

DAILY TRACKER

NUCLEAR ISSUES

1. A quartet of European and American specialists made a comprehensive case on Tuesday for why nuclear power should not be considered a solution to the climate catastrophe, as global scientists continue to warn of the urgent need to preserve fossil fuels in the ground. While the experts recognise in their joint statement that "the climate is running hot," they push back forcefully against those who argue nuclear could be a "partial response to the threat of global heating."
Source: <https://www.commondreams.org/news/2022/01/25/experts-say-nuclear-energy-climate-solution-total-fiction>
2. On Tuesday, German Minister of Economic Affairs and Climate Action Robert Habeck called on his government to oppose EU-level efforts to define nuclear energy as "green." After talks with European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, Habeck remarked, "I hope that the Commission will follow our recommendations and remarks that nuclear power is not a sustainable form of energy." In the following weeks, the European Union will define a number of energy sources as either sustainable or not. Habeck said his "personal opinion" was that "Germany should vote no" on the proposal, should it remain in the plans "in the form that it is currently included."
Source: <https://www.dw.com/en/germanys-habeck-denounces-plan-to-label-nuclear-energy-green-in-brussels/a-60548639>
3. Bryden Wood has developed a new digital platform that allows for the rapid and scaled replacement of coal-fired boilers at existing power plants with advanced modular nuclear reactors.
Source: <https://world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Digital-platform-launched-for-repowering-coal-plan>
4. Bruce Unit 7 is the world's first nuclear power reactor to have the ability to manufacture the medicinal radioisotope lutetium-177 (Lu-177). The isotope, which is used to treat diseases like neuroendocrine tumours and prostate cancer, will be created in the reactor using ytterbium targets that have been irradiated.
Source: <https://world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Bruce-7-prepares-for-isotope-production>
5. The United States and Estonia have agreed to collaborate under the US Department of State's capacity-building programme, Foundational Infrastructure for Responsible Use of Small Modular Reactor Technology (FIRST).
Source: <https://world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/USA-to-assist-Estonia-in-nuclear-capacity-building>
6. Cameco has requested a state-level environmental approval extension for the Yeelirrie project and has stated that it remains committed to it. The Western Australian government had previously given the business until January 20th of this year to demonstrate "substantial commencement" of the project.
Source: <https://world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Cameco-underlines-ongoing-commitment-to>



7. Atommash performed a test assembly of elements for the multi-purpose sodium-cooled fast neutron research reactor (MBIR) being built in Dimitrovgrad. The six pieces of equipment used in the test at AEM technologies' Volgodonsk division weighed a total of 164 tonnes.
Source: <https://world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Test-assembly-of-MBIR-research-reactor-vessel-carr>
8. Money managers are divided over the European Commission's draught proposal to label natural gas and nuclear energy as green investments.
Source: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/renewables/gas-and-nuclear-are-green-not-so-fast-say-some-investors/articleshow/89133649.cms>
9. In an interview, Chief Executive Officer Marcin Chludzinski noted that KGHM Polska Miedz SA is particularly vulnerable as the largest consumer of Poland's predominantly coal-based electricity and aims to incorporate nuclear power into its energy mix this decade.
Source: <https://www.mining.com/web/going-green-must-include-nuclear-for-eus-largest-copper-plant/>
10. Despite the European Commission's aim to identify nuclear power as sustainable, Enel Green Power's chief executive Salvatore Bernabei stated that the Italian renewables supermajor had no plans to invest in the technology.
Source: <https://www.rechargenews.com/energy-transition/nuclear-not-competitive-and-too-late-for-energy-transition-enel-green-power-ceo/2-1-1155407>
11. In the first-ever commercial transaction for nuclear-derived hydrogen, a Swedish nuclear power station operated by Uniper and Fortum will sell pink hydrogen to industrial gases giant Linde. Since 1992, OKG, the company that owns and manages the Oskarshamn 3 power plant, has been manufacturing hydrogen from electrolyzers fueled by its own electricity for use as a reactor coolant.
Source: <https://www.rechargenews.com/energy-transition/world-first-for-nuclear-powered-pink-hydrogen-as-commercial-deal-signed-in-sweden/2-1-1155202>

MISSILES/ BIO WEAPONS

1. South Korea's military said North Korea fired two cruise missiles into the sea off its east coast on Tuesday, amid escalating tensions over a recent string of nuclear tests.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/north-korea-appears-have-fired-cruise-missiles-report-2022-01-25/>
2. China is rapidly developing and testing hypersonic technology. When the communist country launched a "Fractional Orbital Bombardment System" to launch a nuclear-capable hypersonic glide vehicle over the planet, it sent shockwaves around the world.
Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/china-goes-ballistic-in-its-hypersonic-weapons-program-aircraft/>
3. The US Federal Trade Commission (FTC) announced on Tuesday that it will dispute Lockheed Martin's \$4.4 billion acquisition of Aerojet Rocketdyne Holdings, the only independent missile



propulsion systems maker.

Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/lockheed-martin-aerojet-rocketdyne-us-trade-watchdog/>

4. In the South China Sea, a US Navy F-35C had a "landing incident" on the deck of the Carl Vinson aircraft carrier. The Navy said in a statement that seven US military personnel were injured in the January 24 disaster, while the pilot ejected safely.

Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/f-35c-stealth-fighter-jet-crashes-becomes-only-the-2nd-f-35-to-goes-down/>

5. Despite Beijing's threats to impose stricter rules and heavier penalties on citizens who defect to other nations and/or leak state secrets, a significant number of Chinese citizens have managed to travel to the West, bringing critical information with them. In the most recent episode, a high-profile Chinese defection raises the likelihood of the West gaining access to one of Beijing's most advanced hypersonic weapons.

Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/chinese-hypersonic-weapons-technician-df-17-missiles-defects/>

6. While the Russian S-400 missile defence systems have dominated international headlines for some time, THAAD (Terminal High Altitude Area Defense), a US counterpart, has suddenly managed to steal some of the spotlight with its first operational kill in the Middle East.

Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/us-thaad-rival-to-s-400-missile-makes-it-first-operational-kill/>

7. According to Janes, Indonesia is going through with its proposal to purchase 36 Rafale multirole fighter aircraft. On January 20, Indonesian Defense Minister Prabowo Subianto told reporters that the program's negotiations had concluded and that the contract was now "awaiting activation."

Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/rafale-fighters-dassault-aviation-indonesia-awaits-contract-activation/>

NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

1. Boris Johnson said in a Commons statement that Britain is ready to deploy soldiers to safeguard Nato allies in Europe if Russia invades Ukraine. President Putin will confront "ferocious" Ukrainian resistance, according to the prime minister, and "many Russian mothers' sons will not be coming home."

Source: <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-60123328>

2. The forthcoming presidential election in South Korea on March 9 raises the likelihood of a significant shift in the country's nuclear policy. In the polls, the leading two presidential contenders, Lee Jae-Myung of the ruling liberal Democratic Party and Yoon Seok-Yeol of the conservative opposition People Power Party, are neck and neck. While both have committed to adhere to the country's emissions limits, their suggested roadmaps to achieve that aim are vastly different, particularly when it comes to the usage of nuclear power plants.

Source: <https://www.argusmedia.com/en/news/2295253-s-korea-election-offers-potential-for-nuclear-change>

3. As the EU seeks to come up with a strategy to transition to completely renewable energy, the Czech

Republic is pressing for proposed timetables for nuclear energy investment to be scrapped, according to a Czech newspaper published on Friday.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/czechs-want-scrap-deadline-nuclear-energy-eu-plan-report-2022-01-21/>

4. As Western countries stepped up military preparations and set measures to insulate Europe from a potential energy supply shock, US President Joe Biden said on Tuesday that if Russia invades Ukraine, he would consider personal sanctions against President Vladimir Putin.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/us-seeks-protect-europes-energy-supplies-if-russia-invades-ukraine-2022-01-25/>

5. According to a diplomatic source in Seoul, US President Joe Biden has appointed a seasoned career diplomat and former North Korean sanctions enforcer as ambassador to South Korea.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/biden-picks-former-sanctions-enforcer-skorea-ambassador-source-2022-01-26/>

6. Sergiy Korsunsky, Ukraine's ambassador to Japan, said on Wednesday that his country is committed to finding a diplomatic solution to the current tensions with Russia, adding that he sees little prospect of a full-fledged war, though there may be smaller conflicts.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/ukraine-diplomat-sees-little-chance-war-local-conflict-possible-2022-01-26/>

UN REFORMS

1. On Wednesday, Hong Kong's security leader stated that his government would reinforce anti-espionage rules as part of new national security legislation now being written.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/hong-kong-security-chief-says-new-laws-will-reflect-importance-spies-2022-01-26/>

2. The United Nations has passed a resolution to combat Holocaust denial, encouraging member nations and social media companies to assist in the battle against anti-Semitism. The resolution, proposed by Israel and Germany, was passed by the 193-member General Assembly without a vote. According to the UN, the measure sends "a strong... message against the denial or the distortion of these historical facts."

Source: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-60072506>

3. East Turkestan has been turned into a police state since 2017. Every corner is covered by a network of surveillance technology. Community's strong women are being persecuted, with forced sterilisations, abortions, and marriages to Han Chinese men. Approximately 3 million Uyghurs have been detained in concentration camps, where they are subjected to unrelenting violence. Starvation, torture on a regular basis, systematic rape, and even organ harvesting are all possibilities added Rahima Mahmut, the UK project director of the World Uyghur Congress and the chair of Stop Uyghur Genocide.

Source: <https://artistsatriskconnection.org/story/uyghur-artist-and-activist-rahima-mahmut-on-the-fight-for-uyghur-culture-and-survival>

4. According to a decision published in April 2019 and recently reviewed by RFA, Helchem Pazil, 78, is one of five women from the same family in Korla (in Chinese, Kuerle) who have been imprisoned for religious activities in which they engaged in 2013, by CCP.
Source: <https://www.rfa.org/english/news/uyghur/halchem-pazil-01252022165336.html>
5. On Tuesday, Amir Khan Muttaqi met with Nigel Casey, the UK special envoy for Afghanistan and Pakistan, in Oslo, to discuss humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan, according to the Foreign Ministry.
Source: <https://twitter.com/TOLOnews/status/1486225604190281728>
6. Isobel Yeung investigates the tense relationship between the International Olympic Committee and China's repression campaign ahead of the Winter Olympics in Beijing next month.
Source: <https://twitter.com/RealSportsHBO/status/1485723859269480449>