



Nuclear Free Local Authorities Steering Committee

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NFLA Media release - for immediate release, 20th May 2013

NFLA meets Vienna Environment Council to discuss further co-operation with the 'Cities for a Nuclear Free Europe' Network

The Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLA) welcome continued co-operation with Vienna City Council following its meeting with the Vienna Environment Council last Friday 17th May (1).

In 2011 and 2012 Vienna City Council has been developing a network of local authorities from across Europe concerned about the implications of the Fukushima disaster. It calls for the medium term phasing out of nuclear power and the promotion of a low carbon renewable energy alternative. Amongst the cities that have supported the development of this Network include German cities like Hannover, Munich and Frankfurt and other prominent European cities like Bergen (Norway), Nicosia (Cyprus) and Dublin (Republic of Ireland).

The NFLA have co-operated with this positive initiative since its inception. At a meeting in Brussels in September 2012 it agreed to be a key partner for the Network in promoting its aims and objectives in the UK and Ireland (2).

This co-operation has continued with an invitation for the NFLA Chair and the NFLA Secretary to address the cross-party Vienna Environment Council, which scrutinises the environmental agenda of Vienna City Council, and which was in the UK to consider a number of environmental issues. At the meeting in London the NFLA provided a presentation on the key nuclear policy issues in the UK and the main areas of co-operation that the 'Cities for a Nuclear Free Europe' Network could develop.

In discussion that was led by Vienna's Deputy Mayor for the Environment, Ulli Sima, a number of future developments were put forward, including:

- To focus on lobbying activities with the nuclear policy agenda at the European Commission and the European Parliament and its role in overseeing EU decisions over new nuclear build and radioactive waste management.
- The development of a logo and Network website.
- The consideration of an Annual Conference to develop networking opportunities.
- The development of specialised research on nuclear energy and renewable energy issues.
- To seek an increase in membership of the informal Network.

Vienna Deputy Mayor Ulli Sima said: "I welcome the co-operation between Vienna and the NFLA to develop our shared aim of no new nuclear build and for the promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency. This new Network will focus on the key EU role in energy policy and work hard in a common aim for a nuclear free future."

NFLA Chair, Councillor Mark Hackett said: "For over 33 years the NFLA has been working for a nuclear free future. One of the ways it has remained an effective voice in the nuclear debate is its close working relationship with the likes of Mayors for Peace (3), KIMO International (4) and now this new European Network. I welcome in particular the co-operation with Austrian and German cities that, like their national governments, have turned away from nuclear power and are promoting an effective renewable alternative. Such policies need to be quickly adopted in the UK and Ireland, rather than the development of unnecessary new nuclear power stations at the likes of Hinkley Point. I hope this developing partnership will become part of an international coalition of support that offers a sustainable nuclear free Europe."

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Further information - Sean Morris, NFLA Secretary – 00 44 (0)161 234 3244 or 07771 930196. Arrangements can be made to speak with officers and politicians in Vienna on request.

Notes to editors:

- (1) A photo from last Friday's meeting is attached with this media release.
- (2) NFLA Media Release, 24th September 2012
http://www.nuclearpolicy.info/docs/news/NFLA_PR_European_Network.pdf
- (3) Mayors for Peace are an international local authority organisation campaigning for a nuclear weapons free world led by the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.
<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org>
- (4) KIMO International is a northern European local authority organisation campaigning for the clean-up of the marine environment across the North East Atlantic, North Sea and Baltic Sea.
<http://www.kimointernational.org>

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