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Strictly Personal and Confidential – Via FedEx

President Ursula von der Leyen
President of the European Commission
European Union
Rue de la Loi
Wetstraat 200, 1049 Bruxelles
Brussels, Belgium

Dear Ms. President:

**Re: Ukraine and Europe's Dependence on Russian Oil & Gas
Elon Musk's Proposal For Europe To Re-Activate Its "Moth Balled" Nuclear Plants**

This is a plea from a 201-member monthly public-policy study group that I have facilitated for the past 16 years. Its participants from around the world (including several European countries) include many attorneys and professors. Indeed, our meetings on nuclear matters since Fukushima Daiichi in 2011 have been led by a PhD from America's national nuclear-research laboratory at Oak Ridge/U-Tennessee.

As we're sure you are aware –

- Most sanctions against Russia vis-à-vis the Ukraine invasion have little or no impact.
- The overwhelming value of Russian exports comprises oil & gas – which is why the late U.S. Sen. John McCain loved to call Russia “a gas station masquerading as a country.”
- The overwhelming portion of Russian oil & gas exports go to members of the European Union.
- Russian oil & gas has displaced power from European nuclear plants.
 - France, for example, used to obtain virtually all of its energy from nuclear plants and used to export vast quantities of electricity generated by French nuclear-power plants to the rest of Europe.
 - Germany, for example, has turned its back on nuclear power completely.
- Except for administrative “red tape”/re-certification, a nuclear power plant can be re-activated with little more than a “flip of the switch.”

Accordingly, we believe that –

- Elon Musk is correct when, as widely reported March 6-9, he called for Europe to re-activate its de-activated nuclear plants in order to minimize imports of Russian oil & gas.
- The EU's organizing a secondary-boycott of Russian oil & gas would prevent Russia from selling to other countries its oil & gas that Europe is boycotting.
- An immediate announcement by the EU that it is re-activating its nuclear plants and organizing a secondary-boycott of Russian oil & gas is probably the only sanction that will impress Russian President Putin who presumably relishes the surge in world oil & gas prices since his invasion of Ukraine.

BTW, we're sure that you are aware that nuclear plants, unlike Russian oil & gas, are a carbon-free energy source.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

John S. Karls
JD, Harvard Law School, 1967
Who's Who in American Law, 1988-2003
Who's Who in America, 1988-2003
Who's Who in The World, 1994-2003