



Authority for Nuclear Safety and
Radiation Protection

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**Autoriteit Nucleaire
Veiligheid en
Stralingsbescherming**
ANVS
Beleid en Regelgeving

Den Haag
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Contact

Date 6 June 2017
Subject Resolution endorsed by Dutch Parliament

Ref:
ANVS-2017/6943

Dear Mr. Cloosters,

I am writing to you because last week the Dutch parliament endorsed a "resolution" requesting the Dutch government to join Germany en Luxembourg in their request to the Belgian government to close down the Tihange NPP¹.

The safety of nuclear power plants in Belgium is an important issue for the Dutch government. Many citizens and local authorities in the south of our country are concerned because of the perceived nuclear safety situation and the fact that Belgian nuclear power plants are located near the border with the Netherlands.

The safety of the plants and the public concerns are regularly discussed between both countries, both at government level and between regulators. Based on the information provided by FANC, the Belgian regulator, on the actual safety of the power plants, the Dutch government has to date seen no reason to request the Belgian authorities to close down one or more power plants.

¹ Courtesy translation of the resolution:

The House, [...]

observing that the Belgian nuclear power plant in Tihange must frequently shut down due to safety issues; whereas the construction of the nuclear power plant in Tihange provided for a phase-wise closure of the various units, with closure taking place in the period 2005 to 2015; whereas the oldest units of the nuclear power station should have been closed more than eleven years ago; observing that the Director of the Federal Agency for Nuclear Control (FANC) in letters of 1 July 2016 and 1 September 2016 criticized the safety policy at Tihange nuclear power plant and that the director confirmed this criticism in November 2016 in various Walloon and Flemish media; whereas in case of a nuclear disaster in Tihange the Netherlands, Germany and Luxembourg are severely affected; whereas Germany and Luxembourg have requested the Belgian government to close down the nuclear reactors in Tihange for safety reasons; calls on the Dutch Government, to join Germany and Luxembourg and urge the Belgian Government to close the Tihange nuclear power plant

Now that the Dutch parliament urges to join the government of Germany and Luxembourg in their request to close down Tihange, I am looking for more and precise information about the position of your government.

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In particular I would appreciate getting your answer to the following questions:

- What is the position of your government regarding the safety of the Belgian nuclear power plants in general and Tihange in particular?
- What is the exact request of your government to the Belgian government? And how did you communicate it?
- On what grounds is the request based (technical, political, general concerns?) and what is the purpose of it?
- Can you provide us some information about any legal analysis you performed, as a basis of the German request to close down plants in a different country?

Date
6 June 2017

Your information will be very helpful in determining the position of the Dutch government.

If you need more information or in case you have any question or further inquiry, please do not hesitate to contact us

I trust you can send your answer before the end of June. Thank you in advance for your answer.

Best regards,

~~DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS,~~

~~C.B.F. Kuyjpers~~