



**Subject: NFLA's international local government co-operative agreements on nuclear policy**

## 1. **Background to briefing**

In order to seek to achieve its nuclear policy aims, the Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLA) have co-operated for a number of years with a number of international local government groupings. This briefing informs NFLA members of progress in co-operation with a welcome new European local government network that is lobbying for a nuclear power free Europe and the promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency alternatives. This Network has been initiated by Vienna City Council. The new Network includes some of the biggest cities in Europe and formal co-operation with the NFLA and a new Japanese Mayors for a Nuclear Power Free Japan Network.

The briefing will also briefly highlight ongoing formal co-operation on nuclear policy issues between the NFLA and the marine pollution local authority group KIMO International. The briefing further outlines progress in the NFLA's long-standing co-operation with the Mayors for Peace in its ongoing campaign for a nuclear weapons free world. It finally notes a positive European Peace Trail initiative that the NFLA Secretariat authority Manchester is co-operating with, partially in order to promote some of the values of the NFLA.

## 2. **Fukushima and Austria's 'nuclear free' strategy**

The major radiation leak and collapse of reactors at the Fukushima Daiichi facility in north east Japan have had a major international impact on the nuclear industry and public opinion towards it (1). A whole series of international safety reviews have now taken place, particularly in Europe. These have been led by the European Commission, who developed an agreed series of 'stress tests' (2) of all civil (and some defence) nuclear facilities in the EU. Additionally, a number of key European states took the decision to formally phase out nuclear power and turn away from building new nuclear power stations, such as Germany, Belgium and Switzerland, as their national response to the Fukushima incident. Following national referendums, Italy and Lithuania can also be added to this list (3).

A number of countries in Europe have never developed civil nuclear power programmes, including Denmark, Norway, the Republic of Ireland and Austria. The Austrian Government has taken a leadership and co-ordinating role in opposing nuclear power across Europe. Austria turned its back on developing nuclear power in 1978, following major public demonstrations about building a nuclear reactor and a large national vote in a referendum on the issue. The Federal Parliament of Austria passed into law on December 15<sup>th</sup>, 1978 an official ban on the use of nuclear fission in its domestic energy supply.

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This was supplemented by a historic agreement between the Austrian Government and environmental groups that the Government would advocate and promote an anti-nuclear policy which would include no storage of foreign radioactive waste, no nuclear liability, no nuclear transports through the country, to lobby for nuclear phase-outs to new accession EU states and to promote research and development into renewable energy technologies. (4).

As its response to the Fukushima disaster, in May 2011, the Austrian Government co-ordinated a joint statement from 8 European states declaring that: "...nuclear power is not compatible with the concept of sustainable development and underlined their conviction that nuclear power does not provide a viable option to combat climate change." (5) It is also developing a law that all imported power (such as from the Czech Republic) must be guaranteed from a non nuclear source (6).

This policy has strong public support in Austria (7) and Austrian Government initiatives have been replicated by Austrian local government, led by its capital city Vienna. In summer 2011, the Environment Lead Councillor for Vienna City Council, Ulli Sima, co-ordinated a letter sent to local authorities across Europe to support a joint resolution to the European Commission for improvements in post-Fukushima nuclear safety and to develop a conference on these matters in the near future. The text of this original invitation is attached as Appendix 1.

Councils that have formally declared support for Vienna's initiative include the cities of Munich, Frankfurt, Cologne, Hannover, Antwerp, Ghent, Nicosia, Bergen and Dublin. NFLA wrote to Vienna to also give its support for the initiative on behalf of its UK and Irish members. (8) The Network also contains many Austrian cities and is supported by leading Austrian environmental Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs). (9)

### 3. **European Cities Network – developing Vienna's initiative**

As the co-ordinator of a group of member local authorities who seek similar aims to Vienna's invitation, the NFLA Steering Committee gave its warm support to this welcome initiative and agreed to discuss the matter in more detail. In February 2012, following the formal support from NFLA and the European cities noted above, a joint cities resolution of support and a wider letter about nuclear safety was sent by Vienna City Council to the European Union's Energy Commissioner, Günter Ottinger, and the Environment Commissioner, Janez Potochnik. A meeting was also arranged with councillors and officers from Vienna City Council and officers from the Commission for late April 2012. This allowed for a wide-ranging discussion on the issues around post-Fukushima nuclear safety in Europe.

