Nuclear Energy: Key Facts and Issues

May 4-7, 2026

Warwick Grand-Place Brussels Hotel
Westminster Meeting Room
Rue Duquesnoy 5, 1000 Bruxelles, Belgium

Registration

Interested participants may register using the link. Space is limited. The registration cost is 125 EUR (fee waivers may be requested). Registration will close on April 28, or earlier if spots fill. *Turn to page 4 for additional details on travel and logistics*.

Agenda

**Subject to change.*

Monday, May 4		
7:00-9:00pm 2hrs	Join us in Salon Grand Place for a casual **Welcome Reception** to meet fellow participants and speakers.	

Tuesday, May 5		
7:30-8:30am *60min*	*Complimentary breakfast is available for hotel guests in Salon Grand Place.*	
8:30-9:15am 45min	**Welcome and Introductions**	Facilitated by **Jacopo Buongiorno**, Massachusetts Institute of Technology and **Malwina Qvist**, Clean Air Task Force
9:15-10:15am 1hr	**Nuclear Energy and Climate Change**	**Malwina Qvist** will explore a systems analysis of clean energy sources, including nuclear and renewables, with a focus on land use, energy density, and siting challenges.
10:15-10:30am 15min	Coffee Break on Patio West.	
10:30-11:45am 1hr 15 min	**Nuclear Power Plant Basics**	**Jacopo Buongiorno** will cover the basic principles of nuclear power plants, including current technologies such as PWRs and BWRs, the differences between fast and thermal reactors, and an overview of power cycles.
11:45am-12:30pm 45min	**Global Nuclear Trends**	**Vincent Zabielski**, Pillsbury Law will examine the current global state of nuclear energy, focusing on the divide between Western and other regions, as well as evolving policies in the U.S., EU, Middle East, and Asia.
12:30-1:30pm 60min	**Networking Lunch** in Salon Grand Place.	

1:30-2:30pm 1hr	**Nuclear Safety**	**Jacopo Buongiorno** will cover the fundamentals of nuclear safety, with an analysis of key events at Three Mile Island, Chernobyl, and Fukushima.
2:30-3:30pm 1hr	**Nuclear Technologies 101: From Large Reactors to SMRs and Advanced Systems**	**Staffan Qvist**, Quantified Carbon will explore advanced reactors and advanced fuels, discussing what they are, how they differ, and why they are important.
3:30-3:45pm 15min	Coffee Break on Patio West.	
3:45-4:45pm 1hr	**The Cost Challenge**	**Jacopo Buongiorno** will address the cost challenges of nuclear energy, examining recent cost trends, the factors contributing to high costs, and strategies for cost reduction.
4:45-5:45pm 1hr	**Nuclear Fuel Cycle, Nuclear Waste, and Spent Fuel**	**Didier Leonard**, SCK CEN Institute on Sustainable Waste & Decommissioning will examine the nuclear fuel cycle, including mining, conversion, enrichment, fuel fabrication, reprocessing, and recycling, as well as technical options for managing nuclear waste and spent fuel, with insights into global and U.S. developments.
5:45-6:00pm 15min	Day 1 Wrap Up	Facilitated by **Jacopo Buongiorno** and **Malwina Qvist**.
6:00-7:00pm *1hr*	*Break (Personal Time)*	
7:00-9:00pm 2hrs	**Networking Reception and Dinner** in Salon Grand Place.	

Wednesday, May 6		
7:30-8:30am *1hr*	*Complimentary breakfast is available for hotel guests in Salon Grand Place.*	
8:30-9:15am 45min	**Applications of Nuclear Energy Beyond Electricity**	**Malwina Qvist** will discuss the value of nuclear energy in decarbonizing hard-to-abate sectors beyond electricity generation.
9:15-10:15am 1hr	**Non-proliferation Issues**	**Vincent Zabielski** will explore non-proliferation issues, including its definition, the history of nuclear weapons, the Non-Proliferation Treaty, the current vision for non-proliferation, the role of the IAEA, and ongoing challenges.
10:15-10:30am	Coffee Break on Patio West.	

