

To:
Mr. Frédéric Oudéa
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
Société Générale
29, Boulevard Hausmann
75009 Paris, France

Dear Mr. Oudéa,

We are aware that your bank is currently considering a loan to finance the export of equipment (turbines) for the highly controversial Baltic nuclear power plant (NPP) near Kaliningrad, Russia. The site of the Baltic NPP is about 10 km from the border of the EU member state Lithuania, which opposes this project.^{1,2}

We would like to inform you that this project has - from the beginning - lacked public acceptance and is being implemented in a region where no new energy capacity is needed. The project was conceived as an export scheme, in spite of the fact that the neighboring countries – the EU members Lithuania and Poland – have rejected offers to import electricity from the Baltic NPP.³

According to independent public opinion polls, the majority of local citizens oppose the Baltic NPP and prefer non-nuclear options of development.⁴ Their voice has, however, been ignored and the Kaliningrad regional government, in fact, had to abandon plans to develop wind power in the region when the construction of the NPP commenced. A large number of local citizens were not allowed to participate in the official public hearings of this project and “Rosatom”, the company which is implementing the project, has refused to hold additional public hearings, even in areas which will be directly affected by the project.⁵ There have also been numerous public protests in the region since the construction of the Baltic NPP started.

The poor safety record of the Russian nuclear industry is widely known, as well as its complete failure to clean up radioactively contaminated territories inside of Russia. Nuclear safety norms in Russia are so low that the country still operates 11 Chernobyl-type reactors (RBMKs), thus exposing Europe to the risk of a new nuclear catastrophe. In Lithuania, reactors of this type were shut down due to concerns of the European Commission regarding their safety. Many corruption scandals in “Rosatom” over the past two years clearly demonstrated that the Russian nuclear industry cannot be trusted to produce quality equipment for nuclear plants. In February 2012, for example, a Rosatom-owned company was accused of selling shoddy equipment to nuclear plants inside and outside Russia.⁶ As you are surely aware of the poor safety conditions in the Russian

¹ Press-release by the head of Lithuanian parliament, August 20, 2012
http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter/w5_show?p_r=4028&p_d=127841&p_k=2

² Lithuania has not received Russia's answers about safety of nuclear power plant in Kaliningrad, www.15min.lt, Sept 7, 2012 <http://www.15min.lt/en/article/world/lithuania-has-not-received-russia-s-answers-about-safety-of-nuclear-power-plant-in-kaliningrad-529-247159>

³ Information on Poland ending negotiations on electricity import from Baltic NPP from “Poland begs off new Lithuanian NPP venture, environmentalists demand to scrap the nuke plant project altogether”, Bellona, Dec 14, 2001 http://www.bellona.org/articles/articles_2011/poland_lithuania

⁴ Baltic nuclear power plant – a dodgy deal. BankTrack
http://www.banktrack.org/show/dodgydeals/baltic_nuclear_power_plant_kaliningrad#tab_dodgydeals_basics

⁵ Unneeded by Russia, the Baltic NPP seems slated to become an expensive toy for Rosatom energy export plan, Bellona, Sept 3, 2009 http://www.bellona.org/articles/articles_2009/who_is%20_baltic_npp_for

⁶ Rosatom-owned company accused of selling shoddy equipment to reactors at home and abroad, pocketing profits 2012 http://www.bellona.org/articles/articles_2012/podolsk_corruption

nuclear industry, we are shocked by your readiness to fund the cooperation between Alstom and “Rosatom”, which would help enable the construction of Russian-designed nuclear reactors in various countries. This is highly risky and unacceptable, and may lead to a repetition of the Fukushima disaster inside Europe.

The latest study of the Baltic NPP has indicated that the local energy system is not capable of transferring the large amounts of energy the Baltic NPP is slated to produce. It also concluded that the project is too expensive and that the price of energy from this plant will be higher than from other market suppliers in the Baltic region.⁷

It should also be noted that the Environmental Impact Assessment of the Baltic NPP does not comply with Russian legal norms. The construction of the Baltic nuclear power plant has been launched and continues without relevant necessary technical and engineering studies or geological surveys. An evaluation of seismic risks at the site has never been performed.⁸ Although the site of the Baltic NPP falls within the international airway zone to Kaliningrad, the reactor design has never been tested for the case of a large airplane crash.⁹ According to the Lithuanian government, the Baltic NPP project has not been subjected to safety testing based on the methodology agreed by the EU and third countries.

