

**Juliane Dybkjaer from Copenhagen in Denmark presents us the attitude of the Danish Churches, of seven non-governmental organizations and eight political parties towards the nuclear energy.**

### **Churches**

The Danish Church (which is protestant) has an initiative called 'Churches and climate'. Here, different churches can commit themselves to being green (talking to young people about being green and making churches more energy efficient). An interactive map at [www.gronkirke.dk](http://www.gronkirke.dk) (Green Church) shows if your local church takes part in the initiative. The churches, however, do not mention anything about nuclear energy. They use the term 'green energy' and try to use energy from renewable energy sources (wind, sun etc). I have not found any sites that say anything about nuclear energy, nor have I found anything that suggests that the Danish churches were involved with helping Chernobyl victims in 1986. (Here, it is perhaps a good thing to mention that the Danish church is administered by the state of Denmark; it is not, like in some countries, a private organization, and it is very rare that the church commits itself to humanitarian work).

### **NGOs**

**Klimakaravanen (The Climate Caravan):** A bus that from 2007-2010 drove around and visited schools in Denmark and talked to students about energy supplies and problems.

They concentrate on renewable energy, and the only place where they mention nuclear energy is when they link to the pro-nuclear energy website [www.world-nuclear.org](http://www.world-nuclear.org) (the link appears under the headline What solutions to choose?).

**Øko-klima (Organic climate):** A website dedicated to the problem of organic farming and the fact that it uses more energy per produced item of food than regular farming. Shows solutions and ways of dealing with organic farming. Does not in any way mention nuclear power.

**Forbrugerrådet (Danish Consumer's Council):** An organization that helps Danish consumers with advice and help in many ways. In the section 'Environment', there are articles about environmental issues and how the average consumer can live more environmentally friendly. There are no articles about nuclear energy.

**Det økologiske råd (Eco Council Denmark):** Eco Council Denmark is opposed to nuclear power. In an article on their website published in the Danish magazine The Engineer, they state that nuclear power is not and will not in the future be necessary in order to live up to current goals for renewable energy. The article states:

*... (Building nuclear power plants in Denmark) will cost enormous sums and give far less CO2 reduction than what the same money could be used for in terms of energy efficiency, energy conservation and promoting renewable energy sources. And what is worse - nuclear power will hamper the introduction of renewable energy sources, because it will seize the financial resources. Because it must run continuously - as the base load, it is very inflexible and cannot be used along with wind power. In addition, nuclear power plants must be located far from the cities, and excess heat cannot be used for district heating, but will be wasted. Also, the unresolved problems with waste disposal, shortage of uranium supplies and the scarcity of technological / architectural skills, etc., should be considered.*

**Center for energibesparelser (The Danish Energy Saving Trust):** Does not mention nuclear power at all.

**Energitjenesten (The Energy Service):** Mentions the EURATOM collaboration in a short article that states that the collaboration works with nuclear safety and with promoting nuclear power in Europe. The article does not state whether the Energy Service is pro or con nuclear power.

**Vedvarende energi (Sustainable energy):** Was originally an organization with the goal of promoting alternatives for nuclear power, but now, their focus is sustainable energy and the way it must be promoted in Denmark. They state, *"nuclear power never was, is not and will never be the answer in Denmark"*.

### **Political parties**

**Socialistic people's party (SF):** Fourth-largest party in Denmark, second largest in the opposition. Their site does not mention anything about the party's stance on nuclear power other than a portrait of one of the leading figures in the party, Margrethe Auken: *"Margrethe has always been focusing on global solidarity and environmental issues, but it was the fight against nuclear power that made her join politics"*.

**Social democratic party:** Largest party in Denmark, largest in the opposition.

Article about nuclear power from their website: *"Like most parties in the parliament, the social democratic party does not think nuclear power is the right choice. You should consider it carefully, though. We are emitting way too much CO2 by using oil, coal and gas. But we would rather prioritize the development of energy sources such as wind, bio fuel, sun etc to decrease the emission of CO2. Those are sustainable and also safe energy sources.*

*The three most important arguments against nuclear power is:*

- *We are not sure of the consequences of dumping nuclear waste in the nature. We do not know if we are just pushing environmental problems in front of us and are making it difficult for future generations. There is a lot of debate over deposit of waste. The social democratic party thinks that there is no safe way to dump waste.*
- *The reserves of uranium to produce water based nuclear power plants are, like the fossil fuels, running low. New nuclear power plants are therefore a bad, shortsighted solution.*
- *Where would the nuclear power plant be located? Denmark is a small country, and we are densely populated. It will be hard to find a location for a nuclear power plant.*

*Because of these reasons, the social democratic party says NO to nuclear power.*

**Enhedslisten (the unity list):** The most radical left-wing party in Denmark and the smallest in the parliament. Enhedslisten is opposed to nuclear power and state in their program that *"we have won the battle against nuclear power and made Denmark a pioneering country in terms of wind power"*.

**Radikale:** Center-left-wing party. Their site does not mention nuclear power.

**Venstre (Liberal Party):** Second largest in Denmark, largest in government. Does not mention nuclear power on their website.

**Konservative (Conservative party):** Smallest party in government. Does not mention nuclear power in their political program.

**Liberal Alliance:** Does not mention nuclear power on their website, although one candidate have said that he is pro-nuclear power in Denmark.

**Danish people's party (DF):** Most radical right-wing party in Denmark. Third-largest party in the parliament. Does not mention anything about nuclear power on their website.

#### **DISCLAIMER ABOUT WHY THE PARTIES DOES NOT MENTION NUCLEAR POWER**

Although some politicians from time to time bring up the subject and say that it may be a way of dealing with the future shortage of fossil fuels, there is a consensus in the parliament that nuclear power is not a good solution for Denmark. I guess this is why so many of the parties do not mention nuclear power at all – it is simply not relevant.