



Nuclear Free Local Authorities Steering Committee

information

NFLA Media release - for immediate release, 6th December 2012

NFLA holds 2012 Annual Policy Seminar on influencing the international nuclear policy debate

Now in its 32nd year of operation, the UK & Ireland Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLA) will hold its Annual Policy Seminar in Manchester Town Hall considering the international nuclear policy agenda and how it can influence it at the national and international level (1).

Over the course of its 32 year history the NFLA has been fully aware that it is just as important to influence organisations like the United Nations, the European Commission, the OSPAR Commission and the International Atomic Energy Authority as it is to influence Governments in Westminster, Dublin, Belfast, Edinburgh and Cardiff.

The NFLA has a close partnership agreement with the 5,490 member Mayors for Peace organisation (2). Led by the Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, this organisation campaigns for a nuclear weapons free world. It also has a formal memorandum of organisation to co-operate with the Northern European marine pollution local authority group KIMO International (3) to pursue common concerns over radioactive discharges into the marine environment as regulated through the OSPAR Commission.

In 2012 the NFLA also agreed to formally co-operate with a new European Cities Network led by Vienna City Council which seeks to lobby at the European Commission and European Parliament level for improvements in nuclear safety and a medium term nuclear free Europe, coupled with a strong support for renewable energy, energy efficiency and microgeneration programmes (4).

The NFLA Annual Policy Seminar will highlight international trends in both the nuclear power debate and the nuclear weapons proliferation debate. It will consider how NFLA can co-operate with like-minded groups to achieve its own aims and objectives and discuss what the challenges and opportunities there are in both policy areas for progression.

Confirmed seminar speakers include:

- David Reinberger from Vienna City Council, who will outline its growing European network and its plans for 2013;
- Dr Paul Dorfman from the Nuclear Consulting Group, who will outline the group's work in understanding and promoting the 'Energiewende' policy transformation in Europe and how it would be beneficial for the constituent parts of the UK and Ireland to follow such a direction;
- Professor Dave Webb, Chair of CND-UK, who will provide an overview of the international nuclear weapons non-proliferation debate and how co-operation between like-minded groups is bringing a progressive new perspective to the nuclear weapons issue as well as effectively influencing the views of many national governments;
- Rob Van Riet, UK Co-ordinator of the Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (PNND), on how it is using its strong links with Parliamentarians from across the world to influence national government policies on the nuclear weapons issue.

NFLA Chair, Councillor Brian Goodall said:

"I am delighted we have such a strong speaker line-up for the NFLA's Annual Policy Seminar. The NFLA has remained an effective voice in the nuclear debate because it has worked so closely with other like-minded groups. Together we are stronger in our common desire for a move away from nuclear power and the eventual abolition of nuclear weapons. I look forward to the discussion."

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Ends

Further information - Sean Morris, NFLA Secretary - 0161 234 3244 or 07771 930186.

Notes to editors:

- (1) NFLA Annual Policy Seminar 2012, Room 301, Manchester Town Hall, 7th December, 1pm – 3.15pm, *'The European nuclear policy dimension – co-operating with local authorities & NGO networks for a nuclear-free Europe'*:
 - 1.00pm Welcome by the new NFLA Chair.
 - 1.05pm Developing a European Local Government Network to campaign for a nuclear power free, renewable rich Europe – David Reinberger, Environment Office for Vienna City Council.
 - 1.30pm Promoting the German approach to energy policy in the UK and Ireland – Dr Paul Dorfman, Coordinator of Nuclear Consulting Group.
 - 1.55pm Working at the international level for a nuclear weapons free world in co-operation with relevant networks – Dave Webb, National Chair of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament.
 - 2.20pm International work of the Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (PNND) – Rob van Riet, UK PNND Coordinator.
 - 2.45pm Panel discussion.
- (2) For further information on the Mayors for Peace consult <http://www.mayorsforpeace.org>
- (3) For further information on KIMO International consult <http://www.kimointernational.org>
- (4) As part of establishing this new European Network, Vienna City Council has developed a new exhibition and study paper on *'Uranium mining in, and for, Europe'* which can be downloaded from http://www.ecology.at/wua_ausstellung.htm (the study is in German and English). They have also developed a study paper *'A Life Cycle Analysis of Nuclear Power'*, electronic copies of which are available from the NFLA Secretariat. The main conclusions from Vienna's study are:

"The contribution of nuclear power to climate protection is limited when taking into account the declining ore grades: nuclear power can be referred to as "low-carbon" when the ore grade is high (0.1 to 2 %). However, ore grades around 0.01 % make the CO2 emissions increase up to 210 g CO2/kWh. Those emission values are still lower than those of coal or oil (600–1200 g/kWh), but significantly higher than for wind (2.8–7.4 g/kWh), hydropower (17–22 g/kWh) and photovoltaic (19–59 g/kWh). The CO2 avoiding costs of nuclear power are higher than for any other possible technology except traditional coal fired power plants. Wind power stations and cogeneration of heat and power are 1.5 times more cost-effective in reducing CO2 than nuclear power; energy efficiency measures are 10 times more cost-effective."

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