

## International Affairs Committee Session

The French Nuclear Power Sector:  
Current Status and Future Trends

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The world has witnessed, over the recent years, some major events which will undoubtedly have an impact on many countries' energy choices. Among such events, the discovery of shale gas in the US, falling oil prices, the Fukushima accident, greater awareness of environmental challenges, geopolitical tensions, growing electricity needs caused not only from increasing population of emerging countries but also from new uses of electricity in the whole world (electric vehicles, smart cities...).

Numerous debates are organized throughout the world, all aimed at shaping energy policies that could find appropriate answers to this new context.

Despite some specific choices made by certain countries, a general consensus seems to appear, on the way to adapt to this new context, in a manner that could ensure sustainable growth: nuclear and renewables come out as the two major components of any energy mix that would allow to address the need for clean, cheap, bulk and stable electricity that requires minimal imports of energy resources.

For the last few decades, France has clearly been committed to the nuclear option in its energy mix. However, in order to meet the new challenges posed by the present context, some major changes are currently being implemented on the French nuclear scene. These changes are aimed at both strengthening France's nuclear energy sector in a world which is much more competitive, all while diversifying the country's energy mix so as to adopt a low-carbon economy model.

The presentation made by Dr Sunil Felix, Nuclear Counsellor at the Embassy of France in Japan, is aimed at covering all these topics.