



Nuclear Free Local Authorities Steering Committee

information

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NFLA co-operates with European Network of Cities concerned about nuclear power to influence EU institutions

The Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLA) Chair and Secretary are meeting with councillors and staff from a new European initiative led by Vienna City Council which seeks improvements in European post Fukushima nuclear safety and a move away from nuclear power (1).

The meetings take place on the 25th and 26th September. Following the Fukushima disaster, Vienna City Council had written to Councils across Europe to work with it in lobbying the European Commission and Members of the European Parliament to improve nuclear safety across the European Union and encourage the growing trend for the phasing out of nuclear reactors on the continent.

Cities like Antwerp, Bergen, Dublin, Frankfurt, Hannover, Cologne, Munich and Nicosia have given their political support to Vienna's initiative and the NFLA Steering Committee has formally given the support of its members to this welcome Network.

On the 25th September members of the Network will be meeting to discuss formalising the grouping and determining its future strategy. The following day they will be opening a major exhibition on 'Uranium mining in and for Europe' in the European Parliament. The NFLA Chair is one of the opening speakers to this exhibition along with Karin Kadenbach MEP, Elisabeth Vitouch from Vienna City Council and Andrea Schnattinger from the Vienna Ombuds Office for Environmental Protection. Following the meeting, Network members will be meeting influential MEPs to discuss lobbying appropriate European Parliamentary Committees and the European Commission.

NFLA Chair Councillor Brian Goodall said:

"I am delighted that the NFLA can co-operate with Vienna City Council in its excellent and foresighted initiative to improve nuclear safety and seek to provide an alternative energy vision in Europe, post-Fukushima. With European countries like Germany, Switzerland, Italy and Belgium deciding to phase out nuclear power as part of their response to Fukushima, this initiative comes at an important time in the debate over the future development of nuclear policy. In the UK we see determined attempts to keep nuclear power going and build new reactors in England and Wales. However, it needs to be noted that Scotland has implacably moved away from building new nuclear reactors whilst Ireland is completely nuclear free.

We look forward to working with Vienna and other important European cities to lobby for continued improvements in nuclear safety, a move away from nuclear power and the embracing of a new energy vision - a wide renewable energy mix, energy efficiency and microgeneration programmes. By working together we can make that happen for the benefit of the people we represent."

Ends

Further information - Sean Morris, NFLA Secretary - 00 44 161 234 3244 or 00 44 7771 930186.

Notes to editors:

- (1) The Network is meeting in the Meeus Room, The House of Cities, Municipalities and Regions, 1st Floor, Square de Meeus 1, B-1000, Brussels. There are opportunities for interviews from 6pm on the 25th September. The exhibition 'Uranium mining in and for Europe' is formally opened in ASP 5 Zone Balcony in the European Parliament at midday on the 26th September.

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT VOICE ON NUCLEAR ISSUES