

DR CAROLINE LUCAS
Green Party
for the South East of England

His Excellency Mr Vladimir Chizhov
Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the European communities
31-33 Boulevard du Regent
Bruxelles

3 December 2009

Dear Mr Ambassador,

Call for new, just and international public hearings on Rosatom's Baltic nuclear plant project

I am writing to express my deep concern at news of the Baltic nuclear plant project (NPP) proposed by Rosatom, Russia's state nuclear corporation, in the Kaliningrad region near the Lithuania/European Union border.

The fact that the reactor does not meet modern safety requirements and lacks many of the safety features of reactors under construction in Europe is immensely worrying. In addition, Rosatom's environmental impact assessment does not specify what technology will be used to dispose of the nuclear waste nor how the reactor will be dismantled after it is retired from use and whether it will be dismantled at all.

Another concern is what appears to be a complete lack of open, transparent and democratic decision making. Many local citizens opposed to the project were not allowed to take part in official public hearings, while public access to documentation on Baltic nuclear plant project was complicated. Though the proposed location of the Baltic NPP is near the border with the EU, Rosatom has not organized public hearings in neighboring countries.

Given the potentially lethal environmental and public health hazards associated with nuclear power plants, along with the unresolved problem of nuclear waste, it is imperative that implementation of the Baltic NPP project be stopped until an independent international assessment has been carried out with the participation of experts from neighboring countries (especially Poland and Lithuania).

I urge you to do all in your power to ensure that new, just and international public hearings are conducted not only in Kaliningrad region but also in countries which have a common border with this Russian region. Hearings must consider the wider environmental impact of the Baltic NPP, such as Chernobyl-style radiation clouds being released following an accident and should be held under the environmental transparency requirements of the 'Convention of Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context' (Espoo convention) (which Russia has signed) and the 'Convention on access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters' (Aarhus convention).

Thank you for your prompt attention to this highly important matter.

I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Caroline Lucas'.

Caroline Lucas MEP