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Mr Jan Willem Goudriaan
EPSU General Secretary
EPSU Secretariat
40 rue Joseph II
B-1000 BRUSSELS

Subject: Outsourcing at Ignalina Nuclear Power Plant
Refs. 1. Your letter received 18 May 2015
2. Letter of Mr Dranik Nr. 61 -09 of 5 May 2015

Dear Mr Goudriaan,

Thank you for your letter concerning possible outsourcing at Ignalina Nuclear Power Plant (INPP). My services are familiar with the situation in question.

The European Union, through the Commission, has provided support to Lithuania for the early closure of INPP since 1999. During the period 1999-2013 Union financial assistance for a total of €1367 million covered operational costs of the plant, safe conservation and decommissioning activities as well as mitigating measures like energy efficiency investments in the region.

Since the closure of the second reactor in 2009 and especially since the European Court of Auditors Special Report 16/2011, the Commission has gradually concentrated its financing to core actions directly linked to decommissioning and dropped the financing of mitigating measures that must now be taken over by national authorities. This approach has been fully endorsed by the national authorities and it is the basis of the Council Regulation on Union support for the nuclear decommissioning assistance programme in Lithuania for 2014-2020.

In financing decommissioning activities maintaining a high level of operational safety at INPP remains a key objective as far as the Commission is concerned; a system for robust monitoring is in place for the Commission to ensure that this is the case. The Commission follows up and monitors the implementation of the programme through its implementing bodies, in particular the national agency CPMA.

The Commission currently pays the wages for some 2200 staff at INPP, with approximately €31 million allocated in 2015. Staff numbers in many areas have remained essentially unchanged, since the second reactor was finally shut down at the end of 2009.

In this context the Commission asked CPMA and INPP to analyse the allocation of staff to decommissioning or to safe conservation activities at INPP in order to align its financing to the new mandate of the aforementioned Council Regulation.


In response and in parallel to this analysis the Commission formally required to INPP to define an overall strategic framework that would guide decisions at INPP regarding outsourcing, from the highest-level enterprise-planning down to the lowest-level procurement. To date this decision making process on the specific issue of the “make or buy” has not yet been focused on activities having the most financial or organisational impact. The letter of Mr Dranik appears to raise a number of legitimate concerns in this regard, although the outsourcing of cleaning staff is in line with practice in similar programs. I have requested my services to reinforce their control on the implementation of the "make-or-buy" analysis by INPP.

I can already reassure you however that any savings made are not for transfer to INPP management, but would be used directly for decommissioning projects, with numerous checks in place to ensure that this is actually the case.

I can assure that the Commission aims to achieve the best result for Lithuania in terms of safe and efficient decommissioning. In this respect my services will closely monitor the ongoing process to ensure its correct implementation.

Should you have any further concerns in the future you will always be welcome to raise them with me.

Yours faithfully,


Dominique Ristori