

## **Chernobyl! Fukushima! And now? A manifesto of young Europeans**

*We, 37 young Europeans from 19 different countries assembled in Berlin during April 20-27<sup>th</sup> 2011 commemorating the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Chernobyl accident, declare our awareness on nuclear energy. We bear in our minds the catastrophes of Chernobyl and Fukushima and their consequences, and we are deeply concerned about the present situation of nuclear energy. We are seeking a greater cooperation between European countries in order to solve their common energy problems and we will work towards a stronger and unified, but at the same time de-centralized Europe.*

*Hoping for a change in social attitudes concerning energy consumption, we adopt the following manifesto on the future of energy in Europe:*

- 1. We wish for a Europe with real and effective power in which people can trust; based on solidarity between the countries and respect for its institutions.**

The countries of Europe could collaborate much more than they have done until now; the energy market is an example of a missed opportunity in terms of gaining benefits from cooperation on a European level.

Rather than countries focusing on self-development and researching green technologies one by one, European states should join forces and concentrate their efforts to reach common goals.

A common European energy strategy should ensure that energy production is optimized and that the natural resources of Europe are used in the best and gentlest way for the benefit of the different regions. The system should be based on mutual help and regional distribution of energy and improvement of energy infrastructures.

Public trust and acceptance of the system is fundamental to the success of such a system. Hence, the institution that manages it will have to seek the best interests of the people.

- 2. We wish for a Europe that is independent from energy imports as well as carrying a leading position in terms of sustainable development in the world.**

Europe is dependent on energy imports from other parts of the world, and that is why Europe should find a proper strategy to meet its demands of energy. In order to achieve this, we encourage diversification of energy resources and production of it on a more regional level – independency from external influences should be our goal. We have to look upon the energetic efficiency of new technical innovations.

It is important that all these procedures are carried out in an environmentally sustainable way, which should not compromise the stability of our nature as well as the quality of our living standards.

The sustainable development of Europe and of the world should be ensured through a new industrial protocol. This future treaty should express people's interests and, most importantly, it should be respected by the different involved parties.

Europe should be the flag of human rights in all its commercial and energy relations with other countries. The generalization of European living standards in all its regions should be a priority for Europe and be considered when elaborating energy strategies.

### **3. We wish for a Europe without nuclear power.**

Nuclear power emits less carbon dioxide into the atmosphere than coal or gas and it is a fairly cheap technology when once established. Moreover, it seems to have many advantages. But, we cannot forget that nuclear power is a technology with serious risks – as the Chernobyl and Fukushima accidents remind us of. Another point is that we have not yet solved the problem of nuclear waste.

We accept the fact that Europe is still dependent on nuclear power and we know that current technologies cannot replace it, but we wish for a Europe where nuclear power is dispensable.

Nuclear power is not and will not ever be a technology that is completely risk free, and the consequences of accidents are simply too critical for us to be willing to accept.

In order to establish environmental safety, it is not enough to strive for a Europe without nuclear power; we think it is necessary to strive for a world situation, where nuclear power is not needed and where nuclear weapons are gradually disposed of.

### **4. We wish for awareness and personal commitment among all Europeans and we insist on increasing the people's responsibility concerning the use of energy.**

Requesting seriousness from our representatives in the matter of energy may be a good idea, but given the current situation, it is not enough. If we want to change the environmental situation of Europe for the better, we, the Europeans have to take action as well. This implies that we have to make the conscious decision to behave in a way that is better for the environment.

Major changes in our attitudes must be made in order to reduce our consumption and save energy; it may be using public transportation or insulating your house, so that you do not waste heating. But we must not forget that minor changes are important tools to reach our aim; choosing not to take the elevator or switching off the lights when there is no necessity for it, are good examples of how we can all contribute.



Being aware of the real value of energy and being conscious of the limitations of resources, we urgently call for effective decisions. We will have to handle this problem in the future. This is why we would not like to finish without asking you to make the job easier for us.

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