

**PAKS II - Siemens can equip the Russian reactors in Hungary despite embargo  
Nuclear projects are not subject to the embargo against Russia. But fruits from Lake Constance or from Hungary are. With this explosive information, the Hungarian Government officials surprised the German public at the two days PAKS II hearing on 20/21 October 2015 in Munich.**

Munich, 21 October 2015. The German company Siemens can equip the non-nuclear part of the two planned Russian Rosatom reactors at the site of the Hungarian nuclear power plant PAKS. Other companies have to comply strictly with the embargo. "Apparently, it looks like we deal with double standards" said the representative of the Bavarian Greens, county councilor Brigitte Artmann from the Upper Franconian district of Wunsiedel, who is also a member of Nuclear Transparency Watch. The hearing started on 11:00 on a Tuesday, a working day in Germany. Nevertheless the 22 members of the Hungarian delegation had to face around 35 well-prepared persons from the German public in the Carl-Orff-Hall in the Munich Event Center called "Im Gasteig". Persons who wanted to participate had to take holidays. More than 30.000 submissions were sent from the German public to Hungary.

**The hearing was extended to the following day. It was continued in building the Bavarian Ministry of the Environment. After a total of 18 hours, both sides departed with the demand of the German public to be further included into the process and to have access to all the safety-related technical data that were missing in the Environmental Impact Assessment procedure when the hearing in Munich took place.**

Greenpeace was represented by the nuclear expert Oda Becker, who explained serious safety shortcomings of the proposed VVER the 1200 / V 491 reactors which the Hungarians couldn't prove wrong. The question whether the reactors would withstand a terror attack with an Airbus A 380 faced the Hungarian delegation leader Prof. Attila Aszódi with silence. He simply gave no answer what the moderator, Hans Heierth from the Bavarian Ministry, accepted with the words "no answer is also an accepted answer". Further the German participants called the established evacuation zone of 800 meters more than ridiculous.

Hungary confirmed that the NPP PAKS II would be for years a pure surplus power plant and will therefore feed the generated electricity into the grid via Austria to Germany. The energy expert of the Environmental Institute of Munich, Christina Hacker, explained that Germany exports renewable energy, which is cheaper than nuclear and therefore doesn't need and doesn't want nuclear power. It was demanded by the participants that the nuclear waste must be stored in Hungary and not in Russia because a nuclear repository is totally missing in the Environmental Impact Assessment concept. The Hungarian government representatives were often looking for answers and explanations. They had to search in their files for answers to the precise technical questions of the audience. Again and again they asked for trust into them and "into the Russian partners", that they both will run the reactors safely for the next 60 years. However, referring to Ukraine and the situation on the Crimea, the participants insisted that this high-risk technology doesn't need trust, but security. Wolfgang Müller, councilor of the City of Bad Steben in North-Bavaria, provided the lottery numbers of the year 2076 and also asked to trust, that the numbers will be the right ones.

Estimated cost of the two reactors are 12.5 billion euros, Hungary told the participants. 10 billion will be financed by Russia, the rest will be raised by Hungary. At last, the electricity customer must pay the price for this state subsidy via the price for electricity a participant stated. Oda Becker noted that the

cheapest option was chosen and not the safest. Brigitte Artmann raised the question whether it was clear that it finally will be a Russian reactor. She argued, because it's planned to be financed by public money with Hungarian states subsidies a public announcement would have been needed.

It was further criticized that in Hungary only a very small proportion of the public concerned was allowed to participate<sup>1</sup>. Only persons living in a radius of 500 meters around the nuclear power plant and only the most important NGOs were allowed to. Referring to the report of Jan Haverkamp who participated for Nuclear Transparency Watch at the hearing in Paks in Hungary, there were physical attacks on the minibus of the NGOs and verbal attacks against their representatives. Also the Hungarian Benedek Jávör, member of the Green group in European Parliament, was excluded from public participation in Hungary. He has provided leaked documents from the Hungarian Government, which raised heavy doubts of the whole Environmental Impact Assessment procedure<sup>2</sup>. Oda Becker asked the Hungarian delegation how Mr Jávör's statement was taken into account in the procedure, but got the answer of Prof. Attila Aszódi "Who is Benedek Javor?" The participants noted that they will bring this unanswered question in written form into the procedure from the German side.

In an impressive speech András Perger from Greenpeace Hungary thanked the German participants for their high qualified technically and juridical questions and statements and explained that even the NGO Energia Club in Hungary was severely hampered in its activities because the procedure doesn't correspond to international and European law. Therefore they have initiated a complaining procedure before the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee. The out-coming is expected next year. He further told, he was impressed by the solar plant on the roof of the Bavarian Environmental Ministry which input into the grid could be followed on a meter near the front door. He missed this in Hungary. Nevertheless, in a sovereign way, he thanked also Hungary for doing all these hearings in many European countries. Also the other participants agreed that at least this would be exemplary.

Brigitte Artmann asked a question relevant for **emergency preparedness and response**. She wanted to know "in how many years of duty will a member of the rescue squads (for example of the voluntary fire brigades) will reach the **voluntary** limit for a lifesaving operation **of 250 mSv per operation and lifetime** after the leakage of 5 % of the radioactive inventory<sup>3</sup> by east weather conditions from a VVER 1200/V491 at the site of PAKS II in the radius of 25 km, of 50 km and then in 100 km steps until Nuremberg?" She gave the explanation that relevant here is the insurance cover and the Working Law for the members of the voluntary fire brigades, who will have to leave their active work after they reached this limit or will lose their insurance cover. The answer of the Hungarian radiation protection expert was, that outside of the fence of the NPP there will be no relevant radiation anymore and only 5 workers in Fukushima were contaminated with 250 mSv. But this wasn't the answer to her question. Because this question wasn't answered at the hearing, she forwarded it in written form to Hungary after the hearing. The Bavarian Ministry promised to clarify open questions in the bilateral negotiation of the Environmental Assessment Procedure between Germany and Hungary.

Done by Brigitte Artmann [www.gruene-fichtelgebirge.de](http://www.gruene-fichtelgebirge.de)

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<sup>1</sup> <http://aarhus-konvention-initiative.de/2015/06/akw-paks-ii-ungarn-comments-on-von-greenpeace-zentral-und-osteuropa/>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.nuclear-transparency-watch.eu/a-la-une/recent-developments-on-paks2.html>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.grs.de/faq-tschernobyl>