

Ciaran McGoldrick

To: Chief Executive
Subject: RE: CNFE Mail: CNFE calls for Russia sanctions to include nuclear.

From: CNFE Secretariat JD <office@cnfe.eu>
Sent: Wednesday 15 February 2023 09:31
To: office@cnfe.eu
Subject: CNFE Mail: CNFE calls for Russia sanctions to include nuclear.

Dear Mayor, dear Councillor, dear Colleague,

CNFE urges European Union (EU) leaders to extend the sanctions, introduced because of the war with Ukraine, to include nuclear energy.

Vienna's Executive City Councillor Jürgen Czernohorszky, Chairman of Cities for Nuclear Free Europe, has made this appeal to the European Commission in a letter he has sent this week. We attach his letter for your information.

A recently updated study "Russian Grip on EU Nuclear Power", commissioned by the Vienna Ombudsoffice for Environmental Protection, clearly shows the dependency of Europe on Russian nuclear fuel as well as on nuclear knowledge and services. The study is also attached to this mail for your information.

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 the Commission 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 has cancelled the NPP construction contract with Rosatom. Other countries (Ukraine, Bulgaria, Czech Republic) already started switching to Western suppliers, showing that a ban on uranium 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 feasible 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.

EU sanctions must be approved unanimously by its member countries, and Hungary's Prime Minister Viktor Orban has said that his country will veto any plan by the 27-member union for sanctions which affect nuclear energy. Hungary has plans for two new Russian reactors at its existing Paks nuclear power plant, which gets its nuclear fuel from Russia.

CNFE states 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, and that the European Union seriously should consider a ban on nuclear supply and services from Russia.

If a total ban is (politically) not possible for all European countries, then at least those countries willing to reduce Russian dependencies should be supported in their efforts by coordinative assistance.

In general, to reduce dependency for a sustainable energy supply, the EC should thrive towards a nuclear free Europe, and consequently exclude nuclear energy from any European financing or supporting instruments.

A letter with these demands was sent to the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, to the Vice President of the European Commission, Frans Timmermans, and to the Commissioner for Energy of the European Commission, Kadri Simson.

Please do not hesitate to contact us, if you have any questions or remarks.

Jan Dictus

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