

Saving the Taxonomy from below

„No“ To the Greenwashing of Nuclear Power and Fossil Gas



Julian Bothe, 29 March 2022

About .ausgestrahlt

- Anti-nuclear organization, active throughout Germany since 2008.
- We encourage and support public protest
- We develop strategies, action ideas, arguments and materials and make them available to everybody who wants to get active.
- We often work together with local initiatives and other environmental organizations.
- More Information: www.ausgestrahlt.de/at-a-glance/

Outline

- EU-Taxonomy: What is it?
- State of the debate and possibilities of intervention
- Possibilities of action for local and regional groups
- Call to Action: Actions at the regional offices of MEPs end of April

EU-Taxonomy: What is it?

The Taxonomy of Sustainable Finance

- Legislative project of the EU
- List of economic activities that are considered „green“
Until now: Which activities are climate-friendly without causing harm in other areas ("Do No Significant Harm"-Criterion)?
- Currently: Should fossil gas and nuclear power be added to the taxonomy?
- Inclusion leads to
 - Favorable credit-conditions, investments, symbolic recognition
 - government subsidies and state aid, non-inclusion in debt limit, ...

The Taxonomy of Sustainable Finance

- Legislative project of the EU
- List of economic activities that are considered

Calling **nuclear energy sustainable** is a **no-go**, says Ingo **Speich**, head of corporate governance and sustainability at Deka Group, the **investment fund for Sparkasse** (german regional Savings Bank).

"The taxonomy rules are driven by the industrial policy of individual countries. **The EU Commission has lost all its credibility**," says Speich. The inclusion does not help any of the goals, namely to slow down climate change and make the economy more sustainable.

<https://www.n-tv.de/wirtschaft/Finanzbranche-aergert-sich-ueber-Taxonomie-article23035918.html> 6. January 2022, own translation

- government subsidies and state aid, non-inclusion in debt limit, ...

Criteria – Nuclear Power

- Genehmigung **bis 2045**
- Erfüllung bestehender Verpflichtungen EURATOM
 - v.A. Atommüllrichtlinie, Sicherheitsrichtlinie, Strahlenschutzrichtlinie
- Plan für späteste Inbetriebnahme Langzeit-Atommülllager HRM 2050
 - Aber nicht für Entscheidungen für Laufzeitverlängerung vor 2025
- Ausreichende Finanzreserven
- „Unfalltolerante Brennstäbe“ – aber erst ab 2025



Geplante Inbetriebnahme eines Tiefengeologischen Lagers

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52019DC0632>

Criteria – Fossil Gas

- Life-Cycle-Emissionen unterhalb 100 g CO₂/kWh

ODER

- Genehmigung bis 2030
- **Direkte Emissionen** unterhalb 270 g CO₂/kWh ODER
Durchschnittsemissionen (20 Jahre) unterhalb 550kg CO₂/kW Kapazität
- Gaskraftwerk ersetzt höhere Emissionen, mindestens 55% Reduktion über **Lebenszeit** des Kraftwerks
- Kraftwerke **kann und soll** ab 2036 mit „erneuerbaren oder **kohlendioxidarmen**“ **Gasen** betrieben werden
- Weitere, u.A. Kohleausstieg beschlossen für Kohle-Länder

Assessment

E.g. EU Platform on Sustainable Finance

- Proposal does not conform the legal text and undermines overall concept of taxonomy
- "Deep concern" about resulting environmental damage

State of the debate and possibilities of intervention

Parts of the Taxonomy-Regulation

- **Basic Legislation:** in force since 2020
- **First Delegated Act, 2021:** technical screening criteria regarding climate change adaptation and climate change mitigation (in force since january 2022)
- **Now: Delegated Act on nuclear power and fossil gas**
- Upcoming: Delegated Acts on other aims (e.g. circular economy)