In May 2012, using the opportunity of a number of organisations being in Vienna for the United Nations Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Preparatory Conference on nuclear weapons, a meeting was held in Vienna City Hall to discuss developing network agreements with like-minded organisations. The NFLA Secretary attended this meeting, along with representatives from the 'Mayors for a Nuclear Power Free Japan' and the Mayors for Peace organisation. The meeting agreed that all three organisations would be happy to correspond and, where relevant, co-operate with Vienna's new city network.

In September 2012, a formal and productive meeting between the NFLA Chair and NFLA Secretary (on the approval of the NFLA Steering Committee) and Vienna City Council officers took place in Brussels. The meeting agreed to develop and formalise the Network and encourage more cities to join it. A special and very well attended event in the European Parliament was also held to launch two Vienna City Council energy policy reports and an exhibition on 'Uranium mining in, and for, Europe'. (10) Co-operation between the two bodies is continuing and Vienna has accepted an invitation to discuss the remit of this new Network at the NFLA AGM Annual Policy Seminar on December 7<sup>th</sup> in Manchester Town Hall. (11) This meeting will allow further consideration of how to take the co-operation between the NFLA and the Network forward in 2013.

#### 4. **Aims and objectives of Vienna's European initiative**

The agreed aims of Vienna's 'Cities against nuclear power' initiative are (12):

- As an immediate measure, there should be a moratorium on construction of new nuclear power plants.
- As a next step, all nuclear reactors without state-of-the-art safety technology (i.e. older reactors) should be closed down.
- The eventual aim should be a nuclear free Europe in the medium term.
- Nuclear power is around 30% of European electricity use and an intelligent practical approach should be taken to see gradual decline of this share.
- European Union funds provided through the EURATOM Treaty should not be provided for lifetime extensions or new nuclear power plants.
- Nuclear power plant owners in the EU should, under all circumstances, be held liable for insurance damages from a nuclear accident. A reasonable insurance minimum should be 5 billion euros (UK Government policy is to see an insurance maximum of 1.2 billion euros).
- The recent post Fukushima European stress tests need to be independently verified.
- EU funds should be directed to energy efficiency and renewable energy.

To achieve this aim Vienna plans to continue to seek increasing membership of its information-sharing network and co-operate with other like-minded groups like NFLA. It will retain a particular focus at the European Union level, both at seeking to influence and lobby the European Parliament and the European Commission.

#### 5. **Mayors for a Nuclear Free Japan Network**

As part of Vienna's development of a European Network, the NFLA is also sharing information and co-operation with a new grouping in Japan which is part of the huge growth in opposition in Japan to nuclear power as a result of the Fukushima disaster. There have been regular major public demonstrations of over 100,000 people in Tokyo and other Japanese cities urging the Japanese Government to phase out nuclear power. The initiative itself came out of a major international conference in Yokohama on the first anniversary of the Fukushima disaster in March 2012. This was attended by over 4,000 delegates from citizen groups, local government and the wider public and it particularly noted the importance of local government to the nuclear policy debate in Japan. (13)

It is one of the ironic elements of the Fukushima issue that the major shareholder of the Fukushima site owner Tokyo Electric Power Corporate (TEPCO) is now the Tokyo Prefectural Government. Many other local authorities hold substantial shares in other Japanese nuclear power operators and are playing a leading role with nuclear regulators and the Japanese Government in determining if any of 52 of the 54 closed nuclear sites will re-open. (14)

The Japanese Mayor's Network was launched at the end of April 2012 and a full note on it can be found at Appendix 2 of this Policy Briefing. Like the NFLA and Vienna's European Network, it is cross-party in nature and seeks to build a consensus on these matters within its membership in order to promote its views across the country. It is playing a part in the wide political debate taking place in Japan over the future of existing plants and the development of new nuclear reactors.

As part of this discussion, an independent panel to the Japanese Government recommended that moves should be made to phase out nuclear power in the country by 2040. Though this pledge has been diluted somewhat by the Japanese Government, it is clear that the country's future energy policy will be one of the most prominent issues in the Japanese general election campaign, which takes place on December 16<sup>th</sup> 2012 (15). A strong and well organised NGO network is likely to play an important role in the general election campaign as it continues to put considerable pressure on politicians of all political parties to honour this commitment. The NFLA will monitor these developments and welcomes the co-operation with the Japanese Mayor's Network.

