

# Nuclear Power in Europe – drastically underinsured

Chronicle of an Ongoing Demand

compiled by

Mothers against  
Nuclear Hazard

atomstopp

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Luxembourg  
January 20, 2026



# Fukushima 2011 made need for action clear



- significant differences - various conventions regulating nuclear liability (Vienna and Paris Convention, additional protocols)
- liability sums for NPP operators completely inadequate
- limited liability for the operator – outsourcing costs to general public
- EU Commissioner Oettinger promised higher liability insurance  
"My mandate is not to make nuclear power cheap through safety dumping. The insurance requirement is justifiable. After all, every car owner has to take out liability insurance for their vehicle, even though this increases the cost of mobility."
- Oettinger launched public consultation "Taking nuclear third-party liability into the future"

Fukushima 2011 -  
need for action

Calculated costs vs.  
actual insurance  
coverage => Petition

Reaction PETI /  
Commission

2025: Letter

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# Calculated costs vs. actual insurance coverage



- costs of nuclear meltdown in Europe: €430 billion (ISNR, 2013) vs. highest insurance coverage: €2.5 billion (Germany)
- atomstopp petition in 2013: Europe-wide harmonised liability insurance policy for NPP, min. €400 billion/reactor
  - enacted as regulation - uniform European nuclear liability law
  - "polluter pays principle"
  - 23.500 signatures submitted (15.000 in 2013 + 8.500 in 2017)
  - petition supported by European anti-nuclear groups and Austrian politicians across all political parties

Fukushima 2011 - need for action

Calculated costs vs. actual insurance coverage => Petition

Reaction PETI / Commission

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# First: promising actions by Petitions Committee



- Invitations to PETI committee in 2014 and 2018
- PETI-study: Cross-border nuclear safety, liability and cooperation in the European Union (2019)
- Commission: Insurance, private and financial markets in the field of nuclear third-party liability (Jan. 2020)
- Both studies recognized need for improvement, identified shortcomings, suggested solutions

Fukushima 2011 - need for action

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# Then: Mission failed



## EU-Commission failed “Taking nuclear third-party liability into the future”

- EU Commission retreated instead of putting pressure on nuclear power plant operators
- PETI gives in - petition closed in 2023

Fukushima 2011 - need for action

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# 2025: NGO-letter to Comm. Ribera and Jørgensen



- distortion of competition through the underinsurance of NPP - undermining truth in pricing
- necessary adjustments due to the increasing challenges posed by climate change
- changing circumstances - planned SMRs in high density, near metropolitan areas
- growing risks - aging, technologically outdated NPP
- increased number of plant life extensions

Fukushima 2011 - need for action

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**"Taking nuclear third-party  
liability into the future"**

**We are ready to figure out a  
pathway - how about you,  
the European Commission?**



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