



# REGIONAL ENERGY TRADE UNIONS NETWORK of SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE

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## **RETUN SEE RESOLUTION ON NUCLEAR ENERGY Shift from Nuclear Energy to Renewable**

The dangerous assumption that nuclear energy is safe and clean has been tragically disproved by the Fukushima disaster.

It has demonstrated that there is no such thing as a safe nuclear power and the fact that nuclear pollution is invisible doesn't mean it's clean. It is a myth that nuclear power provides a "green" source of electricity. Nuclear power is inherently unsafe. It is insidious.

We are told by the nuclear industry that things like this cannot happen with modern reactors. What we are seeing at Fukushima today disproves this myth once again. Nuclear power is used only to generate electricity. Nuclear industry considers profits first and safety second. The whole world, in particular the nuclear industry and governments, must have learned that even the most sophisticated technology and most stringent safety standards will never provide an absolute guarantee. The risks from nuclear energy are inescapable, inherent and long-lasting. The risk of a serious accident can never be eliminated.

People of common sense note, "For years nuclear plants have been leaking radioactive waste from underground pipes and radioactive waste pools into the ground water." Nuclear plants don't just use water, they also contaminate it, and not only water, but land and air as well. No method has yet been devised for adequately dealing with the dangers posed by nuclear reactors and disposing of the radioactive wastes they produce. Nuclear power plants are the most dangerous devices that man has ever created.

Furthermore, as the nuclear physicist Hannes Alfvén once stressed, "the military atom and the civil atom are Siamese twins". The majority of nuclear technologies and materials needed for a civil nuclear power programme are also essential to develop a nuclear weapons programme.

We want to repeat the question asked by a nuclear power expert: "How many more warnings do people need to get before they understand that nuclear reactors are inherently hazardous?"

We must make the right choice, not just for today but for the future. After Fukushima we know that replacing global warming with a nuclear winter is not the answer.

We have to abandon nuclear energy, as completely and as quickly as possible. We are calling for the shut down of existing reactors, and no construction of new commercial nuclear reactors.

The solution to our future energy needs lies in investing in energy efficiency, renewable energy, using fossil fuels more efficiently than we do now. Governments should invest in renewable energy resources which are environmentally sound, affordable and reliable. In contrast to nuclear power, renewable energy is both clean and safe.

We must continue to fight the expansion of nuclear power and instead push for clean, renewable sources of energy.

**2<sup>nd</sup> RETUNSEE CONGRESS  
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