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5 **Motion for compromised on topical resolution**

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7 **Position on Nuclear Phase Out in Europe**

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9 Tabled by the EGP committee and the GGEP
10 Supported by: Die Grünen (Austria)

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12 After the earthquake and the tsunami the Japanese people are facing a nuclear catastrophe that is still
13 developing. The European Greens express their most complete solidarity with the Japanese people
14 and present their sincere condolences to the victims of this threefold disaster. The human losses and
15 material damage have not yet been fully assessed. We commend the mobilisation, courage and
16 determination of the Japanese people and of the authorities in response to this disaster.

17
18 **Taking into account that,**

19 The current nuclear threat in Japan, in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake and resulting
20 tsunami, has considerably aggravated the traumatic experience of those affected by the natural
21 disaster. Workers at Fukushima Daiichi in Japan, in their attempt to avoid the worst case scenario, are
22 facing incredibly dangerous conditions in doing so.

23
24 **Noting that**

25 **Remembering the tragic consequences of the nuclear catastrophe in Chernobyl, 25 years ago.**

26 The tragic events in Fukushima (Japan) show - once more - the devastating consequences that the
27 'risk zero' does not exist for nuclear. The continuing disaster also casts renewed doubt about the
28 reassurances of the nuclear industry on the safety of nuclear reactors and underlines that it is
29 impossible to guarantee the safety of nuclear power. There is always a 'residual risk'.

30 **Calling on Aarhus Convention, as a framework for complete transparency and necessity of including**
31 **citizens and nongovernmental organisations in decision making about environment and people's**
32 **health.**

33
34 **Noting that**

35 Many nuclear safety related incidents and accidents occur year after year, all over the world, in all
36 types of nuclear plants and in all reactor designs and that there are very serious events that go either
37 entirely unnoticed by the broader public or remain significantly under-evaluated when it comes to their
38 potential risk. In the last decades also in the Europe several very serious incidents occurred for
39 example in Tihange 1 (Belgium), Civaux 1 and Blayais 2 (France), Phillipsburg, Krümmel and
40 Brunsbüttel (Germany), Kozloduy 5 (Bulgaria), Paks (Hungary), Forsmark and Barseback 2 (Sweden)

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42 **Noting that,**

43 European Heads of state have called -after the Fukushima disaster- for a comprehensive risk and
44 safety assessment of nuclear sites in the Europe and in neighbouring countries.

45
46 **Further noting that,**

47 In response to events in Japan and following pressure through the action of various citizens and
48 grassroots actions: **Germany imposed a three month moratorium for its extension of the lifespan** of its
49 nuclear power plants and temporarily closed down 7 reactors which had gone into operation before
50 1980; France asked for a comprehensive safety tests; Italy committed for a two years moratorium on
51 its newly pro-nuclear energy strategy and one year moratorium on the research of a potential first
52 nuclear plant site while maintaining its referendum to go ahead with the Berlusconi's dream plan for
53 nuclear; Belgium maintained its phase out programme while agreeing a moratorium on opening up the
54 discussion of further expansion of the life-time of the nuclear plants; Switzerland and China have
55 both frozen their new nuclear build programme

56
57 **Emphasising that**

58 Nuclear energy is not secure, not clean and very high-risk. Nuclear technology will be forever
59 connected with hazardous mining activities, the danger of a severe accident, the unresolved problem
60 of nuclear waste and the risk of proliferation and terrorism.

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62 **Recalling that,**

63 Even after more than 50 years of using nuclear energy the problem of the disposal or final storage - in
64 particular of high level radioactive waste - remains unresolved. Most of the Europe's radioactive waste
65 is currently stored in interim storage facilities, where it will have to remain for many decades. In many
66 cases, the safety-related requirements are doubtful.

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68 The cost of nuclear energy production infrastructures is not only very high but is often obscured by
69 taxpayer-funded State support, even without including the yet-unknown costs of safe dismantlement;”

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71 **Also noting that,**

72 Currently almost 5 times as much EU research funds are set to be committed to nuclear research, in
73 particular to fusion and its white elephant 'Iter', as compared to research for renewables and
74 efficiency.

