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Till: sg-web-president@ec.europa.eu, andris.piebalgs@ec.europa.eu

Ämne: On the Belene NPP

Dear Mr. Barroso,

Dear Mr. Piebalgs

I am writing to you out of concern about the European Commission's impending decision on the Belene nuclear power project.

As geologist and geophysicist, former president of the INQUA Neotectonics Commission and former head of Paleogeophysics & Geodynamics at Stockholm University (1991-2005), I, unfortunately, know what I am talking about; i.e. seismic hazards and bedrock instability.

The plan to build a nuclear power plant (NPP) near the town of Belene in northern Bulgaria goes back to the early 1980s. Even then, Soviet scientists warned that this site is seismically active and thus unsuited for a nuclear power station.

At the last large earthquake in the region, over 120 people died just 14 kilometres from the planned NPP site. In the early 1990s, Belene was scrapped and the first democratically elected Government in Bulgaria determined the project to be "technically unsafe and economically unviable". This was shortly after the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences issued a 421-page study, which came to a negative assessment of the project and specifically warned against the seismic risks of this location. There has even been international evaluations invalidating the region for constructions of nuclear power plants.

A German medical doctor, Dr. Alfred Körblein, recently showed that, within a radius of 5 km from all the German power plants, the number of cancer cases has increased significantly; viz. with 20-40% , maybe even 50%, with respect to leukemia as well as other cancer deceases.

Many private banks have also come to a negative assessment of the Belene project. Last year banks from Italy, the U.S., Switzerland, and Germany all turned down financial applications for the Belene project. Several of the banks cited public concern about the earthquake risks as a decisive factor in their decision.

To my astonishment, I hear that the European Commission is poised to deliver a positive opinion on the proposed Belene NPP. A positive assessment from the Commission would enable Bulgaria to apply for loans for Belene from public institutions, such as Euratom and the European Investment Bank.

If the Commission wants to secure the health and safety of European citizens, it should not issue a positive opinion on a project, which soviet scientists, former Bulgarian governments and numerous commercial banks all assessed as negative. European taxpayers' money must not be used for a project that will put millions of people at risk.

My personal plea to you and the other Commissioners is: Don't approve the construction of nuclear reactors in an earthquake zone, which remains open for disastrous effects and remains unjustifiable from economical, technical and energy points of view.

A direct reply to this email would be appreciated.

Best wishes in your decision
Nils-Axel Mörner
(emeritus)