

Luxemburg muss sich auf EU-Ebene gegen verstärkte Förderung der Atomkraft durchsetzen

« Friends of the Earth » publiziert bis dato unveröffentlichtes Dokument der EU-Kommission

Am heutigen Montag veröffentlichte « Friends of the Earth Europa », die internationale Umweltschutzorganisation, deren Luxemburger Mitgliedsvereinigung der *Mouvement Ecologique* ist, ein bisher geheimes Dokument der Europäischen Kommission, das aller Voraussicht nach demnächst den Finanzministern vorgelegt werden soll.

Das Dokument besitzt Sprengstoff, geht es doch um nichts Geringeres, als dass die EU-Kommission den Kreditposten zur Förderung der Atomkraft auf 2 Billionen Euro erhöhen will! Dies mit dem Ziel, dass seitens der EU künftig verstärkt Gelder in Projekte im Bereich der Atomkraft der Mitgliedsstaaten, der Beitrittskandidaten sowie der ehemaligen Sowjetunion investiert werden können.

In einem speziellen Kapitel dieses Dokumentes «Justification for raising the lending ceiling» sollen die Minister überzeugt werden ihr Jawort zu geben. Dabei wird die Situation so dargestellt, als ob es lediglich darum ginge, die Gelder zur Erhöhung der nuklearen Sicherheit zu verwenden.

Dies entspricht jedoch nicht der Wahrheit ! Einerseits können seitens der EU - Kreditvergabe hin oder her - keine verstärkten westlichen Sicherheitsstandards eingeklagt werden. Dies ist bis dato trotz gegenteiliger Aussagen der Befürworter erhöhter Kredite kaum der Fall gewesen, da die Festlegung der Sicherheitsstandards immer noch den einzelnen Ländern obliegt. Entsprechend weisen auch die Umweltschutzorganisationen aus den betroffenen Ländern mit Nachdruck darauf hin, dass die Gelder nicht erteilt werden sollen!

Darüber hinaus werden die Finanzmittel vielmehr in den Bau bzw. Ausbau der Atomkraftwerke investiert, wie es das Fallbeispiel Rumänien aufzeigt.

Die Erhöhung der Kredite soll im Rahmen des sogenannten Euratom-Vertrags erfolgen. Der entsprechende Passus zur Kreditvergabe wurde noch vor den Unfällen von *Mile Island* sowie Tschernobyl erarbeitet und trägt in keiner Form mehr den heutigen energiepolitischen Zielen der Mehrzahl der EU-Länder Rechnung.

«This talk about safety and decommissioning is a kind of PR to divert the attention that the EURATOM money is going to be used for the construction of new nuclear power plants, This is obvious when we look at the projects that are applying for EURATOM loans, like unit 2 of the Cernavoda nuclear power plant in Romania », so Patricia Lopez von « Friends of the Earth - Europa ».

Da die Erhöhung der Kredite die Zustimmung der einzelnen Finanzminister bedarf, richtet der *Mouvement Ecologique* einen Appell an die Luxemburger Regierung, in keinem Fall diesem Projekt der Kommission zuzustimmen.

Die EU darf hier keine Doppelstrategie anwenden: einerseits in den Mitgliedsstaaten keinen weiteren Ausbau der Atomkraft zu wollen und alternative Energien fördern - andererseits Via Kredite der EU den Atomausbau in sonstigen Ländern aktiv unterstützen.

Vor allem Luxemburg, mit seiner Tradition im Bereich der Anti-Atomkraft-Politik sowie der aktuellen Akzentsetzung in Richtung alternative Energien, ist sich in diesem Bereich eine konsequente Politik schuldig.

Mouvement Ecologique asbl.

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Brussels, xxx
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Proposal for a

COUNCIL DECISION¹

amending Decision 77/271/Euratom on the implementation of Decision 77/270/Euratom
empowering the Commission to issue Euratom loans for the purpose of contributing to
the financing of nuclear power stations

(presented by the Commission)

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

1. LEGAL FOUNDATION OF EURATOM LENDING

The Euratom lending instrument was established by Council Decision 77/270/Euratom of 29 March 1977 empowering the Commission to approve Euratom loans for the purpose of contributing to the financing of nuclear power stations.

The ceiling for *borrowing* was originally fixed by Council Decision 77/271/Euratom of 29 March 1977 on the implementation of Decision 77/270/Euratom.

"Sole Article:

Loans as provided for in Article 1 of Decision 77/270/Euratom may be contracted for amounts the total of which shall not exceed 500 million European units of account; the European unit of account is defined in Decision 75/250/EEC.

When the total value of the transactions effected reaches 300 million European units of account, the Commission shall inform the Council which, acting unanimously, shall decide on the fixing of a new amount as soon as possible."

The ceiling was raised by various *amendments* of Council Decision 77/271/Euratom, the latest of which (Council Decision 90/212/Euratom of 23 April 1990) increased it by 1 000 ECU to 4 000 million ECU (with reporting when 3 800 million ECU was reached),

The scope of the Euratom lending instrument was extended by Council Decision 9-1 179/Euratom of 21 March 1994 amending Decision 77/270/Euratom, to authorise the Commission to contract Euratom borrowings in order to contribute to the financing required for improving the degree of safety and efficiency of nuclear power stations in certain non-member countries.