The Baltic Nuclear Project contains many unresolved issues including the plant's economics, nuclear safety risks, undemocratic procedures and negative public opinion. Moreover, European funding for Alstom and Rosatom would enable the construction of further dangerous and controversial projects like the Baltic NPP. Other European banks such as BNP Paribas and HypoVereinsbank have therefore declined funding for this project. The undersigned organizations call on you to follow suit and to withdraw your offers of funding for the Baltic NPP and other nuclear plants of Russian design.

We look forward to your reply and would very much welcome the possibility to discuss this project with you or other representatives of your board.

Sincerely yours,

Russia

Vladimir Sliviyak, Ecodefense, Russia

Prof. Alexey Yablokov, Socio-Ecological Union Int'l, Moscow, Russia

Vladimir Chuprov, Greenpeace Russia, Moscow

Alexandr Nikitin, Bellona, Sankt-Petersburg

⁷ Challenges of ensuring energy security of Kaliningrad Region, study conducted by Yury Zlobin, former chief of energy department in Kaliningrad government, and Bulat Nigmatulin, former deputy minister for atomic power in Russian government, July 2012. Available in English here: <http://www.anti-atom.ru/downloads/Challenges%20of%20ensuring%20energy%20security%20of%20Kaliningrad%20Region.pdf>

⁸ Russian experts join criticism of Kaliningrad nuclear facility, www.15min.lt, Sept 19, 2012, <http://www.15min.lt/en/article/business/russian-experts-join-criticism-of-kaliningrad-nuclear-facility-527-251403#ixzz276vhfsjC>

⁹ Statement by Ivan Gabelnikov, chief engineer of the Baltic NPP project, during roundtable in Kaliningrad, July 2009.

Alexandra Koroleva, Ecodefense-Zhensovet, Kaliningrad, Russia

Petr Sharov, Far-Eastern Foundation of Environmental Health, Vladivostok Russia

Tatyana Tribat, Center for Environmental Education, Novorossiysk, Russia

Andrey Rodumaha, Environmental watch of Northern Caucasus, Krasnodar, Russia

Vladimir Desyatov, Socio-Ecological Union, Sankt-Petersburg, Russia

Sergey Muhachev, Tatarstan Socio-Ecological Union, Kazan, Russia

Vitaly Servetnik, Kola environmental center, Murmansk, Russia

Lyudmila Komogortseva, “For Chemical Safety”, member of Bryansk regional parliament, Bryansk, Russia

Zinaida Altuhova, Public Environmental Center of Sakha-Yakutia, Russia

Yury Dzibladze, Center for development of democracy and human rights, Moscow, Russia

Tatyana Levashova, Nizhny Novgorod anti-nuclear movement, Nuzhny Novgorod, Russia

Alexandr Esipenok, Druzhina for nature protection, Nizhny Novgorod state University, Russia

Prof. Sergey Korenblit, Irkutsk State University, Irkutsk, Russia

Nailya Ibragimova, Nature and Youth, Murmansk, Russia

Olga Gnezdilova, Article20, Voronezh, Russia

Alexey Kozlov, ECOSOCIS Foundation, Voronezh, Russia

Maxim Nepreenko, Nature Heritage, Kaliningrad, Russia

Vladimir Milov, former deputy-minister on energy, “Demvybor”, Moscow, Russia

Olga Zakharov, Freedom Files, Moscow, Russia

France

Yann Louvel, BankTrack, International

Malika Peyraut, Les Amis de la Terre, France

Sophia Majnoni d'Intignano, GREENPEACE FRANCE

Steven Mitchell, Réseau "Sortir du nucléaire", France

Thomas Coutrot, ATTAC France

Austria

Patricia Lorenz, Global 2000 and Friends of the Earth Europe

Elvira Poeschko, Antiatom Szene, Austria

Heinz Stockinger, Chair, Salzburger Plattform gegen Atomgefahren (PLAGE) - *Salzburg Platform Against Nuclear Dangers*, Salzburg, Austria

Matthias Reichl, Center for Encounter and active Non-Violence, Bad Ischl, Austria

