

Ciaran Mcgoldrick

From: Chief Executive
Sent: Tuesday 5 May 2020 13:18
To: Ciaran Mcgoldrick
Subject: FW: CNFE Mail on Sustainable Financing Consultation

Good afternoon Ciaran,

Please see below email for noting at your next SPC meeting.

Hope you are keeping well.

Kind regards,

Caroline

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From: CNFE [cnfe@goja.or.at]
Sent: 05 May 2020 13:14
To: cnfe@goja.or.at
Subject: CNFE Mail on Sustainable Financing Consultation

Dear Mayor, dear Councillor, dear colleague,

As you may remember the European Commission has an ongoing public consultation on the report of the Technical Expert Groups on Sustainable Financing (TEG). CNFE has together with partner organizations sent a letter to the commission to make clear that in climate policy there is no room for nuclear energy. See our mail from 02 April this year.

The consultation by the commission had also the possibility to react online. It has been noticed that this tool was flooded with reaction from pro-nuclear industry, during the final days of the consultation period. CNFE, and others too, feared that our anti-nuclear voice would not be heard anymore with such a strong lobby of the nuclear industry. We have reacted fast and send our position (again, but shorter) also through this on-line tool to the European Commission, just before the deadline last week.

Below is our letter, with our position, for your information:

Cities for a Nuclear Free Europe is a consortium of 33 European cities with a total of more than 14 million inhabitants. CNFE take responsibility for the health and wellbeing of our citizens and see nuclear energy as a threat for our present and future generations of citizens within Europe.

TEG experts keep nuclear out of the Green Taxonomy

The TEG report was very clear, also concerning nuclear. The experts concluded that they cannot see a sustainable way of managing nuclear waste. Still some member states and industry representatives continue their efforts to have nuclear included at least as transition technology, CNFE need to shine some light on some arguments.

Regarding nuclear waste management, CNFE share the TEG expert's view that high level waste is not sustainable. After 60 years of commercial operation of nuclear power plants not a single final repository for spent fuel and other high-level waste is working anywhere around the world. Facts weigh more than arguing that in theory a Deep Geological Repository "might be best" and R&D "is almost there".

Another argument used by industry: The EU has strict rules on waste. However, it is not true that the Nuclear Waste Directive 2011/70/Euratom solves all open questions. In its 2nd Report on the progress of implementation of the Nuclear Waste Directive the European Commission summarized that: „[...] more needs to be done.”

While some would like to forget nuclear accidents as quickly as possible, they are actually everyday business. The 1986 Chernobyl accident consequences continue being a threat for people and environment. The debris and molten core are still there, another enormously expensive shelter was recently installed. Current forest fires threaten large parts of Europe with radioactive contamination. Also, the 2011 Fukushima accident is still out of control, not even robots can work in this environment to start clean-up. Currently the tanks on site will be emptied into the open sea, because no other solution seems to be viable. This water does not only contain the radioactive isotope Tritium, but also numerous other harmful radioactive isotopes, including long-lived isotopes such as Cesium-137, Strontium-90 and others.

Nuclear energy is definitely not CO2-free. Its CO2 emissions are slightly higher than those of renewable energies like solar and wind – but only as long as the uranium ore grade is high. As uranium has to be produced from ore with a low grade, which will be the case within this century, CO2 emissions are going to rise significantly.

CNFE agree with the assessment the TEG report arrived at and see no further need for another group of experts. The much-quoted 2018 IPCC 1.5 degrees report also refrained from recommending nuclear energy as a means to combat climate change. CNFE recommends the European Commission respects this assessment and does not give in to nuclear industry's call for the establishment of yet another expert group.

The Platform which is supposed to start work in autumn 2020 will be responsible for updating and extending the technical criteria. CNFE would like to see that - in case nuclear energy is still on the agenda – also academics and other experts are included to avoid the “nuclear” experts from hijacking this exercise.

Instead Cities for Nuclear Free Europe hope that this EU policy initiative of defining a Green Taxonomy will be based on scientific evidence and simple reality and prepare a future without the threat of nuclear accidents and the production of ever more nuclear waste as a legacy to future generations.

Cities for Nuclear Free Europe

Our fast reaction was possible through close cooperation with Patricia Lorenz from our partner organisation Friends of the Earth Europe.

CNFE is always active to lobby for the safety and security of our citizens and against the madness of the nuclear industry. If you have suggestions, where and how we should bring in our position better, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards

Jan Dictus

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