In particular, the Commission was

"empowered to contract, within the same limits, borrowings, the proceeds of which will be allocated in the form of loans to finance projects to increase the safety and efficiency of the nuclear power stations of the non-member countries listed in the Annex. For these projects to be eligible they must:

- relate to nuclear power stations or installations in the nuclear fuel cycle which are in service, or under construction, or to the dismantling of installations where modification cannot be justified in technical or economic terms,
- have received all the necessary authorisation at national level and in particular the approval of the safety authorities,
- have received a favourable *opinion* from the Commission in technical and economic terms.

The Commission may borrow only within the limits of loans requested of it. The borrowing and corresponding lending operations shall be denominated in the same monetary unit and carried out under the same conditions as regards repayment of the principal and interest payments. Cost incurred by the Community in concluding and executing each Operation shall be borne by the recipient undertakings."

The list of eligible non-member countries defined by the Annex to the above Decision was as follows:

- Republic of Bulgaria
- Republic of Hungary
- Republic of Lithuania
- Romania
- Republic of Slovenia
- Czech Republic
- Slovak Republic
- Russian Federation
- Republic of Armenia
- Ukraine

2. BORROWING AND LENDING CEILING

The current borrowing ceiling is fixed at EUR 4 000 million. Of this amount, EUR 2 876 million has been used for borrowings related to loans granted to Member State beneficiaries. Loan approvals for certain non-member countries now amount to approximately EUR 900 million (EUR 212.5 million + EUR equivalent of USD 585 million [1]). The total thus used and reserved is approximately EUR 3 776 million. This is approaching the reporting level of EUR 3 800 million required by the Council. There are a number of Euratom loan applications being processed, any of which may possibly exceed the balance of the lending limit (EUR 224 million). Each of these loan applications will be presented individually to the Commission for decision, if appropriate. To ensure that the borrowing ceiling is not a constraint, the Commission considers it prudent to inform the Council before the formal reporting limit is reached and to propose an increase in the limit.

3. JUSTIFICATION FOR RAISING THE LENDING CEILING

With the extension of the scope of Euratom lending to certain non member states in 1994, the Commission has a powerful financial tool that can be used to influence the nuclear safety beyond the Union borders in the east. The two recent decisions to grant loans for projects in Bulgaria and the Ukraine demonstrate that the instrument can be used as a Support for Commission policy in the field. In both of the cases decided, commitments relating to the safety of older units have been agreed with the respective countries. With the loans being tied in to earlier closure of old units, there has been a marked improvement in the evaluation of risks associated with operating plants that are of older design. Further, our involvement in these projects ensures that they will be completed in line with western safety requirements and facilitate similar actions in the future.

Nuclear safety is an issue being more and more addressed throughout Europe and we expect the Euratom lending instrument to be of increasing interest to plant operators. Given that the instrument can also be applied to help finance the decommissioning of power plants, we expect the financing offered by Euratom to provide a positive contribution to the nuclear safety culture. The Commission is actively encouraging candidate countries to consider decommissioning their older (and riskier) nuclear units, an action that requires resources far in excess of the funding available through Community grants.

[1] Exchange rate was USD 0.85 for EUR 1 on 25.11.2000, i.e. USD 585m equals EUR 688m

4. CONCLUSION

The proposal is to raise the ceiling from EUR 4 000 million to EUR 6 000 million with an Obligation on the Commission to report to the Council when the lending limit reaches EUR 5 500 million. These new limits would ensure that Euratom loan applications in the pipeline could continue to be examined and proposed for decision of the Commission if and when ready.

The Council is asked to agree to the attached proposal.

**Proposal for a
COUNCIL- DECISION
amending Decision 77/271/Euratom on the implementation of Decision 77/270/Euratom
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THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community,

Having regard to Council Decision 77/270/Euroatom of 29 March 1977 [1] empowering the Commission to approve Euratom loans for the purpose of contributing to the financing of nuclear power stations, and in particular Article 1 thereof,

Having regard to Council Decision 77/271/Euratom on the implementation of Decision 77/270/Euratom, empowering the Commission to issue Euratom loans for the purpose of contributing to the financing of nuclear power stations, as last amended by Council Decision 90/212/Euratom of 23 April 1990 [2],

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission [3]

Whereas:

- (1) The total value of transactions approved is approaching the figure of EUR 3 800 million, provided for in Decision 77/271/Euratom [4], as last amended by Decision 90/212/Euratom.
- (2) By Decision 94/179/Euratom [5], the Council decided to extend the scope of the Euratom lending instrument to certain countries of central and eastern Europe and of the Commonwealth of Independent States and considers that such an instrument is still relevant.
- (3) Experience has shown that it is desirable to raise, by EUR 2 000 million, the total amount of borrowings which the Commission is empowered to contract on behalf of the European Atomic Energy Community.

Decision 77/271/Euratom should therefore be amended,

[1] OJL 88, 06.04.1977, p. 9

[2] O1L112, 03.05.1990, p. 26

[3] [...]

[4] OJL 88, 06.04.1977, p. 11

[5] OJL 84, 29.03.1994, p. 41

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Sole Article

The Sole Article of Decision 77/271/Euratom shall be replaced by the following:

'Sole Article

Loans as provided for in Article 1 of Decision 77/270/Euratom may be contracted for amounts the total principal of which shall not exceed the equivalent of EUR 6 000 million.

When the total value of the transactions effected reaches EUR 5 500 million, the Commission shall inform the Council, which, acting unanimously on a proposal from the Commission, shall decide on the fixing of a new amount as soon as possible.'

Done at Brussels, [...]

*For the Council
The President*