History of the Delegated Act on nuclear and gas

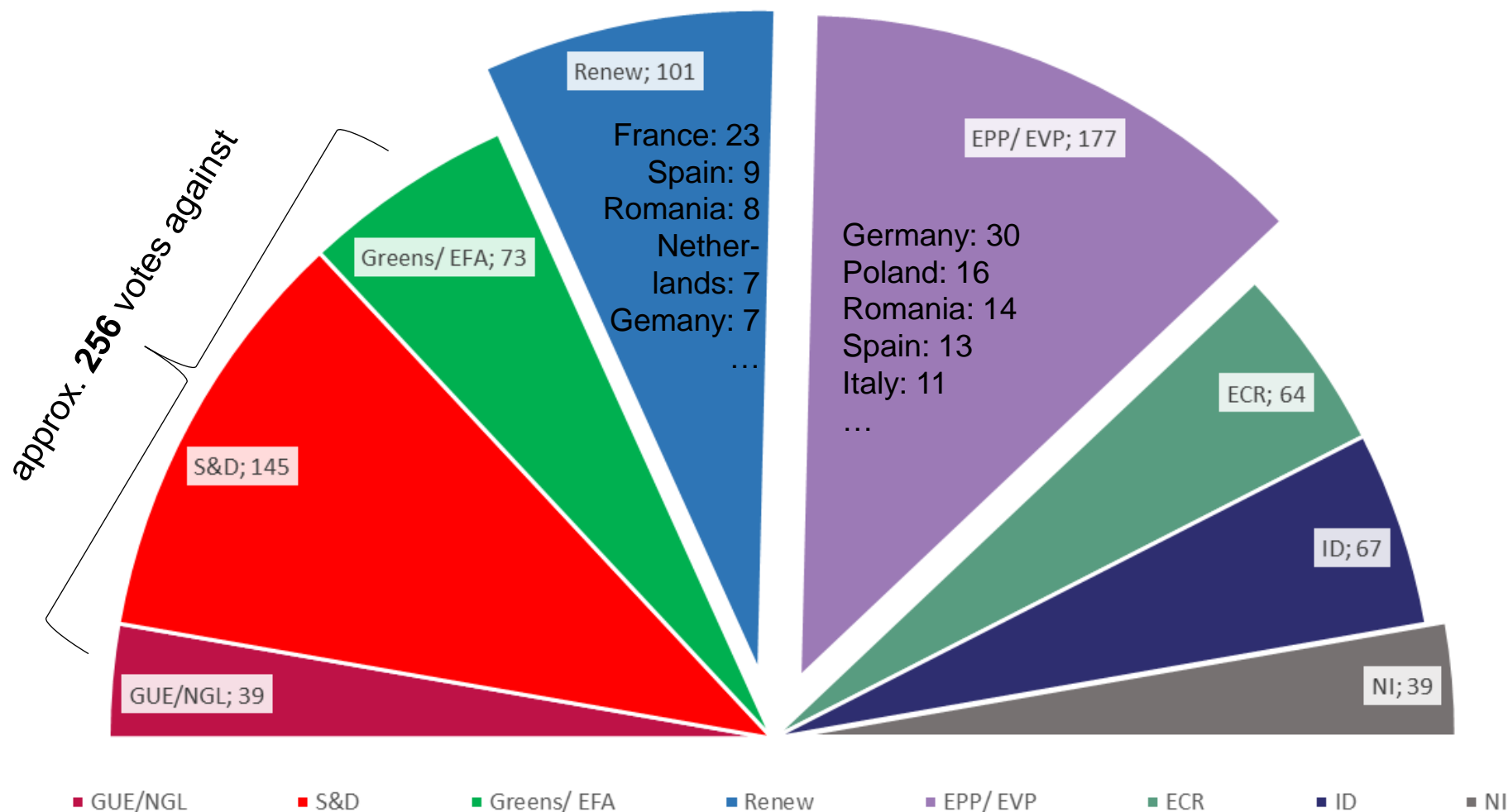
- *For years: Fierce lobbying battles*
- **31 January:** Commission consults Platform and Council and informs Parliament
- 2 February: Commission officially presents Delegated Act on nuclear and gas
- 10. March: Official publication in the journal of the EU, deadlines begin.
- **10 July/10 September:** Last date European Parliament and European States (Council) can **reject the proposal**

Next Steps

1. European Council → (qualified) rejection highly improbable
2. European Parliament → rejection not certain, but possible
3. Lawsuit after entry into force
E.g. based on Art. 290 European Treaties: Only "non-essential" aspects of a law may be delegated to the Commission.
→ Chances of success greater when there is more political dispute?!
4. Implementation

Taxonomy in the European Parliament

Political groups of the European Parliament



353 votes against the DA necessary; Rejection by EPP (or Renew) decisive

Taxonomy in the European Parliament



Engin Eroglu ✓
@EnginEroglu_FW

Dies ist einzig ein [#Etikettenschwindel](#), wie ich bereits mehrmals deutlich gemacht habe. Ich werde nun alles dafür tun, dieses Vorhaben noch zu [#verhindern](#). Gerade suche ich im [@Europarl_EN](#) nach einer [#Mehrheit](#) GEGEN dieses Vorhaben. 💪

