

Energy security

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As for Poland, in 2018 we had support for nuclear at 45%. Last year the support for nuclear was above 90%. It is unusual for Polish politicians to be against nuclear these days. And even if they are against it, they rather keep it to themselves, because it would damage their prospects. So, virtually every political party in Poland is for nuclear, except the Greens. But because they are part of the coalition, they have to keep quiet about it.

What I want to tell you today, is that this change from 45% to 90% didn't happen on its own.

It's a result of campaigning of many people. But it is also a result a result of the war, Poland finally cutting all gas supplies from Russia.

When you have a gas pipeline going through your country, or importing your gas from an autocratic regime, you always have strings attached to it.

And there is corruption. And there are people who act in the interest of another foreign power.

So, energy security is an important element of democracy and sovereignty. And this is one of the main reasons why Polish people want nuclear today.

It is Energy independence.

The reason why this shift in Poland happened, is because people understand now why nuclear is important. Before, they didn't know. Also in Belgium People who were standing in the human chain in Tihange, protesting nuclear power 20 or 30 years ago, they didn't understand why they had these power plants.

Well, now people in Poland and Belgium understand why we need them. My personal history, my background is in energy efficiency. And I was very proud to cut 13 million cubic meters of gas, that was not burned thanks to my software.

And then I learned that Belgium is building new gas power plants. And I really felt personally betrayed. And this is how we started our organization, because we wanted to do something about it.

Today Belgium is building new gas power plants. And Belgium does not have gas. The gas will come from Qatar or other sources. Belgium will be more exposed to foreign influence and pressure.

The energy minister of Qatar explained two months ago, that if Europe will ever question

the rule of law in Qatar, they will immediately stop their supplies. This was publicly spoken. We know what it means in Poland, because our gas supplies from Russia were cut, just from one day to another.

Luckily, Poland was prepared. I hope Belgium is prepared too. Keeping this plant running, and Tihange too, is a very good way to be prepared for these kind of problems.

Thank you.