

No Support of Nuclear Power!

Responsible and conscientious energy policy with renewable energy

Thorsten Preugschas, CEO of Soventix GmbH, an international project developer of solar parks, takes a firm stand in the current discussion about the support of nuclear energy in Europe: "The initiative to support nuclear energy in Europe even further is based on unlikely and alarming ideas. Anyone believing that the support of nuclear energy will save the climate is on the wrong track. We need to concentrate on renewable energy sources. The stubborn holding on outdated and costly nuclear technology must finally come to an end. We need to understand that an ongoing support of nuclear energy will cause much harm for the following generations. Furthermore we take excessive risks that are difficult to comprehend. This is difficult to understand since solar energy is already a competitive energy source in many markets. Politicians have to wake up. They must finally face reality."



Thorsten Preugschas · CEO Soventix GmbH

22 May 2016, Wesel – According to a new strategy paper the European Commission intends to support nuclear power even further. This idea is outdated and dangerous. We must fight the idea of supporting an outdated, dangerous and costly technology. We need to understand that our children will pay the price for such irresponsible and unjustifiable mind games. I don't want to play a part in this game! Also, our politicians should take actions. They must distance themselves from such poor ideas. We need to look forward and not backward. Therefore, we need to support technologies of the future. The great risks of nuclear power are still omnipresent with the disaster in Fukushima. However, in Europe we often think that the threats of nuclear power are far away. This is wrong! It is much closer than many people think. A few miles away from the German board a nuclear power plant had to be shut down just a couple days ago. Experts say about "Fessenheim" that the facility has "an insufficient safety standard". Still we discuss these days about a further support of nuclear energy. This is nonsense.

Statements of leading German politicians show that they are skeptical about a further support of nuclear energy in Europe. This is a positive signal for Europe. Still, we don't need statements. We need actions. And I miss resolute actions in this field. It is hard to differentiate between cheap polemic statements and serious opinions. The lack of orientation is difficult to understand since there are already competitive and sustainable alternatives to nuclear energy. Hence, the rotten agreement for the EEG 2016 shows once again that European politicians

tend to apply double standards. Instead of a consistent support of the energy transition more and more politicians create hurdles for the extension of regenerative energy solutions. A whole industry suffers. Jobs get put at risk. Why don't we support the energy transition to lessen the climate change instead? So far many actions of European politicians harmed the energy transition process. This is irresponsible.

Some current examples to support my statements: Currently German politicians discuss to introduce a bidding process for solar plants in the building sector. This would make it very difficult to plan the development of projects and investments for many German companies in this field. It would particularly harm small project developer. With the implementation of minimum prices for Asian solar modules in the European Union our politicians already proved to be responsible for increasing system prices for solar power plants. Now they also take in consideration to destroy the planning framework for project developers. This policy harms the German solar industry.

For us project developers there is only one consequence: We have to reallocate our business from Germany to other markets outside of Europe with fair framework conditions. In many of these markets solar energy is already in an intensive economic competition with conventional energy sources such as oil, gas or coal. Also in Germany with a low radiation level solar energy would enter in a fair competition process, if there would not be so many political hurdles. I want to clarify: We don't want further subsidies. We just want a fair treatment.

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