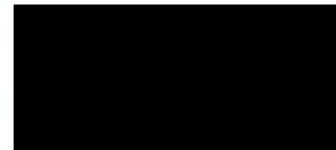


 **Federal Ministry**
Republic of Austria
Climate Action, Environment,
Energy, Mobility,
Innovation and Technology

bmk.gv.at

Leonore Gewessler
Federal Minister

Federal Minister
Agnès Pannier-Runacher
Ministère de la Transition Énergétique
244 boulevard Saint-Germain
75007 Paris
FRANCE



Vienna, 9. May 2023

Dear Minister,
Chère Agnès,

Thank you for your letter regarding the ministerial breakfast on the roll-out of renewables on the fringes of our last Energy Council in Brussels. For more than a year, Member States have been in crisis mode. Each of us had to face different challenges in our efforts to become independent of Russian energy supplies - and Austria has been particularly affected by this dependency. Yet, what unites us, is our desire to take clear decisions in response to the climate crisis, to become independent of Russia's attempts to use energy as a weapon, and accelerate the capacities of renewable energy production in Europe.

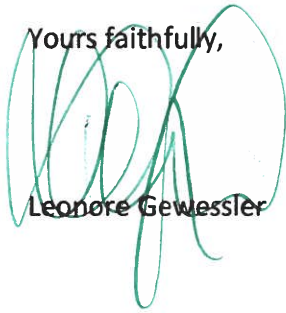
I therefore fully agree with you that reducing energy demand and increasing energy efficiency and renewable energy production are crucial elements for a sustainable future European energy strategy. As you are well aware, however, Austria takes a different approach regarding nuclear energy. In our view, reliance on nuclear power is neither a viable, safe nor a cost-efficient option to combat the climate crisis and nuclear power is not compatible with the concept of sustainable development. While we urgently need to reduce the use of fossil fuels, nuclear power is simply too slow, too expensive and has too many risks and negative side effects. Moreover, nuclear power generates highly radioactive nuclear waste without having long-term and safe solutions for storage in place, making it a burden for future generations.

For all these reasons, I am convinced that the decarbonisation of energy systems without nuclear power is desirable - and also possible.

Appreciating the good relationship between France and Austria and our European spirit of cooperation, I am confident that we will find a way to tackle future challenges and accelerate the roll-out of renewable energy technologies together, despite our different views on nuclear power.

It would therefore be a pleasure to have further discussions about the accelerated roll-out of renewable energy technologies, and I would also like to cordially invite you to the next meeting of the "Friends of Renewables".

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in green ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and curves, positioned over the text 'Yours faithfully,'.

Leonore Gewessler