## 6. **KIMO International and OSPAR Radiation Substances Committee**

Since November 2010 NFLA has a Memorandum of Understanding with KIMO International, the local authority group of northern European states which lobbies on improvements to the marine environment (16). The agreement allows KIMO to receive advice on relevant nuclear policy matters, particularly around radioactive discharges into the marine environment. The agreement also allows the NFLA to gain access to the influential inter-governmental OSPAR Commission that seeks improvements to the marine environment of the north east Atlantic. KIMO is a registered observing party to its operation (17). The NFLA Secretary has attended the 2011 and 2012 meetings of the OSPAR Commission's Radiation Substances Committee (RSC) and put forward joint submissions on a number of issues such as around discharges into the marine environment from UK nuclear power stations, concerns around a new nuclear reactor programme and NFLA's overview of issues around proposed floating and submerged nuclear facilities in Europe – see NFLA Policy Briefings 77, 81 and 94 for further details (18).

A key issue for the OSPAR RSC is to achieve the OSPAR Treaty commitment to reach a position of 'close to zero' radioactive discharges into the marine environment of the north east Atlantic by 2020. The main locations of such discharges are those emitting from the Cap de la Hague nuclear facility in France and the Sellafield facility in the UK. In the 2011 and 2012 RSC meetings much discussion has taken place over defining 'close to zero' discharges. An intergovernmental communications group is considering this matter and will report to the 2013 meeting. The NFLA / KIMO contribution to this debate, developed for it by the NFLA Steering Committee Policy Advisor, is attached as Appendix 3. The NFLA has also met officials from the Republic of Ireland Government to discuss its approach to such matters and encourage it to take a critical approach to this issue at the 2013 OSPAR RSC meeting.

## 7. **Mayors for Peace progress**

NFLA Briefing 97 outlined the NFLA's continuing close co-operation with the Hiroshima-led Mayors for Peace organisation as it lobbied national state delegations at the 2012 United Nations Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Preparatory Conference. The briefing outlined the detailed discussions that the Mayors for Peace international delegation held with a number of key national delegations at the Conference. It also held a very well-attended meeting at the Conference to explain the role of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in the NPT process and it formally launched a new photographic exhibition highlighting the damage of the atomic bombs and the positive work of Mayors for Peace. (19)

An internal discussion is also taking place within Mayors for Peace to take into account its rapid growth as an organisation in the past decade. In 1999 Mayors for Peace had just over 500 members but by November 2012 this had increased to 5,443 members. It is still growing by around 20-30 members each month (20). This dramatic growth has been one of the core policies of Mayors for Peace in the past decade and considerable work has gone into it across the world through its staff, volunteers, supportive NGOs and its core members. However, this huge increase in membership needs to be matched by a parallel improvement in capacity, organisational structure and financial support.

Following a November 2011 decision of the Mayors for Peace Executive Board, of which Manchester City Council is a member, a sub-group of officers from leading cities and the Mayors for Peace International Secretariat in Hiroshima met on a number of occasions in 2012 to discuss the challenges of supporting such a large membership, catalysing and enthusing its members to become more involved in its work and encouraging the commencement of a voluntary small, annual membership fee for supporting the aims and objectives of Mayors for Peace.

A draft document has been developed by the Hiroshima Secretariat and it is being further considered by Executive Board members. It will be formally approved by them in March 2013 and then be taken to the four-yearly Mayors for Peace General Conference in Hiroshima in August 2013 for approval by the wider membership.

It is likely to focus around the following areas:

- An increase in board members to provide the role of leading national or cross-national Mayors for Peace 'chapters'.
- A small, annual and voluntary membership fee to improve the financial underpinning of Mayors for Peace beyond the substantial support provided for many years by the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and those cities that have generously funded the Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Campaign Secretariat in Ypres, Belgium.
- Improving the capacity of the Mayors for Peace Secretariat so that it can lead the organisation at the international level to achieve its aims and objectives around the realisation of a nuclear weapons free world.

Through Manchester City Council's involvement in these discussions, the NFLA have been kept abreast of these developments and the NFLA Steering Committee has fully supported them. A meeting in early 2013 of the UK and Ireland Mayors for Peace Working Group, planned for Tower Hamlets in London, will allow for further discussion to take place on these proposals amongst local members. NFLA members who are also Mayors for Peace members will be encouraged to attend this meeting.

