



PRESS RELEASE – Voices of Nuclear

December 18, 2023

“From obtaining the recognition of nuclear in the energy transition, to putting nuclear power plants to work.”

The Voices celebrate Season 1, six years of operation and the achievement of their mandate on public opinion, and, as of today December 18, 2023, suspend their operations from lack of the financial support they need for Season 2.

NUCLEAR IS BACK – job done!

As the world enters a new era where its dependency on fossil fuels will, finally and effectively, dwindle to the benefit of low-carbon, low-environmental-footprint, knowledge-intensive nuclear energy, **Voices of Nuclear announce having fulfilled the promise they were built upon: that nuclear energy’s contribution to the fight against climate change be recognized.**

Early in 2018, we voluntarily chose to include the word *nuclear* in the name we adopted, to the astonishment, dismay and under the laughs of those who thought nuclear would never throw off its taboo and the web of disinformation that had been woven around it.

It worked.

Back from COP28, we can assert that nuclear’s role is now admitted and even, more and more often, celebrated. Most importantly, nuclear is today recognized as more than an nth technological fashion, as it is supported by a very real, very effective, industry, and, more than anything, by a proven track-record of providing low carbon energy to populations, displacing fossil fuels production, while minimizing its impact on the environment.

Myrto Tripathi, president and founder of the Voices of Nuclear,

“My first attendance at the COP in 2015 for the Paris Agreement was one of enthusiasm, as I felt the world was decisively looking at the problem, but tainted with dismay, as it was obviously voluntarily ignoring its main solution. The following COPs were sources of disappointment and even anger, as we were diving further and further into a dead end. For once, at COP28, I am optimistic, and feel like we can truly win this battle because we accepted to put all chances on our sides, all low carbon technologies, including the one that will undoubtedly shoulder the baseload of our energy systems, nuclear.”

VOICES OF NUCLEAR SEASON 1

The determination of a few, behind the success of all

Voices of Nuclear can claim responsibility for a fair share of the turn of opinion we experience today in France, and increasingly in the European Union. It acted as the small stone that tilted one domino after another, a tilt applied where and how it was needed to provoke a chain reaction. **The messages existed; they lacked the messengers to reopen the conversation.**

The Voices today represent more than 600 volunteer members and sport an audience of several hundred thousand. We have access to decision makers in both national and international organizations, we are party to stakeholder consultations, we have won the social networks and media battles everywhere it mattered.

- ⇒ **But, most importantly, we reach out to the future workers of the industry and to the future citizens and professionals who will benefit from it.** We reach out to people looking for its contribution to the climate, the environment, and the well-being of their societies.

A handful of citizens have done this with barely enough resources to cover our expenditures, as volunteers - exhausting our families, sacrificing our free time and nights for what we believe is an indispensable path to the future.

VOICES OF NUCLEAR SEASON 2

The opportunity to pass public opinion into running nuclear power plants, that need financing.

The expectations and challenges of Season 2 now require the association to be scaled up: to have employees, premises, and paid working time. They require funding.

We paved the way to the future, but the future is not there yet.

- ⇒ The world has never depended as much on fossil fuels, felt the effects of climate change, recognized the fact that other available low-carbon energy sources can't address the problem alone, and that the nuclear power plants we need are still on paper.

It is only now that we turn our back on 30 years of anti-nuclearism - which still deeply pervades our societies and its ways and means - and we have only 30 years left ahead of us to avoid the worst.

- ⇒ Our new objectives are to broaden and consolidate the favorable opinion around nuclear energy, and to level the playing field for nuclear projects, with the aim to accelerate global decarbonization.

For this we need a workforce of our own, the means to work efficiently and the ability to sustain ourselves, so we can **continue to be the rigorous, independent, long-term-view citizens' voice that constructively supports, and advises, the nuclear industry into the future.**

We have launched this transformative effort, but for it to happen, we need to secure the means necessary to achieve our new objective.

WE NEED FINANCIAL SUPPORT.

The energy transition has not yet begun, and it will need a tool like Voices of Nuclear to go through with it, involving citizens by providing them with information that is not biased by ideology or politics.

⇒ **But if we don't obtain the financial support necessary to address the challenges and the expectations we are facing, we will have to suspend our activities on December 18th.**

We will celebrate the results obtained, we will rejoice, ... and be left with the hope that the anticipated nuclear projects will become reality, without being able to offer our help.

The members of the Voices wish to warmly thank all those who have, by their words, their acts, their support, contributed to this success. It is yours as much as it is ours.

Thank you also for helping us advocate for the financial help we need.

We hope to see you again for Season 2 of Voices of Nuclear - the one where everything that has been dreamt about, becomes reality.