



# Press Release

11<sup>th</sup> November 2005

For immediate use

## Britain's Nuclear Future: Is Mox part of the Mix?

**Venue:** Committee Room 16, House of Commons

**Time and Date:** Tuesday 15 November from 17.00 to 18.00

With the government weighing up whether to commission a new generation of nuclear power stations with its commitments to energy security and reducing carbon dioxide emissions, the FPC event *Britain's Nuclear Future: Is Mox part of the Mix?* will provide an opportunity to hear from different political perspectives about the future of Britain's nuclear industry. This debate will seek to answer the question: 'Is nuclear power part of Britain's secure and sustainable energy future?'

STEPHEN TWIGG, Director of the Foreign Policy Centre today said:

"The arguments for the deployment of more nuclear power in the 'energy gap' that will be created by the closure of existing nuclear and coal fired power stations are compelling. The technology is proven and, in some ways, safe. It would enable the UK to maintain performance on CO2 reduction and not increase our dependence on imported gas. Yet nuclear power is, by many estimates, more expensive than gas or even emerging wind technologies, and the fuel infrastructure surrounding it adds costs to society that are often unseen.

"Further, balancing issues of security is important. Ensuring the security of our energy supplies by providing independence from imported oil and gas is a benefit, but building potential terrorist targets and increasing the amount of nuclear waste being moved around, not to mention heightening questions of 'double-standards' that plague the governments attempts to limit nuclear proliferation in other nations, is counter-productive to our wider security agenda.

"The Energy Security programme has been set up by the FPC and partners to investigate the major issues in Britain's energy future, highlighting international linkages and the importance of sustainable energy policies globally. It was launched in September with the backing of the Corporation of London and Oxfam. Its steering committee includes economists, scientific advisers, communications and investment specialists."

**ENDS**

### Editor's Notes

1. The FPC will hold an event entitled '*Britain's Nuclear Future*' on Tuesday 15 November in the House of Commons, Committee Room 16. The event will run from 17.00 until 18.00 and speakers include Brian Wilson, former Energy Minister; Bernard Jenkin, shadow Energy Minister and Norman Lamb, Liberal Democrat Trade and Industry

**For more information or a copy of the report, please contact Alex Bigham on  
020 7388 6662 or 07830 195 812**

# The Foreign Policy Centre

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spokesman. For further information and invitations, please contact [fiona.grant@fpc.org.uk](mailto:fiona.grant@fpc.org.uk)

2. 'Mox' is shorthand for Mixed Oxide – a fuel used by some of Britain's nuclear reactors
3. 'Britain's Energy Future: Securing the Home Front' authored by Stephen Twigg, Dan Plesch, Greg Austin and Fiona Grant is available at <http://fpc.org.uk/publications/172>

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