## **8. ICAN – UK and the UN Oslo Conference on the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons**

At the international level Mayors for Peace are preparing their involvement in a major important upcoming United Nations Conferences in Oslo, linked to the NPT process. It is also monitoring progress with a second UN conference which had been planned by the Finnish Government in Helsinki.

Originally planned for December 2012, the Finnish Government have been preparing to host an international conference on establishing a Middle East Nuclear Weapons Free Zone. This was one of the agreed outcomes from the 2010 NPT Conference. Detailed discussion was due to take place with states from across the Middle East to participate in a conference co-sponsored by the USA, UK and Russia. On November 10<sup>th</sup> 2012 it was reported by the Associated Press / USA Today that diplomats would announce shortly that the conference would be postponed as it could not be guaranteed to get all the key states in the Middle East to participate (21). This has not been formally confirmed yet and the NFLA will continue to monitor this development. If it is postponed this would be a very disappointing development.

In March 2013, the Norwegian Government will be hosting an international conference that will consider the humanitarian consequences of a nuclear weapon attack. This was one of the agreed outcomes from the 2012 NPT Preparatory Conference following a joint initiative by the Governments of Norway and Switzerland (22). It has been strongly supported by a number of other governments, including the Republic of Ireland.

At a meeting of the Mayors for Peace sub-group in July 2012 in Drobak, Norway discussion was held with a representative of the Norwegian Foreign Ministry. Clarification on the remit of the Conference and what the Norwegian Government hopes to achieve from it was provided. A key aim is to move the debate on to an assessment of what the devastating effects a limited nuclear war would create across the world. The Mayors for Peace are continuing to liaise with the Norwegian Government and are planning a substantial presence at the conference, which may also coincide with a Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Board meeting.

In recent years the Mayors for Peace have also been working more closely with a number of relevant NGOs, including Abolition 2000 (23), International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW) (24) and Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (PNND). (25) One of the key major 'umbrella' groups for NGOs seeking a nuclear weapons free world is the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, often referred to as ICAN. (26)

ICAN is planning a major presence at both the Helsinki and the Oslo Conferences. In reference to the Oslo Conference, ICAN-UK is shortly meeting with NFLA to seek a contribution to its formal report to the Conference. NFLA's origins in the 1980s and early 1990s focused considerably around the humanitarian consequences of a nuclear weapon attack as they successfully lobbied for a move away from 'civil defence' nuclear war amelioration planning to what became 'peacetime emergency planning'. This type of emergency planning became the norm following the end of the Cold War. NFLA members were responsible for such documents as 'Leeds and the Bomb', 'London under attack', 'Glasgow and the Bomb', 'Manchester under a Cloud' and 'Leeds and Bradford under a Cloud'. These public information booklets outlined the effects on the civilian population of a nuclear weapon attack or a Chernobyl-type radiation leak from a nuclear power station. ICAN-UK is interested in including some of the information from such booklets within its final report.

## 9. **European Peace Trail project**

As a way to promote peace education and an understanding of some of the issues around the likes of the nuclear weapons debate, a number of NFLA and / or Mayors for Peace members in the UK have developed city centre peace and social justice trails. Leading examples come from the cities of Manchester, London, Bradford, Leeds and Coventry. (27) The aim of such Trails is to highlight the positive role of cities have played through its prominent citizens, movements and groups in issues such as the nuclear free movement, the anti-slavery issue, the co-operative and trade union movements, the struggle for universal male and female suffrage and the inter-faith movement.

Through contacts with the International Peace Bureau, the NFLA Secretary, in his role as promoting Manchester City Council's policies in this area, came into contact with a European project to develop peace trails led by Vienna University. A successful funding bid has been provided by the European Commission's Lifelong Learning Fund and the project will take place over a period of three years.

The cities taking place in this project include Manchester, Paris, Berlin, The Hague, Turin, Vienna and Budapest. Manchester is delighted to take part in this project and will use it as a focus to encourage other NFLA / Mayors for Peace members to develop similar trails in their own localities.

