

Renewable Energies instead of Nuclear Power



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The continued increase of the use of Renewable Energies makes Nuclear Power superfluous.

The depletion of the liquid oil and fossil gas reserves approaches. The climate change caused by fossil fuel emissions has taken dramatic forms in the shape of ever often occurring weather catastrophes with ever increasing impact in combination with their resulting economic damage. The broad switch to Renewable Energies is overdue, combined with a tremendous reduction of energy consumption through consequent efficiency increase.

In this situation the number of voices claiming for a „come back“ of nuclear power is growing, also in countries like Germany where the phasing out seemed to be a closed affair. It is pretended:

- That nuclear power represents the biggest and cheapest, most technologically advanced and most quickly available potential for a climate friendly energy provision and that the safety issues can be handled.
- That in contrast Renewable Energies are an economically unbearable burden and that their potential is too restricted to reduce fossil energy consumption decisively and fast.

The new worldwide Pro Nuclear Power Campaign tries to take attention away from the manifold nuclear risks and tries to create economical fears. This demonstrates that the deciding conflict concerning the future energy supply is the one between nuclear energy and Renewable Energies.

But in fact the risks of nuclear power have become higher instead of smaller.

Also the uranium reserves will be depleted in about four decades though at the moment nuclear power only covers 7% of the world's energy need. A continuation of the use of nuclear power or even an expansion would therefore only be possible through the use of fast breeder plants that until today are not ready for operation, cause a massive cost increase and produce plutonium that can be used for nuclear arm purposes.

The question of disposal of the atomic waste, that remains radioactive for several ten thousand of years, is unsolved even fifty years after the beginning of nuclear power use. This indicates that it isn't solvable in a responsible way.

The incident risks, as desirable as risk reduction is, are at a probability of 0,1% as it is described in the "Risk study Nuclear Power Plants". That scenario might never occur but it can tomorrow!!

With a further proliferation of nuclear power grows the risk of the proliferation of nuclear weapons as at the moment in the Iran, and the proliferation of nuclear terrorism. The countries that try to gain access to nuclear weapons try this by using the „bridge“ of nuclear power. The division between "peaceful" and military use of nuclear power is becoming more and more difficult.

One of the problems most fraught with consequences:

Because of the fixation on nuclear energy the Renewable Energies have been neglected for decades and their promotion has been blocked or neglected- a fundamental omission. The seeming "economical advantage" of nuclear energy is based on state spending for research and development since the fifties with a worldwide complete volume of more than 1000 billion dollars. Only the EURATOM administration has been granted 400 billion Euros since 1957 for the promotion of nuclear energy without any form of budget control! Then you have to add economical privileges like the exemption from insurance obligations and fuel taxes or – in Germany" the untaxed provision of more than 25 billion Euros for the disposal of the atomic waste that can be used by the power plant owners for any form of investment. This public promotion of nuclear power contrasts with only 20 billion dollars for research and development in the field of Renewable Energies and 30 billion dollars for market introduction aids since 1974, over a period of 30 years.

Renewable Energies are the alternative for nuclear power. Their potential is sufficient to make it possible to renounce on the use of nuclear power as well as fossil energy use- and to cover the increasing worldwide energy need to fight poverty. This historic chance has often been denied, though it has been proven as realistic in many scientific scenarios, for example already in 1978 by the Union of Concerned Scientists in the USA.

Renewable Energies are becoming constantly cheaper, through the mass production of the plants and technical optimizations. Atomic and fossil energy in contrast are becoming constantly more expensive, through increasing extraction costs and environmental damages as well as the increasing technical and military safety measures. Even now the generation of wind power in windy regions is economically cheaper than electricity from new nuclear power plants. Also the possible speed of the introduction is pointing towards Renewable Energies: Solar and wind power plants can normally be installed in several days, the erection of a new nuclear power plant lasts for more than ten years. Especially for rural regions in developing countries this has got a high importance.

We demand from the Parliaments and Governments

- to initiate of a broad introduction of Renewable Energies in a consequent manner and to increase it,
- to underline the end of the nuclear pathway through the cancellation of the remaining privileges for nuclear power,
- to counter all symptoms of a “come back“ of the nuclear power energetically on European and international level.
- We demand the following steps:
- to finally take the initiative for the foundation of an International Agency for Renewable Energies as a counter weight to the International Atomic Energy Agency in the spectrum of international organizations – as it is laid down in the red-green coalition contract.
- to take the initiative for the cancellation of the EURATOM contract, to end the privileged position of nuclear power in the EU.
- to take the initiative for the extension of the contract for the prevention of atomic proliferation by which the member states of the Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty (NPT) get the permission to fulfil their actual obligation for the transfer of atomic technology by the technology transfer in the fields of Renewable Energies.
- to use the budget for atomic waste disposal and nuclear fusion for research and development in the field of Renewable Energies, especially concerning energy storage technologies.

Only through Renewable Energies an independent and lasting, emission free and safe energy supply can be created.