



Resolution on the Future of Nuclear Energy in Europe

Adopted by YEPP Council Meeting, Turku (Finland) 15 May 2004

It is crucial for Europe to be self-sufficient in energy production.

During the last century most of the European countries built nuclear power plants. After decades of progress in developing better reactors, the accident of Chernobyl made nuclear power less popular and even notorious in Europe. People did not realise that the graphite-moderated reactor of Chernobyl is different than the more reliable Western European water-moderated reactors.

After Chernobyl, there have been people's movements all around Europe against nuclear energy. Opponents of nuclear energy are advocating that they want to protect nature when they are opposing nuclear energy.

It is a reality that some members of European Union buy nuclear energy from Russia or other countries where most of the nuclear plants still use a more dangerous type of reactors, graphite moderated reactors - the same type as in Chernobyl.

In spite of successful examples showing that economic growth does not determine higher energy consumption the overall demand for energy is increasing. YEPP supports the use of fusion energy and different kinds of renewable energy, e.g. solar energy, wind energy, water energy. On the other hand Europe can not be self-sufficient in energy production by only using these kinds of energy, because of the increasing energy demand and because of the limited technical and natural potential.

Coal-fired power plants, especially brown-coal power plants, are highly pollutive. Using coal energy and also natural gas cause a lot of carbon dioxide emissions, which is a huge problem when trying to reach the Kyoto targets to reduce green house gases.

YEPP stresses that fulfilling the need for energy can only be succesful when different possibilities will be developed.

The pollution is predominantly caused by individuals, households, transport and industry and should be decreased.

Therefore there is a continuing role for nuclear energy in the near future. There is a need for old nuclear plants to be replaced by modern, cleaner and safer nuclear plants. At the same time research and development (R&D) has to be increased to find a sustainable solution for the problem of nuclear waste.

We, the representatives of the YEPP

State:

- **A European debate on the energy production is needed to reach the Kyoto targets;**
- **Political willingness must be showed to invest in R&D to develop the production of fusion energy and renewable energy;**

Stress:

- **that renewable energy is preferable to current nuclear energy;**
- **that a choice for nuclear energy goes hand in hand with an action plan to reduce nuclear waste;**
- **that replacing old dangerous nuclear plants by new nuclear plants is better than only building new nuclear plants;**

Urge the European Union and its member states:

- **to invest in R&D for a more efficient and effective use of fusion energy and renewable energy, such as solar energy, wind energy, water energy;**
- **to invest in R&D to find a sustainable solution for the individuals, households, transport, industry and the storage of nuclear waste;**
- **to develop a strong policy to create public awareness of energy consumption, energy saving procedures and means to decrease the waste of energy;**
- **to develop a strategy that finally leads to a sufficient production of fusion energy and renewable energy instead of using coal-fired or current nuclear plants.**