



Demand for the abolishment of EURATOM

atomstopp_atomkraftfrei leben! calls for a debate on EURATOM within the framework of the 'Conference on the Future of Europe', including a discussion on the anachronistic objectives of the treaty, its deficiencies and current lack of relevance, and a future-oriented strategy for the European energy supply, thereby initiating a complete abolition of EURATOM.

We consider a fundamental redistribution of the areas of responsibility that so far have been regulated in the EURATOM Treaty to be essential in order to be able to form Europe's energy future in a democratic and sustainable way and in accordance with the requirements of the climate crisis.

As stated in its preamble, the goal of the EURATOM Treaty is to create the conditions for the development of a powerful European nuclear industry. However, more than six decades after the founding of EURATOM this no longer makes sense: The expectations to the potential of nuclear power have not been met despite substantial economic subsidies and significant political support. On the contrary, the prospects of nuclear power have gradually deteriorated. In addition to their ecological and social advantages, renewable energies are rapidly overtaking nuclear energy in terms of profitability. For this reason, generation and expansion of nuclear power in Europe have declined for years, and power supply from other energy sources has increased continuously. In view of this development, the unique protection of nuclear energy in primary law is no longer justifiable.

The objectives of the EURATOM Treaty and its status as primary law give preference to the nuclear industry over all other types of energy in a manner that is completely out of date. This has proved to be an obstacle to the necessary greening of the electricity markets.

The European Union must no longer commit itself to promote nuclear power in the future, but only deal with those problems and dangers that have already arisen through the use of this energy source. A realignment of responsibilities also offers the opportunity to include relevant aspects of the nuclear industry that were previously not taken into consideration by EURATOM: The fact that cross-border effects of the nuclear industry are not properly regulated by EU can no longer be legitimized.

All tasks related to the use of nuclear power in Europe must be transferred to the corresponding sections of the TEU and the TFEU, ensuring that the necessary measures are carried out in a transparent and binding manner – pronounced as regulations.

- **Disposal of radioactive waste:** Solutions across generations and national borders are required, all necessary measures must be implemented at the expense of the operator, and the availability of sufficient financial reserves must be demonstrated.
- **Protection against disaster:** A pan-European emergency preparedness and response plan must be drawn up. Here, the costs for suitable measures must be borne by those responsible for the potential threats. When developing the emergency scenarios, earthquake hazard, wear and tear caused by long periods of operation of the nuclear power plants and vulnerability due to the risk of attacks from the outside are in particular to be assessed.
- **Radiation protection:** A regulation based on the ALAP principle (as low as possible) is required, protecting European citizens from industrial radiation exposure. Emergency ordinances which allow the limit values to be raised in the event of an acute release of radioactive radiation should be prohibited.
- **Liability:** A mandatory, uniform liability obligation based on the polluter-pays principle for operators of nuclear facilities that is sufficient to cover any potential damage must be calculated and enter into force immediately.
- **Proliferation:** A non-proliferation regulation far more comprehensive and transparent than the IAEA regime is to be drawn up, involving both nuclear and non-nuclear powers.
- **Research:** European research should be carried out without favouring or discriminating against individual disciplines, but instead with overarching, transparent objectives benefitting the community as a whole. With regard to nuclear power, research should only focus on exit from the nuclear era, above all on decommissioning of nuclear facilities and a long-term solution for the nuclear waste.
- **National nuclear supervisory officials,** not least in regard to how they are appointed, should fundamentally be questioned and, if necessary, their role should be redefined.
- **Safety of nuclear power plants:** Every extension of the life-time of nuclear reactors must be subjected to a mandatory environmental impact assessment that explicitly refers to the additional dangers of material fatigue. Harmonization of the licensing of new reactor types with EU-wide validity must be rejected.
- **Involvement of independent experts** is required in all nuclear-related issues and the application of international conventions such as the ESPOO (EIA, SEA) and Aarhus (access to environmental information, public participation and access to justice) conventions must be implemented immediately.