

English

Speech Paul Bossens, Director Stand Up for Nuclear Belgium

Citizens, Belgian and international associations, delegations of political parties and industry representatives are here together to emphasize the importance of nuclear energy. Participants come from the Netherlands, Germany, Luxembourg, France, Poland, Italy, Spain, Portugal, USA

These are interesting and turbulent times in the energy field.

Today another Belgian nuclear reactor, Doel 1, is being shut down in accordance with the 2003 nuclear exit law. This means bad news for the climate and for energy security, because once again we are losing 450 MW of CO₂-free capacity.

At the same time, as of this week, we have a new government that we congratulate on its intention to give nuclear power an important place again in our energy supply.

1. the 2003 law will be repealed
2. extensions of existing nuclear power plants will be done where possible
3. the construction of new nuclear power plants will be examined.

In this way, Belgium can once again become a leader in terms of climate and innovation.

We now also urge the new government to work with all the stakeholders involved to make this happen.

This is an event that is being followed worldwide because of the drastic 180° turnaround in the energy strategy of a country with previously 60% of its electricity supply from nuclear energy: from a complete nuclear exit to an ambitious return to nuclear energy.

To further reduce the role of nuclear energy in the current geopolitical context is indeed unwise and short-sighted. In this way, you play with the energy supply and jeopardize the energy sovereignty of our country.

Nuclear energy is essential for our country:

1. for the well-being of our citizens
2. for staying competitive of our companies and industry
3. for our economy
4. for the environment.

Europe made a big mistake as Fatih Birol of the IEA, the International Energy Agency, also stated last week in Brussels: “Europe turned his back to nuclear”.

Indeed, Europe forced us to use less fossil energy but did not provide an alternative energy source capable of replacing fossil energy.

But today more than 80% of our energy is fossil. We all know that the discovery of fossil energy resulted in the industrial revolution: less poverty and more prosperity.

When we phase out fossil energy without providing an alternative source capable of replacing fossil we take away the foundations of the industrial revolution resulting in decline and more poverty.

At the same time, we have an energy source that is capable of replacing fossil energy and that offers even more advantages: nuclear energy

1. Nuclear energy offers us abundant energy: 10,000 times more energy than fossil energy. A coal plant uses a whole train of coal a day. A nuclear power plant only 1 or 2 trucks of uranium a year.
2. Nuclear energy is clean: no CO₂, no air pollution
3. Nuclear energy is cheap, if you do it correctly: the Emirates , and China have proven it. We too have proven it. France built 56 nuclear reactors in 20 years in the 1970s. We in Belgium built 7 in less than 20 years.
4. Nuclear power is reliable: Think of that truck: once the uranium is loaded into the reactor, the reactor runs for a whole year, at full power, no matter what happens in the world geopolitically. Independent from the weather.
5. And the type of plants we use here have proven that they can produce electricity safely: in 50 years of their existence, they have caused zero casualties.

That's why nuclear power is the best solution to our energy and climate problem.

That's why nuclear power is the future of energy.

That's why we want nuclear power.

We want Nuclear

We want Nuclear

We want Nuclear