

**Anna Sievälä from Joensuu in Finland presents the political attitudes on nuclear energy of two bigger and two smaller parties. The first big party I chose (Keskusta, The Centre Party) is at the moment in the government and the other one (SDP, Social Democratic Party of Finland) in the opposition. Also the first of the smaller parties (Vihreät, The Greens of Finland) is now in the government and the other one (Vasemmistoliitto, The Left Alliance) in the opposition.**

### **Keskusta, The Centre Party**

There is no clear opinion on nuclear energy found in the website of Keskusta. When the topic is handled, it says this (the headline of the writing is "Nuclear power"):

"Since Keskusta returned to the government in 2003 the use of wood in energy production has tripled during years 2003-2007. --. By the year 2020 the use of forest energy must be tripled compared to the situation today. --. According to Finland's law about nuclear energy the principle decisions about nuclear power plant projects are made by the government on the ground of the society's overall benefit. --. The projects must include the aspect of taking care of the NPP's security in order to get permission to build the NPP. --. In practice there will have to be several activities done to reduce the amount of greenhouse gas discharges. These include increasing energy efficiency, renewable energy and a considered amount of nuclear energy." In conclusion, The Centre Party accepts the use of nuclear energy and is also ready to increase the amount of nuclear power as long as the security has been taken care of. The Centre Party also wants to support and increase the amount of renewable energy, especially energy from wood.

### **SDP, Social Democratic Party of Finland**

About nuclear power it says on SDP's website:

"We approve the construction of additional nuclear power plants as part of the diversification of Finnish energy sources. Investing in nuclear power must not come at the expense of investment in renewable energy sources."

About energy in general SDP says the following:

"Finland should be an oil independent state by 2030. At the same time, energy consumption must be reduced to guarantee an affordable energy supply, particularly for Finnish industry. Finland must construct a versatile and self-sufficient energy system. The share of energy production from domestic sources must be increased, including a green certification and subsidy scheme for renewable energy - based on genuine environmental criteria."

In conclusion, SDP sees nuclear power as a part of a versatile energy system, which according to them is the ideal situation. Therefore SDP approves also the possible increasing of the use of nuclear power but lines at the same time that this can't come at the expense of the use of renewable energy sources.

### **Vihreät, The Greens of Finland**

The Greens of Finland concentrates traditionally in its politic to environment issues. About nuclear power and energy it says the following in The Greens' website:

"The Greens have unanimously voted against the principle decisions made to support new nuclear power plants both in the government and in the parliament. We must change to sustainable forms of energy. – We don't want uranium mines in Finland. The use of nuclear power in energy production must be reduced. – Burning of peat has to be reduced. We can do that best by increasing the use of wood and other renewable forms of energy in the current peat power plants. – We have to build a lot more wind power plants. In European context Finland belongs to developing countries when it comes to the use of wind power."

In conclusion, The Greens are very clear in their energy politics: Strong no to nuclear power, yes to renewable energy forms, especially wind power.

## **Vasemmistoliitto, The Left Alliance**

The chairman of the Left Alliance, Paavo Arhinmäki, says the following about nuclear power on the party's website:

".. insists that no building permissions will be given to new nuclear power plants. – It is realistic to look at nuclear energy as a whole. Nuclear power has considerable risks and it causes environmental hazards throughout the entire process, starting from uranium mining and ending to the final disposal. – The Left Alliance insists that during the parliament election discussion [the parliament election is held on April the 16<sup>th</sup>] there will be an honest discussion about those forms of energy which Finland is going to rely on in the future. The Left Alliance has a clear negative attitude towards building more nuclear power plants."

About energy in general it says the following on the website:

"We want to invest on national renewable forms of energy. " Also wind and wood energy are mentioned on the website as supportable forms of energy.

In conclusion, the Left Alliance is strongly against nuclear energy and wants to support renewable forms of energy.