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76 **Bearing in mind that,**

77 Since uranium is not an infinite resource, nuclear cannot be considered as a solution in light of its
78 scarcity and potential depletion. Additionally, uranium is nearly entirely imported into Europe, which
79 does not help our energy independency. Furthermore the extracting of uranium causes unbearable
80 working conditions and a unpairable ecocide in the exporting countries

81
82 **Further emphasising that**

83 We don't have to rely on this high risk technology as we have safe, clean and sustainable alternatives
84 to our disposal. Decreasing the energy consumption, increasing the efficiency of our energy use and
85 expanding the use of renewables can provide for a secure energy supply in the EU fully based on
86 renewables.

87
88 **Acknowledging that**

89 Several studies such as that of European Renewable Energy Council (EREC), the European Climate
90 Foundation (ECF) or the "Vision Scenario" by the Öko Institute have demonstrated that ambitious
91 energy efficiency and renewables strategies, combined with a modernisation of the energy
92 infrastructure, make a progressive phase out of nuclear as well as coal possible. Until 2050 we can
93 achieve a 100% renewable energy supply. This requires, however, profound changes in terms of
94 energy production and consumption as well as concerted efforts at all levels – local, regional, national
95 and European.

96
97 **The European Green Party asks for:**

98 An immediate energy revolution leading to a fully European energy efficient renewables based
99 economy by 2050 at the latest, to meet our climate goals . In order to succeed in this vision, we have
100 to start today. There is no time to waste. In this context, Europe has to abandon the commitment to
101 the high risk technology of nuclear power and start a phase-out now.

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103 This implies:

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- 106 • No new nuclear reactors must be built, likewise work on nuclear plants under construction must
107 stop while those at the planning stage must not go ahead
 - 108 • In the process of the progressive nuclear phase out, reactors posing heightened risks must be
109 immediately shut down, such as reactors in seismic regions, reactors without a secondary full
110 pressure containment, and the oldest.
 - 111 • Updating binding and effective safety standards at the highest level must be implemented across the
112 EU for those reactors that will still operate in the medium term and until they are finally shut down.
 - 113 • A halt to schemes to extend plant life and/or increase effect beyond that anticipated in the original
114 plant designs. The “stress tests” as suggested by the European Commission must not be used as an
115 excuse to extend the life-time of existing nuclear power plants, which will be forbidden.

- 116 Comprehensive, compulsory transparent and full implementation of “stress tests” will also apply to
117 apply to nuclear waste, including spent fuels.
- 118 • No public money should be provided for nuclear fission or fusion; full liability of nuclear
119 operators including shareholders of the operator will apply in case of incidents or accidents will
120 have to be guaranteed
 - 121 • Ban exportation of nuclear power technology and of related intellectual property”.
 - 122
 - 123 • Repealing the EURATOM treaty and creating a European Community for Renewable Energy
124 (ERENE)”
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126 This also implies:

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- 128 • European leaders to urgently set out plans to make the goal of a 100% renewable energy
129 based economy by 2050 into a reality; the upcoming 2050 Energy Roadmap should reflect this
130 objective, including massive investment in a Europe-wide smart grid.
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- 132 • To this end an ambitious energy efficiency and energy savings legal framework has to be
133 implemented. In this context, we call, as a starting point, for a 2020 binding energy savings
134 target of at least 25% compared to the EU 2005 energy consumption.
- 135 • On the way to a 100% renewable society also new ambitious intermediate 2030 and 2040
136 mandatory targets and measures for renewable energies have to be adopted.
- 137

138 Further noting that:

139 The tragedy in Japan acted as a powerful push to the raising of awareness of European public opinion
140 of the dangers and unreliability of nuclear power. Calls for a process of phasing out of nuclear
141 technology are increasing even in countries which showed a persistent support of it, (put data in note)

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143 While supporting campaigns and petitions at national and regional level, and notably the referendum
144 on nuclear to take place in Italy in June 2011 and the initiatives which were started by different
145 citizens groups and NGOs in Austria, France, Belgium, Germany and other European countries,
146 considers that it is now time to go beyond national initiatives and support a European wide campaign
147 to stop this deadly technology and to bring about a 100% renewables and efficiency based economy.

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149 The European Green Party supports:

150 - the launching of a European wide petition in cooperation with civil society organisations and citizens
151 groups directed to the European Union institutions and member states; this petition could include,
152 among other issues, the call for the immediate shutting down of high risk nuclear power plants, the
153 progressive phasing out of all nuclear reactors, stop public funding of ITER, binding targets for energy
154 efficiency and the revision of the 2050 EU Roadmap according to the 100% renewable energy
155 scenario.

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