15min		
10:30-11:10am 45min	**EU Policy: The European Landscape – Where Nuclear Fits in the Green Deal**	**Alessia Virone**, Clean Air Task Force will discuss the current European nuclear energy policy landscape and how nuclear energy ties into the Green Deal and broader decarbonisation efforts in the EU.
11:15am-12:00pm 45min	**Public Opinion and Nuclear: European and Global Trends**	**Luke Shore**, Project Tempo will explore public opinion on nuclear energy, examining its historical trends, current global and European perspectives, factors influencing support or opposition, risk perceptions, and the role of community-led decision making.
12:00-1:00pm 1hr	**Networking Lunch** in Salon Grand Place.	
1:00-2:15pm 1hr 15min	**Financing the Future: Strategies for Advancing New Nuclear Projects**	**Steve Comello**, Nuclear Scaling Initiative will examine the financial frameworks and development models shaping new nuclear deployment and how key stakeholders—governments, investors, and utilities—navigate risk, capital allocation, and policy incentives to structure viable projects in an evolving energy landscape.
2:15-3:15pm 1hr	**European Nuclear Projects**	**Jiří Ondruška**, Ministry of Industry and Trade, Czech Republic will discuss progress on their country's respective nuclear programmes, policy support and successes, and challenges on the way to successful nuclear deployment.
3:15-3:30pm 15min	Coffee Break in Patio West.	
3:30-4:30 1hr	**Nuclear Regulation**	**Ian Grant** Consulting (advisory services in the areas of nuclear infrastructure development and regulatory frameworks) will examine how nuclear plants are licensed and regulated, with a focus on the roles of the IAEA and national regulatory bodies.
4:30-5:30pm 1hr	**Key Takeaways and Group Discussion**	Facilitated by **Malwina Qvist**.
Participants may make their own dinner arrangements at their leisure. Those who are not joining the optional field trip on Thursday, May 7 are free to depart from the course.		

Thursday, May 7 (optional opportunity with limited capacity)	
7:00-8:00am	*Complimentary breakfast is available for hotel guests in Salon Grand Place.*

1hr	
8:00-9:30am *1hr 30min transfer* 9:30am-3:30pm 6hr tour *3:30-5:00pm* *1hr 30min transfer*	**Field trip to the Belgian Nuclear Research Centre (SCK CEN)** – Belgium's leading nuclear research institute and a major international centre for science, technology, education, and services related to nuclear energy and radiation. Founded in 1952 as a foundation of public utility under the supervision of the Belgian Federal Ministry responsible for energy, SCK CEN employs hundreds of scientists, engineers, and technical staff dedicated to developing peaceful, socially valuable uses of nuclear science and technology. **Transportation and lunch provided.** ****Participation requires a security clearance, strictly due by April 21. Spots are limited.****

Please continue for helpful travel and logistical details.

Lodging Accommodations
A discounted room rate of 210 EUR is available for course attendees at the Warwick Grand-Place Brussels Hotel. Follow this link to book or call the hotel at +32 2 505 55 55.

Travel and Transportation
The Warwick Grand-Place Brussels Hotel is conveniently located in the city center, just steps from Brussels Central Station. Guests arriving by train can reach the hotel in under five minutes on foot from Brussels Central Station, which offers direct connections to Brussels Airport via the Airport Express train (approximately 20 minutes). For those arriving by air, Brussels Airport (BRU) is about 15 km (9 miles) from the hotel; taxis typically take 25-30 minutes depending on traffic. The hotel is also well served by public transportation, with nearby metro and bus stops providing easy access across the city. Ride-apps such as Uber and Bolt are also available.

Passport and Visa Requirements
Belgium is part of the Schengen Area. Please review the Belgian government or EU Schengen visa guidance to determine what entry requirements apply to your country of citizenship. If you require a visa and need a letter of invitation, please contact us at events@catf.us. We strongly recommend applying well in advance, as processing times can vary and may be lengthy.

Weather and Recommended Dress
We encourage your comfort with a recommendation of "*business casual*". Early May in Brussels typically brings mild spring weather, with daytime highs around 15-18°C (60-65°F) and cooler mornings and evenings around 7-10°C (45-50°F). Rain showers are fairly common, so a light rain jacket or umbrella is advised.

Questions and Support
Please contact **events@catf.us**.