

- Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen! Hello Agnieszka!
- Congratulations to the Euratom Supply Agency on the (already more than) 60 years of operations. I understand this is the first occasion for you to meet in person after the restrictions. I regret that I cannot be in your company, but I still very much appreciate the opportunity to convey a few messages on this important occasion.

- In the 1950s, in the aftermath of the Second World War, Europe was still striving to recover from losses and destruction and to establish the foundations for continuous peace and prosperity. The Euratom Treaty, signed in 1957, on the same day as the European Economic Community Treaty, is part of the same noble project.
- By creating the conditions for the peaceful development of nuclear energy, the Treaty aims at the prosperity of Europeans through the provision of extensive energy resources and the modernisation of technical processes. And, even more importantly, it aims to advance the peaceful cause through the cooperation with third countries and parties, and with international organisations.
- ESA is the sole agency that has been established and is governed directly by the Treaty, the Euratom Treaty in this case. Its mission is to ensure a regular and equal access to supply of nuclear materials for all European users.

- Moreover, it has the task to monitor the market in the interest of early identification of market trends likely to affect the security of the European Union's supply in nuclear materials and services.
- ESA's model has been unique by many aspects. Security of supply became a Treaty objective for energy policy only in the recent years. But for nuclear sector, it has been one, in quite clear and strong terms, under the Euratom Treaty since the beginning. And also clearly endorsed by the EU Court of Justice case law.
- ESA's powers have been instrumental to that end. In fact, the Agency has had to use them only rarely, but their very existence has been decisive to prevent transactions potentially putting at risk, in the medium and long term, the EU's security of supply.

- ESA took up its duties on 1 June 1960. Looking back to the decades since then, we may take pride in its success and ability to adjust to the changes.
- Designed to deal with the particular post-war circumstances, characterised by scarcity of nuclear materials and unavailability of domestic nuclear technologies, ESA has managed to adapt itself to the current context. There is a multiplicity of State and non-State market actors and the emergence of many new commercial practices.
- In this respect, I can recall that, last year, my Commission colleagues and I approved the new Rules of the Agency in order to bring up to date the way it works. More importantly, ESA has managed to prove itself paramount in an era, when confidence

formerly placed on nuclear power generation is not anymore unanimously shared and a number of our Member States have decided not to include nuclear in their energy mix.

- In line with its mission, for 10 years ESA been taking care of the security of supply of materials and services in connection with non-power uses of nuclear.
- It monitors the supply of medical radioisotopes in Europe and co-chairs, jointly with the industry, the European Observatory on the Supply of Medical Radioisotopes.
- The Agency leads the reflection on policy options to secure sufficient supply of low-enriched uranium required to fuel research reactors and produce radiopharmaceuticals in the future.
- ESA is, hence, an important contributor to the SAMIRA action plan and, furthermore, to the EU “Beating the Cancer” initiative.

- In the light of the above, ESA has been, and is presently more than ever, an indispensable actor for the strategic autonomy of the EU. The new geopolitical circumstances on our continent, following the Russian invasion of Ukraine, further highlight the importance of security of supply of energy resources for the EU.
- I am ready to consider policy options destined to enhance security of supply of nuclear fuels and other materials for the immediate future.

- I also urge our stakeholders, primarily the European industry and utilities, on adapting themselves rapidly to the situation, by taking all measures that may be needed.
- We know that, unfortunately, our world is not anymore the same after 24 February 2022.
- For the medium and long term, we have learnt, together with the Agency, that risk preparedness, based on sound risk assessment and including diversification of supply sources, is the key means to achieve security of supply.
- We can see that decisions taken by any user or producer affect the whole single nuclear market. It is therefore of utmost importance to work closely together in the spirit of solidarity. This is a very important role for the Advisory Committee that is meant to be the link between the various actors: ESA, Member State administrations, utilities, other users, and - lastly yet importantly - industry.

- Conveying my warmest wishes to ESA for continuing success also in the 60 years to come, I would like to assure the Agency's Director General and its staff of my – and that of my Commission colleagues' – strong political support to their actions.
- Based on the Agency's rich experience and lessons learnt over the last several decades, we are committed to bring together resolute responses to the security of supply challenges we are facing in this demanding time.
- Thank you, and I wish you all a beautiful day in Luxembourg.