

International Network for Sustainable Energy - Europe

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Comment on IEA World Energy Outlook 2006

Nuclear will take scarce resources from climate actions

Today IEA releases its World Energy Outlook 2006 with arguments for more nuclear power to combat climate change and increase security of energy supply. Unfortunately exactly investments in nuclear power will change the worlds real energy outlook from bad to worse. Nuclear power is the most expensive and least safe of the supply options that we have. Practice show that the cheap nuclear options presented in IEA World Energy Outlook are far from realities. Large investments in nuclear power will drag away finance and other resources from more cost-effective ways of reducing man-made greenhouse gas emissions and use of scarce fossil fuels. Large reductions of fossil fuel use are possible with energy efficiency and with renewable energy at prices well below the costs of nuclear power. If environmental costs are added to the energy costs¹, renewable energies will be cost-effective in many more applications

If IEA would focus on futures with non-nuclear power plants and on energy efficiency, it would contribute much more to the reduction of greenhouse gases, simply because much higher reductions would be achieved with renewable energy and with energy efficiency compared with nuclear power. The situation in Finland clearly shows that after the decision of a new (5th) nuclear power reactor, support for wind power and other renewable energies are very limited, in line with the nuclear priorities, and in spite of large renewable energy potentials in the country. Similar priorities are found in other countries with a high focus on nuclear power, such as France and Hungary.

INFORSE-Europe has launched visions for phase-out of nuclear and fossil energies within 30-50 years, using current available technologies, and deploying technologies as they can become costeffective, environmental costs included. See visions for EU, Denmark, Slovakia, Romania and other countries at www.inforse.org/europe under "Vision2050". We urge the IEA to include in their analysis the visions of INFORSE-Europe and many other scenarios with similar results. These scenarios show how the world's countries can reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase security supply in sustainable ways; considerably cheaper than the nuclear projections in IEA's World Energy Outlook 2006.

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¹ Environmental costs should also include greenhouse gas emmissions. Nuclear energy has substantially larger greenhouse gas emmissions that their advocates admit, see www.stormsmith.nl