



NO to Belene NPP! NATIONAL COALITION

A Campaign of Bulgarian Non-governmental organisations and free Bulgarian citizens

Following groups are
members of BeleNE
NPP! Coalition:

NM Ecoglasnost”

Green Policy Institute

Centre for Environmental
Information and
Education

Novi Han – European
Settlement Association

Foundation for
Agriculture and
Environment - Nikopol

Committee for Ecological
and Economic Defence of
Svishtov Region

ECO-CLUB 2000

Earth Forever EA -
Svishtov

EA Demetra

EA For the Earth!

Public Environmental
Centre for Sustainable
Development – Varna

InfoEKOclub – Vratza

GeoEcoClub Akademika –
Veliko Tarnovo

Regional union of
Farmers - Vulchedrum

Regional Movement Eco
South-West, Blagoevgrad

EA Tetida, Blagoevgrad

EA “Terra” –
Blagoevgrad

Union of Parks and
Landscape Specialists

Citizens Alternative
Association – Elin Pelin

and free Bulgarian
citizens

**To: Mr. Ullrich – Gunter Schubert
Management Director and Head of Territory
BNP Paribas, Sofia, Bulgaria**

Dear Mr. Schubert,

Today on the UN World Environment Day, we would like to draw your attention to a project your bank became involved in recently as financier: the Belene Nuclear Power Plant (NPP) in Bulgaria. We feel that this financing goes against your policies of good practice and support for sustainable development world-wide. This is of great concern to us, as irresponsible financing of this dangerous nuclear power projects is not only a financial risk to your shareholders and customers, but also a safety risk to all Europeans.

The Belene project is one of the worst cases of nuclear power planning over the last decades. The proposed NPP is to be sited in a seismic active area, where on 14 km distance 120 people died in an earthquake in 1977. The Environmental Impact Assessment of the project is strongly flawed and amongst others fails to address this problem. The proposed reactor design has not been licensed before in Europe and in its proposed form is a first-of-its-kind. This brings not only extra safety risks with it, it also brings huge financial risks for investors. It is extremely unlikely that the power station will be finished in time, and within the proposed budget. On top of that, this design would never be able to get an operation licence in France or any other Western European country – BNP Paribas would thus with its financing support double standards.

What also worries us, is the fact that you finance nuclear technology in a country with an over the last decade extremely bad nuclear track record. As illustration: only one year ago, the Bulgarian authorities tried to silence an INES 2 incident in the Kozloduy nuclear power station that was described by experts as “like driving a train on full speed without emergency brakes”.

We are furthermore aware that the Bulgarian government never took a serious look at alternatives for Belene. Bulgaria is the most wasteful country in Europe when

energy is concerned. We would gladly support investments of your bank in energy efficiency. Also the development of renewable energy sources has not received much attention in Bulgaria and would be a possibility for investment.

Many banks already withdrew their initial interest from the Belene project, because it is developed in a corrupt environment, it is a technological and terrorist risk, it is environmentally unsound, and certainly not the most cost-efficient solution for the problems it is supposed to address. Amongst these banks were well known names like Société Générale, KBC, Commerzbank, Deutsche Bank, UniCredit and Credit Suisse. We are strongly aware that your bank may have been misled in this project by its Bulgarian advisor Mr. Milko Kovachev, who was the father of the Belene NPP re-start project while Minister of Energy. We therefore urgently urge you also to discuss the issue with opponents of the project like the Bulgarian coalition against Belene "BeleNE!" and international environmental NGOs like CEE Bankwatch and Greenpeace.

On behalf of the interests of your shareholders and customers in this country and the citizens of Europe, we want to urge you to use all influence you have to change the policy of BNP Paribas in this respect and have the bank withdraw its interest and capital from the Belene Nuclear Power Plant.

I would like to hear from you which steps you will undertake to make this happen,

Faithfully yours,

Petko Kovatchev

On behalf of **NPP BeleNE!** (No to Belene NPP!) National Coalition:

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