



Tėvynės sąjunga-  
Lietuvos krikščionys demokratai

Mr Miguel Arias Cañete  
Commissioner for Climate Action & Energy  
European Commission  
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200  
1049 Brussels  
Belgium

Vilnius, 28 July 2016

Dear Commissioner Cañete,

During our constructive conversation at the EPP Group meeting in Strasbourg a while ago, we have discussed grave and multiple safety problems with the Ostrovets (Astravas) Nuclear Power Plant built by Rosatom in Belarus. As you know, the project is being developed recklessly just 50 kilometers away from Vilnius, the capital of an EU Member State.

This week Lithuania received reliable information, that during an installation process on the site the builders have dropped a reactor vessel weighting 330 tons from the height of 2-4 meters. Reportedly, the accident has taken place a while ago, on 10 July, but the Belarusian side has confirmed the incident only on 26 July, after the information has leaked into the Lithuanian media, while Rosatom continues to deny that anything happened. It is absolutely clear that the damaged reactor vessel cannot be installed. However, we can never be sure if Rosatom will replace it, due to the fact that the authorities withhold information and, simply, lie. This grave incident is, unfortunately, just one of a series of incidents on the site. Therefore, for us there is the only way to be safe and secure - the construction of the Ostrovets NPP must be stopped.

Our Party has initiated a draft law prohibiting sale of the electricity generated in the Ostrovets NPP in Lithuania and preventing usage of the Lithuanian electricity system by the NPP. The aim of the draft law is to strip the project of its economic reasoning – as you know, vast majority of electricity generated at the Ostrovets NPP is planned for sale in the EU electricity market through Lithuania. This draft law was supported by almost 65 thousand citizens. It demonstrates the grave concern of the people regarding the impact of the Ostrovets NPP to their safety and security, and ensures that, according to the Constitution, the national Parliament will be obliged to consider the draft law in the upcoming session.

We are planning to build electric power converters on the border with Belarus, which will give us a physical possibility to control the flow of power current from unsafe Ostrovets NPP. However, such project is rather expensive, and therefore we would like to inquire in advance whether it could be co-financed through EU programmes or funds.

At the same time, on behalf of almost 65 thousand European citizens, I kindly ask you not only to raise this issue with the Belarusian officials, but also to make the cessation of the Ostrovets NPP construction a condition for renewing EU relations with Belarus.

Yours sincerely,

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