## 10. **Conclusions and recommendations**

This briefing has highlighted the substantial benefits to the NFLA in co-operating with a number of like-minded groups on various aspects of nuclear policy. By such international co-operation NFLA is much more effective in achieving its own aims and objectives whilst benefiting and supporting the growth of such groupings as Vienna's European Network, the Japanese Mayors for a Nuclear Power Free Japan, KIMO International, Mayors for Peace and the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons.

NFLA members are strongly encouraged to take a pro-active role in supporting all of these positive co-operative agreements and continuing to increase membership to all such groups.

## 11. **References**

- (1) For NFLA's detailed overviews of the Fukushima disaster see the NFLA website and NFLA Policy Briefings
- (2) European Commission
- (3) As an example of why some European states have moved away from nuclear power following Fukushima, see Paul Hockenos 'Why Germany learned to hate nuclear power', China Dialogue, 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2012 – <http://www.chinadialogue.net/article/show/single/en/5232-How-Germany-learned-to-hate-nuclear-power>
- (4) WISE News Communiqué, 'Austria: first country with official anti-nuclear policy', 19<sup>th</sup> December 1997, <http://www.10.antenna.nl/wise/index.html?http://www10.antenna.nl/wise/483-4/4792.html>

- (5) Austrian Foreign Ministry, 'Declaration of on nuclear European countries following the Fukushima incident', May 25<sup>th</sup> 2011 – <http://www.nirs.org/international/declarationofnon-nuclearcountries2011-05-25.pdf>
- (6) Prague Post, 'Austria to ban imports of nuclear fueled energy', 13<sup>th</sup> July 2011 – <http://www.praguepost.com/business/9422-austria-to-ban-import-of-nuclear-fueled-energy.html>
- (7) See reference (3).
- (8) Information provided by Vienna City Council to the NFLA.
- (9) A joint resolution was passed by Austrian cities and Lander and a number of leading Austrian environmental NGOs in mid November 2012. A copy of the resolution (in German) can be found at: <http://www.wien.gv.at/rk/msg/2012/11/14012.html>
- (10) The report on uranium mining in Europe requested by Vienna City Council is downloadable from - [http://www.ecology.at/wua\\_ausstellung.htm](http://www.ecology.at/wua_ausstellung.htm). This study is in German and English.
- (11) Contact the NFLA Secretariat for further details on the 2012 NFLA AGM and Annual Policy Seminar.
- (12) Presented by Vienna City Council to the meeting with the NFLA, Brussels, 25<sup>th</sup> September 2012.
- (13) Global Conference for a Nuclear Free World, Yokohama, Japan, January 14<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012. <http://npfree.jp/english/about-conference.html>
- (14) An excellent overview of nuclear politics in Japan, which provides links to the debate in local government and with nuclear regulators and the Japanese Government, is provided on the Greenpeace International ongoing Fukushima blog 'Nuclear reaction'. <http://www.greenpeace.org/international/en/news/Blogs/nuclear-reaction>
- (15) Guardian, 'Japan drops plans to phase out nuclear power by 2040', 19<sup>th</sup> September 2012. <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2012/sep/19/japan-2040-nuclear-power-exit>
- (16) KIMO International, <http://www.kimointernational.org>
- (17) OSPAR Commission, <http://www.ospar.org>
- (18) NFLA Policy Briefings 77, 81 and 94  
[http://www.nuclearpolicy.info/docs/briefings/A192\\_\(NB77\)\\_OSPAR\\_and\\_discharges.pdf](http://www.nuclearpolicy.info/docs/briefings/A192_(NB77)_OSPAR_and_discharges.pdf)  
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- (19) NFLA Policy Briefing 97, [http://www.nuclearpolicy.info/docs/briefings/NB97\\_and\\_Mayors\\_for\\_Peace.pdf](http://www.nuclearpolicy.info/docs/briefings/NB97_and_Mayors_for_Peace.pdf)
- (20) Mayors for Peace, <http://www.mayorsforpeace.org>
- (21) USA Today, 'Mideast nuke talks called off', November 11<sup>th</sup> 2012, <http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2012/11/11/mideast-uke-talks-npt/169215/>
- (22) See Appendix 1 of NFLA Policy Briefing 97, [http://www.nuclearpolicy.info/docs/briefings/NB97\\_and\\_Mayors\\_for\\_Peace.pdf](http://www.nuclearpolicy.info/docs/briefings/NB97_and_Mayors_for_Peace.pdf)
- (23) Abolition 2000, <http://www.abolition2000.org>
- (24) International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, <http://www.ippnw.org>
- (25) Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament, <http://www.gsinsitute.org/pnnd>
- (26) International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons UK branch, <http://www.icanw.org.uk>
- (27) Manchester City Centre Peace and Social Justice Trail, <http://www.manchesterpeacetrail.org.uk>

