

President of the European Commission
Ursula von der Leyen

Vice President of the European Commission
Frans Timmermans

Commissioner for Energy of the European Commission
Kadri Simson

Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200
1049 Brussels
Belgium

Date: 14 February 2023

Subject: Russian Grip on EU Nuclear Power

Dear Ms. President Von der Leyen!
Dear Mr. Vice-President Timmermans!
Dear Ms. Commissioner Simson!

I am writing to you as the chairman of Cities for Nuclear Free Europe (CNFE). CNFE is a network of cities – some of them are capitals or regional capitals – and big local authorities in Europe, who are committed to a new fossil-free, nuclear-free future. With 33 member cities, we are representing a total number of more than 14 million inhabitants.

Almost a year after the invasion of Russia in the Ukraine, and after eight EU sanction packages, nuclear business with Russia is still kept out of the restrictions. CNFE urges you to include nuclear energy in the ban, not only nuclear fuel but also nuclear services.

The Russian Rosatom is the leader of the USD 500 billion global nuclear energy market, building 37 % of all new reactors in the world. Rosatom/TVEL is also the supplier of nuclear fuel for the VVER reactor series, thus creating severe dependency for those countries still operating the nuclear power plants they built in Communist times.

Poland and the Baltic States have come forward with their proposals to include a ban on cooperation with Russia in the field of nuclear energy and fuels. Finland was about to build a large-scale nuclear power plant (VVER-1200 at Hanhikivi) by Rosatom, but completely cancelled the project due to the Russian aggression. Other countries (Ukraine, Bulgaria, Czech Republic) already started switching to Western suppliers (mainly Westinghouse), showing that a ban on nuclear fuel from Russia is possible.

Furthermore, the ownership of European companies in the nuclear field, which were in possession of Russian entities, was changed due to political pressure (e.g., Škoda Js in Czech Republic).

Other countries in the EU state that a ban on Russian fuels and nuclear services is not possible. They say that nuclear energy in Europe is not possible without supply and services from Russia. If this is true, large parts of Europe would be dependent on Russian supplies and thus subject to blackmail.

This only supports the fact that nuclear energy should have no place in the European Energy Policy, and certainly cannot play a role under the umbrella of the European Green Deal.

We base our demands on a comprehensive study on European dependency for its nuclear energy, see attachment.

Based on these facts, CNFE asks that...

1. ...the European Union seriously consider a ban on nuclear supply and services from Russia.
2. ...the countries that are willing to ban should be supported in their efforts.
3. ...the European Commission will thrive towards a nuclear free Europe, and consequently exclude nuclear energy from any European financing or supporting instruments, also to reduce dependency for a sustainable energy supply.

Yours sincerely,



Jürgen Czernohorszky,
Chairman Cities for Nuclear Free Europe
Executive City Councillor for Climate, Environment,
Democracy and Personnel of Vienna

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Please send your reply to:

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