

Leo Šešerko

## Nuclear Power in Slovenia & Croatia: The impact of the Fukushima accident

Under cover privatisation of electrical power sector by the nuclear lobby (pro-nuclear politicians)

- Relationship between governing politicians and the nuclear lobby
- Intake of strontium 90 in children's baby teeth found in Slovenia and Croatia

Will be there a revival of nuclear or not?

The two countries own a joint NPP on Slovenian soil, but there is a lot of confusion in regard to decommissioning costs: each country has its own fund

Tito pushed two parallel nuclear programmes; a secret military one and `a peaceful` one

## Presentation of the impact of Fukushima accident

The media's presentation is `unified`

- the head of the Nuclear Safety Administration, Mr. Andrej Stritar commented: there is `no radioactive harm to people,` `no clear information about the actual situation on the site,` `no long term environmental impacts...`

Stritar said in a big international meeting in the 1980s: `nuclear waste is safe so that I am ready to put it under my bed` - then he was appointed as the NSA head

After the Fukushima accident he was appointed head of the EU stress test expert group

## .Why public opinion is still unconvinced

- There were two major sources of `positive` media reports: nuclear power expert journalists and nuclear power experts
- there was one source from the other side: short international information agency reports, published as news throughout the world
- So the successful silencing of the national opposition which was against nuclear energy failed to bring the wanted effects

Croatia uses 450 euros of oil equivalent, but the EU countries 209 euro.

## Revival of pronuclear plans to construct new reactors after the Fukushima accident

There are efforts to convince the general public that nuclear accidents are an acceptable risk of modern technology – but fundamentally it is a problem of a political class that is alienated from the people

- It is also a neoliberal solution: if it is going from bad to worse economically, it's a perfect point for a new and long awaited start to a new politics
- when the prime minister of Slovenia visited Germany, Angela Merkel proposed the elimination of the Slovenian national referendum law (similar to Switzerland`s) as one of the steps Slovenia should take to get out of economic troubles or risk the arrival of the troika; two weeks later the law was changed and is now simply a formality with no power

## Revival of plans to construct new reactors after the Fukushima accident in Eastern Europe

If Fukushima accident can be interpreted as an unusual event, nuclear revival in former eastern european countries is being portrayed as `positive`

It is in accordance with the opinion of western european economic and political elites that were opposed to the closure of nuclear reactors in their own countries

nuclear bosses in eastern european countries believe there will be a market for electricity in a `hungry` west; nuclear is cheap to produce, a CO2 free solution for climate change

There is an authoritarian political aspect to the revival

Under cover privatisation of electrical power sector by the nuclear lobby (pro-nuclear politicians)

Privatisation of the electrical power sector is similar to deregulation and privatisation in other economic sectors: though the sector is the least profitable of all, it is gradually becoming the owner and controller of hydro, wind and solar power and presents itself as a green and ecological alternative to coal, which is a climate killer;

How is such a miracle and an opposition to reason possible?

Consider the Finnish model talked about in this conference: a fund for the decommissioning of nuclear power plants: this money has to be invested somewhere and by investing it in nuclear it's kept by its side, it is an additional investment in nuclear, and makes nuclear revival easier and nuclear bosses managers of their market rivals.

## Relationship between governing politicians and the nuclear lobby

Politicians generally like to avoid discussing nuclear not only before elections, but in general. They like to let other pro-nuclear activists speak instead: e.g. the heads of the Nuclear Safety Administration, bosses of nuclear facilities and pro-nuclear enthusiasts; they claim to be `neutral` but give in to pro-nuclear `arguments`

They prefer to pass publically as environmentalists even if they are strongly in favor of nuclear and pushed nuclear when in power: `nuclear is a green solution in comparison to coal`, `nuclear has no alternative`, nuclear is a way to get contact to the most developed technologies, seen as important for countries that are behind in their technological development – an ideological substitute to the development of an effective industrial development policy

# Intake of strontium 90 in children`s baby teeth

There has been no systematic assessment (measurement and evaluation) of health risks of Strontium 90 intake in baby teeth in the vicinity of the NPP Krško

Baby teeth strontium 90 research is a form of non-invasive detection of a harmful source of irradiation (B) that people and other living creatures can carry around in their bones.

Early in the age of a fetus or child, strontium 90 is absorbed with calcium and builds up in bones and teeth. The half life of strontium 90 is 29 years.

# **Electricity sources in Croatia GWh**

<b>Hydro power</b>	<b>4.782</b>
<b>Coal power</b>	<b>4.784</b>
<b>NPP Krško</b>	<b>2.622</b>
<b>Wind power</b>	<b>329</b>
<b>Solarpower</b>	<b>2,40</b>
<b>Imports</b>	<b>6.395</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>18.914</b>

# Insurance of the NPPs in Europe and the US

Country	reactors	Insurance (Mio Euro)	Total
Belgium	7	297	297
Germany	17	2.500	unlimited
Finnland	4	191	191
France	59	91	91
Netherlands	1	340	340
Slovakia	4	50	50
Slovenia	1	170	200
Sweden	11	327	327
Switzerland	5	661	unlimited
Spain	9	1.400	1.400
Czech Rep.	6	306	306
Britain	33	157	157
US	105	8.200	8.200

Thank You!

Leo Šešerko

[leo.seserko@gmail.com](mailto:leo.seserko@gmail.com)