**Text of letter from Ulli Sima, Lead Environment Councillor for Vienna City Council to local authorities across the EU**

Dear Councillor,  
Dear colleague,

After the nuclear disaster in Japan, Europe discusses the phasing out of all nuclear power and the inevitable promotion of energy efficiency measures and the use of renewable energies.

My concern as an Environmental Lead Councillor of the Austrian capital Vienna is to mobilize other European cities with the goal to actively and forcefully pursue the installation of all forms of "clean" energy.

In our densely populated Europe it is almost inevitable that many urban areas would seriously and most likely irrevocably, suffer from a nuclear accident. The scale of evacuation necessary due to our high densities and numbers of people affected is almost impossible to contemplate. As senior political leaders in our cities, we strive to maintain and continuously improve the high quality of life of our European cities. We are proud of the investments we have made in all areas - social, medical, cultural, technical – and our investments in infrastructure. The economic impacts of our decisions extend outside our cities for the wider benefit of our regions.

But it is these very aspects of our quality of life which arise from our scale, density and long term investment which make us – in my very clear mind - extremely vulnerable to the dangers resulting from a nuclear accident of a large scale happening in Europe.

Our concern is to take the lessons not only from Chernobyl and Fukushima, but also from all other accidents in the history of nuclear energy, seriously and to ensure the safety of the public as well as the livelihood of future generations. I would therefore like to invite you to support a joint resolution.

1. As an immediate measure, we consider an immediate Europe-wide moratorium on nuclear power plant constructions (including NPP that are already under construction) as necessary. In a next step, all nuclear reactors that have no containment, that are not covered according current state of the art technology will be shut down.
2. The mid tem objective is subsequently a nuclear-free Europe.
3. Being aware that nuclear energy counts for almost 30 percent of the electricity consumed in the EU - in individual states significantly more - a well-considered and energetic approach to achieve this goal is required.
4. We need to redirect the EURATOM funds, so that they may be used specifically only for nuclear power plant closures. Remaining funds will be devoted entirely to the development of renewable energy sources. Under no circum-stances should EURATOM funds flow – as before - in the lifetime extension of nuclear power plants or in building new plants.
5. The non-justifiable preference for nuclear energy, such as, for example in the field of liability must be stopped immediately. Nuclear power plant operators across Europe have to be held unlimitedly liable for the damages of an accident. The liability is secured by insurance in the amount of actual damages to be expected (about 5 billion Euros).
6. The announced stress tests for nuclear power plant can only then produce added value, compared to any case held periodic security checks, when they are based on mandatory and pertinent criteria of independent international experts and NGOs, and when the results are transparent and binding.
7. The European funds for energy must be (re-)directed to the promotion of energy-efficient technologies and renewable energy sources.

We will collect the declarations of support, publish them and transmit to the European Commission. I will of course keep you informed on progress and reactions, and if when needed also like to invite you to Vienna to a joint conference.

I am looking forward to your response.

With kind regards  
Ulli Sima  
Lead Environmental Councillor for Vienna City Council

## Mayors for a Nuclear Power Free Japan

### Outline

The “Mayors for a Nuclear Power Free Japan” network was officially launched in Tokyo on April 28, 2012. This network was initiated by mayors and local municipal leaders attending the Global Conference for a Nuclear Power Free World held in Yokohama in January 2012 (for more information: [npfree.jp](http://npfree.jp)), and as at April 24, 66 mayors from 34 prefectures throughout Japan have declared their participation in this network, the majority of whom attended the inaugural meeting to launch the network on April 28, 2012.

A cross-party group of Diet members from almost all major Japanese political parties have been confirmed as Special Advisors, along with former Governor of Fukushima Prefecture, Sato Eisaku. Other high-profile supporters of the network include former Prime Minister Kan Naoto, Mayor of Seoul Park Won-soon, and Suzuki Teisuke, leader of the newly launched Network of Business Leaders and Entrepreneurs for a Sustainable Business and Energy Future.