5:17 nachm. · 2. Feb. 2022 · Twitter Web App



Julian Bothe
@ju_bothe

Worte [@MarkusFerber](#) zur [#Taxonomie](#):
"Ich konzentriere ich gerade meine Arbeit, dass wir den Delegierten Rechtsakt ablehnen ... Es kann sein, dass Nuklear und Gas als nachhaltig aufgeführt werden"

[thisTaxonomyDown](#) [#Atomkraft](#)

Gefällt

[#IchBinAntifa](#) [#Energieverbrauchsummer](#) [#Suffizienz](#) [#Klimarestruktur](#) [#DontNukeTheClimate](#)



Peter Liese MEP ✓
@peterliese

Ich bin sicher: Der Vorschlag der [@EU_Commission](#) [#Kernenergie](#) als grün zu labeln, wird so nicht kommen. Wir brauchen mehr Mitwirkung des [@Europarl_DE](#) + grundlegende Änderungen. Vielleicht ist aber eine Ablehnung am Ende der beste Weg. 🗳️ 📞 🎤



Markus Ferber ✓
@MarkusFerber

abgeordneter; Vorsitzender der CSU Schwaben; Sprecher der Fraktion im Ausschuss für Wirtschaft und Währung; Vorsitzender der Hans-Seidel-Stiftung

Folgen



15 March 2022

Dear President von der Leyen,
Dear Commissioner McGuinness,

While the number of Ukrainian civilians who are displaced, injured or worse, reaches millions, the European Union continues to send money to Russia for the provision of gas. Our dependency on Russian gas funds Putin's war and enables the attacks on the Ukrainian people, its historic cities and the principle of sovereign self-determination that we hold dear.

Your Commission, Member States and this Parliament are clear. We welcome your plan to make Europe independent from Russian fossil fuels. This stands in stark contrast with the proposal to incentivise investments in fossil gas through the Taxonomy Regulation which was decided by your Commission before the Russian invasion of Ukraine. We should transition away from fossil gas, and avoid the increase in its use through the construction of new gas plants. This Delegated Act does the exact opposite.

We were therefore surprised to see that in your REPowerEU plan, this Delegated Act was left untouched. Withdrawing the Delegated Act will increase the focus of investments on truly sustainable energy sources and thereby increase our energy independency. Maintaining the Delegated Act, on the other hand, will only further increase our dependency on gas and our reliance on Russian imports. This would undermine the effectiveness of the REPowerEU plan which we need to succeed.

There is a clear need to end our reliance on Russian gas and transition to renewable sources. Therefore, we demand the Commission to withdraw the Complementary Delegated Act.

Yours sincerely,

Francois	Alfonsi	Christophe	Hansen
Rasmus	Andresen	Martin	Hausling
Eric	Andrieu	Anja	Hazekamp
Marc	Angel	Martin	Hojnik
Maria	Arena	Pär	Holmgren
Margrete	Auken	Yannick	Jadot
Alica	Bah Kuhnke	Agnes	Jongerius
Pernando	Barrena	Petros	Kokkalis
Robert	Biedron	Miapetra	Kumpula-Natri
Benoit	Biteau	Aurore	Laluçq

15 March 22 Open Letter: Commission, please withdraw the taxonomy-DA

	EPP	Grüne/EFA	Left	RENEW	S&D	NI	Total
Austria		2			4		6
Belgium		1			2		3
Czechia		1					1
Denmark		2	1	1	3		7
Finland	1	1	1		1		4
France		12	1	1	6		20
Germany		13	1		3		17
Greece			1				1
Ireland		2	2				4
Italy		3			1	2	6
Lithuania	1						1
Luxembourg	2				1		3
Netherlands		3	1		6		10
Poland					1		1
Portugal			2				2
Slovakia				4			4
Spain		2	1		1	1	5
Sweden		3	1	1	1		6
Total	4	45	12	7	30	3	101

Kathleen	van Brempt
Kim	van Sparrentak
Nikolaj	Villumsen
Marianne	Vind
Bettina	Vollath
Thomas	Waitz
Mick	Wallace
Sarah	Wiener
Michal	Wiezik
Emma	Wiesner
Isabel	Wiseler-Lima
Tiemo	Woelken
Lara	Wolters

Reasons for rejection in the EU Parliament

- Nuclear power in the taxonomy
- Fossil gas in taxonomy
- Procedure
 - Commission only "informed" the Parliament about the delegated act, while member states and advisory platform were "consulted"
- Dependencies on Russia
 - Russian war in the Ukraine makes clear: fossil gas and nuclear power do not even ensure security of supply
- Current implementation favors large banks and companies. This is reinforced by natural gas and nuclear in the taxonomy.

