



New Croatian Energy Strategy – Towards sustainable energy

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The Republic of Croatia has been building the Krško Nuclear Power Plant and is participating in all the activities necessary for a successful operating of the plant now for almost thirty years. However, in the light of the nuclear energy renaissance it is necessary to prepare ourselves for new challenges, stricter criteria of safety and protection, respect the indispensability of continuous re-examination of safety of procedures and methods. The Republic of Croatia has strictly committed herself to the nuclear energy programme development – CRONEP in accordance with the methodology of the International Atomic Energy Agency. Certainly, in the first moment till the possible decision on the building of nuclear power plant,

it will be necessary to make an institutional framework and create human resources and such an infrastructure that will be able to, when the decision will be taken, support the project and realize it with maximal efficiency. We consider it the unique way in which it is possible to avoid what proved to be the weakness of some projects of nuclear power plants, that is missing a deadline and problems concerning financing that are intolerable taking into account the value of the investment. Likewise, since the Conference is dedicated to small and medium-sized electric networks or to small nuclear power programmes, it needs to be mentioned that except the largest facilities it should be promoted researching of nuclear power reactors of medium size whose development somehow falls behind in this moment. Medium size reactors gives great advantages to smaller economies in technical and financial sense.

From the current standpoint solutions of viability of nuclear programmes through re-processing of the spent nuclear fuel in new generation of power plants are discernible. Since today's technologies are sufficiently safe there is no need to wait with this development and fuel from one generation shall be re-processed into the fuel for the next generation of reactors. In the case of this closed fuel cycle, nuclear fuel reserves will be sufficient for some millennia. Therefore, in the European strategic technology plan the development of nuclear technology is included as one of seven areas of energy industry development to achieve deployment of cost-effective low carbon technologies.

Instead of conclusion I would like to point out that only if nuclear power is used in a safe, technically justifiable and moral way it may become available to all and be a good answer to energy challenges of the modern world. Therefore it is necessary that each national nuclear energy programme has its full credibility.

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