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Title:

Dismantling and transparency. Spain's oldest nuclear plant block: Santa María de Garoña

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Alava is eminently a green land. It has twenty nine protected areas. These areas cover the fifty per cent of the Basque Country's protected areas and take up twenty seven per cent of Alava's area.

Half of this protected area is within Garoña's forty kilometres activity range.

Vitoria-Gasteiz, Alava's and the Basque Country's capital, was awarded the European Green Capital prize in two thousand and twelve.

Santa María de Garoña's Nuclear Plant is located at nearly forty kilometres from Vitoria-Gasteiz. Bilbao is at fifty eight and San Sebastian at one hundred sixteen.

In a range of seventy kilometres there are a million and a half habitants.

Garoña's Nuclear Plant is General Electric technology; it belongs to the first generation of nuclear plants from the sixties. It has a boiling water reactor, the same kind of reactor as Fukushima's six ones.

Its construction was permitted in August 1963 (nineteen sixty three) and its implementation in May 1966 (nineteen sixty six). The plant started working in 1971 (nineteen seventy one), forty-six years ago. It was designed for a lifespan of forty years.

Its contribution to the nuclear electric production in 2012 (two thousand twelve) was that of a 6,5% (six point five per cent) of the total national nuclear production. It was barely a 1% of the total energy mix of Spain.

After forty one years working, the nuclear reactor was stopped in December 2012 by the enterprise that owns the plant.

After its closure, there have been in Spain diverse legislative changes that have tried to make a reopening easier.

It is possible that this week, the Council of Nuclear Security of Spain will make the decision of approving the favourable report for the reopening of the plant. This time, it would have a sixty year lifespan.

I would like now to address the guidelines of the Nuclear Security Board /EURATOM of 2009 (two thousand and nine) and those from 2014 (two thousand fourteen) that modify the former.

These guidelines establish a common frame of reference for nuclear security in nuclear facilities. They also establish the obligatory nature of adopting regulatory, justified decisions with solid and transparent requirements in nuclear security matters.

These guidelines indicate in their eighth article that the Member States will guarantee that the information for the regulation of nuclear security is at the general public's service.

They specify that the Member states will provide the general public with the adequate opportunities to participate effectively in the decisions regarding the grant of licences for the nuclear power plants.

The government I lead has never had access to the information concerning the extension of this plant's operational lifespan until 2031 (two thousand thirty one). Therefore we can see here a clear unfulfilment of the mentioned guidelines.

I will now talk about the Aarhus Convention, which establishes that each part will guarantee the rights of access to the information regarding the environment, the public's participation in the decision making and the access to justice in environmental affairs, in accordance with the Convention's regulations.

In this sense the Public Authorities must have access to the information and participation concerning the environment in order to act in the citizens' interests. This is what we demand. We did not have transparency in the debates of Spain's Nuclear Security Council.

It is unbelievable that in a rule of law not even a concerned public administration has access to minimum information even though it has requested it.

In our geographic scope many parliamentary bodies and public administrations took up a stance against the reopening of the Garoña nuclear power plant.

But what really matters is that our citizens have said no to the reopening of Garoña's nuclear power plant. There is no social licence for the continuity of this reactor.

As a representative of more than 330.000 people in Alava, I must require the closing of the CSN, as the citizens demand me to do so. It is my duty and my political responsibility.