### Themes and Goals

The network declares to work together for the following aims:

- No new nuclear power plants to be built.
- A move to zero nuclear power plants as soon as possible.

This will be achieved by:

1. Understanding the real situation of nuclear power plants (costs, nuclear fuel cycle, final disposal sites etc).
2. Clarifying the programme to move to zero nuclear power plants.
3. Creating concrete policies for the regional promotion of renewable energies.
4. Exchange and sharing of information through international solidarity.
5. Supporting the evacuation of and provision of safe food for children.

### Co-Initiators:

- Hosaka Nobuto (Mayor, Setagaya Ward, Tokyo Metropolis)
- Ishii Toshio (Mayor, Chousei Village, Chiba Prefecture)
- Ishii Naoki (Mayor, Shimoda City, Shizuoka Prefecture)
- Kato Kenichi (Mayor, Odawara City, Kanagawa Prefecture)
- Matsumoto Akio (Mayor, Hokuei Town, Tottori Prefecture)
- Mikami Hajime (Mayor, Kosai City, Shizuoka Prefecture)
- Murakami Tatsuya (Mayor, Tokai Village, Ibaraki Prefecture)
- Nemoto Ryoichi (former Mayor, Yamatsuri Town, Fukushima Prefecture)
- Sakurai Katsunobu (Mayor, Minamisoma City, Fukushima Prefecture)
- Sasaguchi Takaaki (Former Mayor, Makimachi Town, Niigata Prefecture)
- Suzuki Kenichi (Mayor, Ise City, Mie Prefecture)
- Suzuki Nozomu (Former Mayor, Iwata City, Shizuoka Prefecture)
- Tanaka Katsumi (Mayor, Kiso Town, Nagano Prefecture)
- Tamura Norihiko (Mayor, Yoshida Town, Shizuoka Prefecture)
- Uehara Kimiko (Former Mayor, Kunitachi City, Tokyo Metropolis)

### Special Advisors:

- Eda Kenji (Your Party, Member of House of Representatives)
- Fukushima Mizuho (Social Democratic Party, Member of House of Councilors)
- Kono Taro (Liberal Democratic Party of Japan, Member of House of Representatives)
- Sato Eisaku (Former Governor of Fukushima Prefecture)
- Shii Kazuo (Japanese Communist Party, Member of House of Representatives)
- Shinohara Takashi, (Democratic Party of Japan, Member of House of Representatives)
- Tanaka Yasuo (New Party Nippon, Member of House of Representatives)

### Mayors for a Nuclear Power Free Japan - Concept and Principles

It is now a year since the March 11 triple tragedy hit Japan. This disaster, in which so many lives were lost, is continuing to cause both great sadness and fear in the population of Japan and citizens around the world. Particularly, the meltdown at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant and the vast and long-term damage to both health and the environment as a result of radioactive contamination, has totally destroyed the safety myth of nuclear power.

Furthermore, it is now clear that the “clean energy” or economic energy” put forward as reasons to support nuclear power have no foundation, and rather that it has not only destroyed the regional economy but also brought great shocks to the Japanese economy overall. Since March 11, earthquakes have continued to occur very frequently, and there is reportedly the possibility for another great earthquake to occur. Municipalities hosting nuclear power plants and other areas surrounding them are now facing the need to take decisions as soon as possible regarding energy policies relying upon nuclear power.

More than anything, mayors and municipal leaders have the responsibility to protect the precious lives of their residents.

We have learned from the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear accident that even when economic effects can be anticipated, policies with great risk also require preparation to make great sacrifice. However, the economy must not be prioritised to the sacrifice of citizens. Furthermore, policies which cause deep concern for children's health throughout their lifetimes must not be handled. Children are our future, and all children have the right to live in good health.

We adults, and municipalities, have the responsibility to protect these rights of children. Currently, citizens are standing up to protect these children, and regional politicians and parliamentarians are creating networks to take action.

Local municipalities and mayors also must take their responsibility to refuse to be silent in this situation, and to actively make progress to aim for a society which does not depend on nuclear power, and realise regional policies to swiftly promote renewable energies.

The issue of radioactive contamination following the Fukushima nuclear power plant accident must be borne by all of Japan. In particular, it is the whole country's responsibility to continually support children at risk of exposure to radiation and those who are being forced to continue living in contaminated areas.