Belarus

Grigory Fyodorov, Ecodom, Minsk, Belarus

Vladimir Volodin, Belarus Green party, Minsk, Belarus

Egor Fedyushin, Scientists for Nuclear-Free Belarus, Minsk, Belarus

Vasil Yakovenko, Socio-Ecological Union "Chernobyl", Minsk, Belarus

Tatyana Kostyukova, "Nature and us", Minsk, Belarus

Belgium

Michel Vanhoorne, Links Ecologisch Forum

Bulgaria

Petko Kovachev, Green Policy Institute, Sofia, Bulgaria

Canada

Dr Joan Russow, Global Compliance Research Project, Victoria BC, CANADA

Finland

Ulla Klötzer, Women Against Nuclear Power, Helsinki, Finland

Lea Launokari, Women for Peace, Helsinki, Finland

Anna-Liisa Mattsoff, No more nuclear Power - movement, Helsinki, Finland

Pertti Sundqvist, Uraaniaseet kieltoon ry, Helsinki, Finland

Germany

Heffa Schücking, Urgewald, Germany

Kerstin Rudek, DIE LINKE Niedersachsen, Germany

Dieter Kaufmann, Arbeitskreis gegen Atomanlagen Frankfurt am Main, Germany

Franz Botens, Montagsspaziergang Mainz, Germany

Great Britain

Dr Paul Dorfman, The UK Nuclear Consulting Group

Italy

Giulia Franchi, Recommon, Rome, Italy

Japan

Yoshihiro, Finance GreenWatch, Tokyo, Japan

Aileen Mioko Smith, Green Action, Kyoto, Japan

Lithuania

Galina Raguzina, Informacinis kultūrinis centras EkoApsauga, Vilnius, Lithuania

Laura Gintalaitė, [ŽALILT](#), Lithuania

Poland

Radosław Sawicki, Stowarzyszenie "Wspólna Ziemia", Chojnice, Poland

Radosław Gawlik, former deputy-minister on environment of Poland, Stowarzyszenie Ekologiczne EKO-UNIA, Poland

Ewa Sufin-Jacquemart, Fundacja Strefa Zieleni, Warszawa, Poland

Antinuclear Initiative (IAN), Poland

Portugal

Alba Valle, Center for Environmental Law and Sustainable Development, Portugal

Slovenia

Lidija Živčič, Focus Association for Sustainable Development, Slovenia

Sweden

Nils-Axel Mörner, Ass. Professor in Geology, Paleogeophysics & Geodynamics, Stockholm, Sweden

Tajikistan

Timur Idrisov, Little Earth, Tajikistan

The Netherlands

Peer de Rijk, WISE International, The Netherlands

Huub Scheele, Both ENDS, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Turkey

Korol Diker, Green Thought Association, Turkey

Ukraine

Andrey Tupikov, head of science department for “Dvurechensky” scientific facility, Kharkiv, Ukraine

A.Zavorotnaya, Youth National Environmental Center of Ukraine, Kiev, Ukraine

Volodimir Pristupa, Earth Legion, Lviv, Ukraine

Artur Denisenko, National Environmental Center of Ukraine, Kiev, Ukraine

“Green World” association, Voznesensk, Ukraine

Sergey Shaparenko, Pechenegi, Kharkiv, Ukraine

Galina Protsiv, Kray environmental club, Berezhany, Ukraine

Vitaly Poletaev, Andrey Tsukanov, Green Front, Kharkiv, Ukraine

Yury Bengus, HNPU Skovorody, Kharkiv, Ukraine

Maxim Pahomov, Mig, Kharkiv, Ukraine

Andriy Martynyuk, Ecoclub, Rivne, Ukraine

USA

Denise Jakobsberg, Nuclear Information and Resource Service, USA

Judy Treichel, Steve Frishman, Nevada Nuclear Waste Task Force, Las Vegas

Alan Muller, Executive Director, Green Delaware, Port Penn, DE

Wm. Wharton Smith III, President, U.S.A. Nica Windpower, Inc. Jamestown, USA

Bruce K. Gagnon, Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space, Brunswick, ME

Wells Eddleman, Staff Scientist, NC Citizens Research Group, Durham NC

Roxanne Warren, AIA, Chair, vision42, an initiative of the Institute for Rational Urban Mobility, Inc., New York, NY

Rael Nidess, M.D. Marshall, TX USA

John LaForge, Bonnie Urfer, Nukewatch, Luck, WI

Glenn Carroll, Nuclear Watch South, Atlanta, GA

Paxus Calta, Twin Oaks, USA

Jane Swanson, San Luis Obispo Mothers for Peace, San Luis Obispo, CA

Don Eichelberger, Abalone Alliance Safe Energy Clearinghouse, San Francisco, CA

Ecological Options Network, California, USA

Maureen K. Headington, Stand Up/Save Lives Campaign, Burr Ridge, IL USA

Lynn Sims, Don't Waste Oregon, Portland, OR

Greg Mello, Los Alamos Study Group, Albuquerque, NM

Marylia Kelley, Tri-Valley CAREs, Livermore, CA