

# INF RSE-EUROPE

International Network for Sustainable Energy

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## Chernobyl + 25 Years - Let this Anniversary be the Last With Nuclear Power

Today is the 25-year anniversary of the explosion of the Chernobyl Nuclear Power plant. It is a time to remember the thousands of people that suffered an early death because of the accident, including the many that has died slowly of cancer in the years after the accident. Ironically this 25-year anniversary of the Chernobyl accident coincides with the new accident at the Fukushima nuclear power plant in Japan that continue to spread radioactive materials.

While the two accidents are very different. they also have things in common, including that the *damages they make will not be paid by the power companies that sold the power*, and that the *damages are in the order of a thousand times the insurances* of the nuclear power plants.

We do not need another nuclear power accident. *The best way to avoid an accident is to phase out nuclear power and replace it with renewable energy.* INFORSE-Europe has shown how the EU, one of the parts of the world with most nuclear power, *can change to renewable energy until 2040, i.e. 30 years from now.* As part of the proposal, *nuclear power plants shall not continue to operate beyond their design lives and no new nuclear power plants shall be built.*

*If energy efficiency and renewable energy are combined* as proposed in INFORSE-Europe's sustainable energy vision, the phase-out of nuclear power can go hand-in-hand with reduced emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> and other greenhouse gases. This sustainable energy vision includes also stable industrial activity, increased housing, and some reductions in transport to reflect that transport, like nuclear, does not pay its environmental costs today.

Because the *new nuclear power is more expensive* than optimal combinations of renewable energy, the change from nuclear energy to renewables can be cheaper than replacement of the ageing nuclear power plants with new nuclear, even without counting the costs of nuclear accidents.

*Most energy efficiency solutions are cheaper* than any energy supply, and better energy efficiency regulation could in itself replace 16 nuclear power plants of the size of Fukushima in the EU alone, by reducing the demand for power.

From the INFORSE network we call for the phase-out of nuclear power and no lifetime extension of nuclear power plants. *When 25 years from now we can "celebrate" the combined Chernobyl and Fukushima anniversaries, we do not need to have more nuclear power plants running.*

INFORSE is a network of 180 NGOs working for renewable energy and energy efficiency  
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