In order to transform these heavy responsibilities imposed on local municipalities into effective and policies, mayors nation-wide hereby network together to launch the “Mayors for a Nuclear Power Free Japan,” bringing together their efforts for independent community building towards a Japan free from dependence on nuclear power.

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## NFLA / KIMO submission to OSPAR RSC on definition of 'close to zero' marine radioactive discharges

### Definition of Historic levels and close to zero

#### Preamble

Fourteen years after the Sintra Agreement it is staggering that the definitions of historic levels and close to zero are still being discussed. While the RSC prevaricates the life of both reprocessing plants at Sellafield has been extended; the tonnage of spent nuclear waste fuel to be reprocessed has increased and OSPAR Member States have failed to force the United Kingdom to live up to the commitments it made in 1998. The statement made by Greenpeace to the Dublin RSC meeting in January 1999 still seems relevant today. It said that the:

*"...nuclear reprocessing industry and some civil servants have sought to re-interpret and undermine the agreement signed by ministers, so that the nuclear reprocessing industry can continue to pollute the marine environment"*.

The OSPAR Commission should be extremely wary of long detailed discussions about statistics when the intention of Ministers in 1998 was clear and simple: that "historic levels" means levels discharges prior to 1998 and zero means nothing at all.

#### 1. How do we define 'historical levels'?

Any definition of "historic" must take into account the intentions of ministers at Sintra. Contracting Parties will remember that the reference to "historic levels" was introduced due to the technical difficulties highlighted by some ministers in relation to cleaning up the radioactive contamination caused by discharges during previous administrations. "Historic levels" therefore mean that element of measured or calculated levels arising from pre-1998 discharges, emissions and losses of radioactive substances.

Any definition of "historic levels" also needs to be consistent with the OSPAR Strategy with regard to Hazardous Substances. This refers to the *"target of the cessation of discharges, emissions and losses of hazardous substances by the year 2020"*. Hazardous substances are defined as *"substances that are toxic, persistent and liable to bioaccumulate"*.

The baseline should have been set at 1998. It should also be recognised that all radionuclides released since then with half-lives longer than one or two years will persist in the marine environment beyond 2020, may also bioaccumulate and therefore reach much higher concentrations in marine organisms and in the food chain than they do in seawater. If such substances are to reach "close to zero" concentrations in the marine environment (above 1998 levels) by 2020, discharges emissions and losses of them should have ceased already.

#### 2. How do we define 'close to zero'?

Zero means there is "none of that particular thing". Our view is, therefore, that any discharges of radionuclides with half-lives longer than a year or two should already have ceased. Contracting Parties have been presented with evidence over the years which shows that it is perfectly feasible to dry store spent nuclear waste fuel rather than reprocess it. The UK Government should not, therefore, have been permitted to continue extending the life of its reprocessing plants, and if it continues to claim that spent nuclear waste fuel from its old Magnox reactors must be reprocessed, it should not have been permitted to extend the life of these.

Nor should new nuclear reactors, due to open after 2020, be planned. Several well respected reports such as the European Climate Foundation's Roadmap 2050 report (1) and the Offshore Valuation Report (2) have made it clear that it is technically feasible for the UK and the EU to receive the overwhelming majority of their electricity from renewable sources. A WWF report (3) published in October 2011 shows that renewable sources could meet 60% or more of the UK's electricity demand by 2030. By using this amount of renewable energy, the power sector could be decarbonised without needing power stations which discharges radioactive substances into the marine environment.

#### References

- (1) Roadmap 2050: A Practical Guide to a Prosperous, Low-Carbon Europe, European Climate Foundation, April 2010, <http://www.roadmap2050.eu/downloads> See Exec Summary to Volume 1.
- (2) The Offshore Valuation Report: A valuation of the UK's offshore renewable energy resource, 2010, [http://www.offshorevaluation.org/downloads/offshore\\_valuation\\_exec.pdf](http://www.offshorevaluation.org/downloads/offshore_valuation_exec.pdf)
- (3) Positive Energy: How Renewable Electricity can transform the UK by 2030. WWF October 2011 [http://assets.wwf.org.uk/downloads/positive\\_energy\\_final\\_designed.pdf](http://assets.wwf.org.uk/downloads/positive_energy_final_designed.pdf)