial and economic growth, job and value creation in Europe, while advancing the circularity imperative through the recycling and re-use of materials and fuels. **Together with international partners, they are helping to build a resilient and efficient value chain capable of meeting Europe's demand for competitive and decarbonised energy.**

Our alliance calls for a continued and collective effort to scale up and sustain a competitive European nuclear industrial base, in line with the EU climate framework and the reaffirmation of the technology neutrality principle in EU energy policy. European efforts should build on the size and integration of the European market and the complementarity between resilient industrial value chains. Europe must deepen its investments in net-zero industrial capacities and in innovation to consolidate its position as a climate leader and reinforce its economic potential. **This is a strategic opportunity to foster competitiveness, innovation and resilience at the European level.** This ambition goes hand in hand with open markets and balanced international partnerships, which are essential to innovation and long-term cooperation.

The WNE also offers an opportunity to take stock of the nuclear's comeback and renewed momentum in Europe and worldwide. Today, twelve EU Member States operate around one hundred reactors representing close to 100 GWe of installed capacity, with new projects under way or planned in nine countries. According to the European Commission's latest Illustrative Programme for Nuclear Energy (PINC), Europe's capacity could reach up to 144 GWe by 2050, including 17 to 53 GWe of small modular reactors, supported by major investment and skills needs.

Europe's political landscape has evolved in the same direction. The Nuclear Alliance of Member States now gathers sixteen countries around a pragmatic, technology-neutral vision of the energy transition. The latest joint initiatives, particularly on financing, show that Member States are increasingly aligned on the need for an actionable European strategy on nuclear investment. **The European Commission has also taken meaningful, if uneven, steps to reflect this change of approach:** the new PINC provides a clearer but still incomplete view on investment needs, the Clean Industrial State Aid Framework (CISAF) has opened access to more instruments for low-carbon technologies and the low-carbon hydrogen delegated act provides much needed clarity on the treatment of low-carbon products, with further commitments

regarding the use of nuclear PPAs. **The proposal for 2040 regulation also reaffirms that all low-carbon solutions, including nuclear energy, will be needed to meet Europe's objectives, with technology neutrality as a guiding principle.**

But there is still an urgent need to go further and faster. Businesses throughout the value chain still face major obstacles in accessing financing and turning political signals into tangible investment conditions. For SMRs, public support has created initial momentum, but more needs to be done to attract private financing and get the projects to the next development stage. Projects in general continue to face uncertainty over risk allocation, while recent developments on the CISAF and the low-carbon hydrogen delegated act have not dispelled concerns about the consistent application of technology neutrality. **At the general level, European businesses are still needing guarantees on the access to competitive, resilient, dispatchable and low-carbon energy, including from baseload sources such as nuclear.**

Looking ahead, the implementation of EU climate framework will be decisive. Among the key enabling conditions to reach Europe's collective objectives, the framework must provide credible and pragmatic trajectories towards long-term climate goals, while safeguarding Member States' ability to define and decarbonise their energy mix in the most effective and cost-efficient way. **The Commission's commitment to technology neutrality must still be fully confirmed and operationalised across upcoming legislation to ensure a coherent, investment-friendly environment that turns ambition into delivery.**