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For Immediate Release

Stop Hinkley welcomes Austrian Government's legal move against Hinkley

The Stop Hinkley Campaign has today welcomed the Austrian Government's announcement that it will go-ahead with a legal challenge against the European Union's (EU) decision to allow billions of pounds of subsidies for Hinkley Point C. (1) The group also welcomed the opinion expressed by Dr Dörte Fouquet, a lawyer for the Brussels-based law firm Becker Büttner, which specialises in energy and competition law, that Austria's chances of success were "pretty high." (2)

Stop Hinkley Spokesperson, Alan Jeffery said:

"If Hinkley C goes ahead it would be the most expensive project of any kind ever built (3), yet it is not what is needed. What people want are warm homes, efficient appliances and bills that are affordable. We need renewable energy sources that aren't going to damage our climate. We don't need a massive project that is going to leave us with a legacy of highly dangerous nuclear waste and radioactive emissions into our environment."

Roy Pumfrey said:

"Should Austria win this legal action we foresee considerable benefits to the local community. The traffic chaos, already growing, which would have descended on Bridgwater from Junctions 23 and 24 of the M5 through the town and all the way to Hinkley will have been averted. The influx of temporary workers putting huge strains on local health, housing and education provision will not happen. The demise of HPC would be a blessing, freeing local communities from a tie to a project that promises not only immense disruption in the short term but also the long term headache of storing highly radioactive nuclear waste for many years to come."

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Notes to Editors

The European Commission has today published its decision document. Originally announced in October last year, to allow the UK Government to subsidise Hinkley Point C. Stop Hinkley will be

examining this 102 page document over the next few days. It is available here:

http://ec.europa.eu/competition/elojade/isef/case_details.cfm?proc_code=3_SA_34947

- (1) Guardian 21st Jan 2015 <http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/jan/21/austria-to-launch-lawsuit-hinkley-point-c-nuclear-subsidies>
- (2) Guardian 22nd Jan 2015 <http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/jan/22/uk-nuclear-ambitions-dealt-fatal-blow-by-austrian-legal-challenge-say-greens>
- (3) Spectator 1st Dec 2014 <http://blogs.spectator.co.uk/coffeehouse/2014/12/why-is-britain-building-the-most-expensive-object-ever/>