Possibilities of action for local and regional groups

Possible actions of regional groups

In general:

1. Keep topic present regionally
2. Influence public discussion
3. Influence decision making

Kritik an Taxonomie: Fridays for Future protestiert

Osterholz-Scharmbeck (eb). Am Freitag fanden in zahlreichen Orten in Deutschland Protestaktionen von Fridays for Future statt. Anlass ist die neue EU-Taxonomie, die unter anderem fossiles Gas und Atomkraft als nachhaltige Energieträger einstufen soll.

„Sollte der Entwurf so verabschiedet werden“, befürchten die Aktivist:innen „weitere Milliardeninvestitionen in klima- und umweltschädliche Erdgasinfrastruktur und die weitere Nutzung von Atomkraftwerken.“ Auch die **Fridays for Future Ortsgruppe Osterholz-Scharmbeck** fordert die Bundesregierung deshalb auf, sich klar gegen die Pläne zu positionieren.



EU-Kommission zu Taxonomie

Politische Entscheidung für Atom und Gas

Stand: 02.02.2022 04:27 Uhr

Possibilities for regional action

- Contact MEPs: Letter, e-mail, Twitter, phone call, individual visit to the constituency office.
 - Personal and concrete, preferably unusual, e.g. with a photo of yourself
- Make the topic present in the constituency
 - Articles in regional newspaper, small actions, events such as panel discussions, ...
- Organize alliances
 - Mayor, local bank management, local economy or farmers' association, chamber of trade against gas and nuclear in the taxonomy?

Members of the European Parliament - how to find and contact

- **Find MEPs.** Database <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/meps/en/home>
- **Find Information.** e.g. Umweltcheck EU-Parliament
<https://www.umweltcheck-ep.de/abgeordnete/> or www.votewatch.eu/
- **Contact them.** Positions, contact details and regional offices: **Parliament** and **Personal Homepages** – Google
- **[Appointments with MEPs: EP meeting calendar]**
https://www.europarl.europa.eu/sed/doc/news/lookingaheadagenda/23423/2022%20CALENDAR_en.pdf

German MEPs and their regional offices

<https://www.ausgestrahlt.de/taxonomie-retten/>



Regionalbüros MEP

Diese Karte wurde mit Google My Maps erstellt. Das kannst du auch.

102 Aufrufe

Veröffentlicht am 21. Februar



Regionalbüros der MEP



EPP

Grüne/EFA

S&D

RENEW

Left



Mit Google My Maps erstellt

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Bearbeiten

Quelle: <https://www.google.com/maps/d/embed?mid=10e6DD0i4KCudR58nuf5ulGCDmCWC5Wf18ebba-2F312F>

Call to Action: Actions at the regional offices of MEPs end of April



Contact MEPs at their Regional Offices

Actions at as many **regional offices** as possible

- Especially MEPs of **EPP** and **RENEW**
- **Last weeks of April** (Chernobyl anniversary 26 April).
- Objectives:
 - Make clear that we see voting behavior of individual MEPs;
 - Bring taxonomy (regional) to attention
 - Make positioning against gas and nuclear visible; scandalize positions for it

Procedure and Image for the action

- Cards "Save Taxonomy": Do you stand for a broken taxonomy or an effective and good one?
 - Make it easy for staff members (or MEPS) to hold the cards themselves
- Alternative:
Red Climate Card
- Make an appointment with a member of staff for a joint photo session
- If unsuccessful: post demands at regional office, take photo
- Invite the press and/or publish photos on twitter



Materials and contact

We support!!!

- Description of the action, guide for argumentation, sample press release, letters for contacting MEPs, material, ...
- Questions and support
- Announcement and publication of photos on [ausgestrahlt.de](https://www.ausgestrahlt.de) + own websites

Information and all materials (in German ☹️) at <https://www.ausgestrahlt.de/taxonomie-retten/>

Contact: taxonomie@ausgestrahlt.de