

**German Jimanez from Sivilla in Spain presents the attitudes of the three most important political parties in Spain; the Social-Democratic Party (PSOE), the Conservative Party (PP) and the left-wing Green Party (IU-los Verdes). Additionally we get information about the National Security Council “CSN”.**

The three most important political parties in Spain: **PSOE** (social-democratic party), **PP** (conservative party), **IU-los Verdes** (left wing - green party), deal with the Nuclear and Energy issues from different perspectives according to their ideologies, which are in their 2008 electoral programs.

The debate about nuclear energy gained importance in Spain after the beginning of the economic crisis and it's currently having a new impulse after the nuclear accident in Japan:

In 2009 the social democratic government of José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero (PSOE), contradicted its political program when, in its New Sustainable Economy Law, it accepted the extension of time an NPP was supposed to be active (40 years in the first nuclear program), depending on their situations at this time.

This political debate became more controversial and had a different social and media projection after the catastrophe in Japan; and the different political parties', NGO's and energy institution's views got radicalised.

Before the analysis of how those three political parties approach the Nuclear energy issue, it's important to clarify the current Spanish energy context, where the international energy dependence represents an 80% of the total energy production and where there are only eight NPPs, because of the nuclear moratorium decreed in the 90's.

## **PP**

*Partido Popular. Conservative main force and opposition.*

They propose a New Energy Conservation and Saving plan focused on means of transport, domestic consumption, industry and cogeneration. They will maintain the NPPs that are currently working, as well as they will promote new ways of energy production, like hydrogen one.



They will establish an equilibrated “mix” energy plan, with the support of the other social and political forces, based on these points:

- Maintenance of the current energy plants and a NPP's lives administration according to the international tendencies and the CSN (Nuclear Security Council) advices.
- Reutilization of the residuals and development of renewable energies, especially those ones that could be attractive to investments.
- Reutilization of the mini hydraulic power plants that are not working anymore.
- A gradual substitution of the fossil fuel energy that are in a strategic risk situation or that cause environmental impact.

- Diminution of the international energy dependence down to 55%, similar to the EU average, increasing the renewable energy up to 12% in 2012 and 20% in 2020.
- Intensification of the importance of the CSN as a regulative and consultative institution.

## IU-LV

*Izquierda Unida-los Verdes. Left wing and green party (only a 5% representation in the Parliament).*



IU, because of its little Parliament representation, has a political program aimed at its electorate and, as a 'green party', it is focused on a concise energy plan.

- They propose to close Garoña NPP (the oldest one) immediately and the other ones gradually.
- Stimulation of the Renewable Energy Law.
- To give a new impulse to the Energy Conservation and Saving Law.
- Elaboration of an Ecological Fiscal Reform, based in a contamination rate, as it is said in their program: *'Those who contaminate must pay for it'*.
- New election system for the State institutions, which affects directly to the CNS (Nuclear Security Council), promoting a wider social-political representation.
- Development of pacifist and antinuclear policies in the EU Common Security and Defence Policy.

## PSOE

*Social democratic party. Spain's current government.*



At first, the PSOE political program carried on with the energy policies initiated in 2004 that said *'We will keep our compromise of the gradual substitution of nuclear energy for renewable ones, cleaner and cheaper, according to NPPs security and a social consensus'*. But, in 2010 they had to face a controversial issue: the Garoña NPP close.

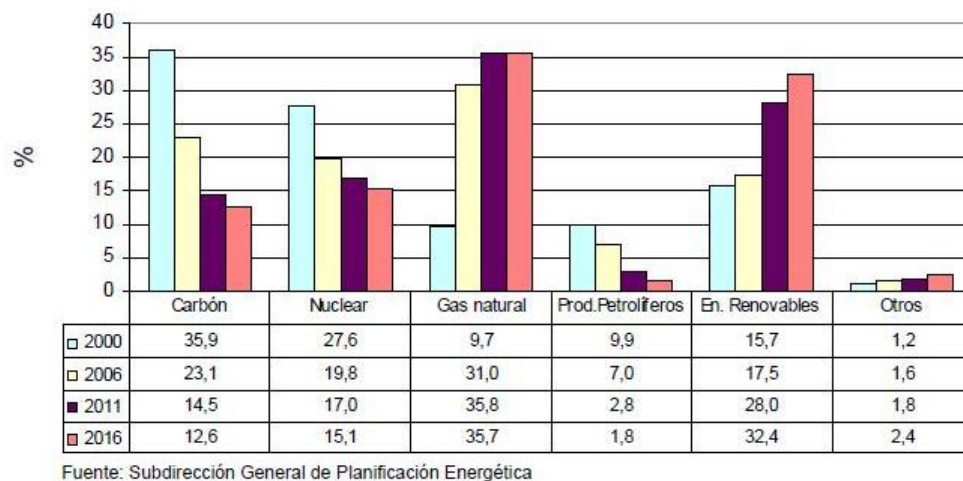
This NPP was opened in 1970 and it's the oldest one. Spanish NPPs are supposed to have a 40 year-life, but this is not regulated by any law; and although PSOE wasn't meant initially to break this, in 2009, the Ministry of Industry permitted Garoña work up to 2013.

This measure was reinforced by the passing of the New Sustainable Economy Law in 2010, which allowed the extension of the NPP's life according to a security analysis made by the CSN. There could be many reasons of why Zapatero changed his energy policies:

- The economy crisis context was not the best situation of a 1000 worker mass dismissal.

- As it is said before, Spain depends on international energy production in an 80%. Spanish energy is independent in three sectors: Nuclear, Renewable energy and Fossil fuel, especially carbon, which is the most contaminating and the most expensive one. This sector is subsidized by Spanish Government and the UE, because its close will destroy too many posts of job.

This is the Ministry of Industry Energy Plan for 2008-2016:



The Ministry of Industry clarifies that Natural Gas will be more representative even than the renewable ones and also that the Nuclear energy development will depend on the development of the other ones, especially the renewable energy improvement.

## CSN

Consejo de Seguridad Nuclear - *Nuclear Security Council*.



CSN is a state institution independent to neither the Government nor any territorial administration, which has exclusive competences in nuclear energy. Its duties are:

- To watch for the environment, measuring radioactivity levels.
- To inform about NPPs projects and to control how NPPs work.
- To take action in case of a nuclear emergency.
- To investigate new different nuclear and radiological plans.
- To propose a nuclear legislation, acquiring this law to the UE and international legislation. In fact, the CSN can elaborate legally binding technical programs.
- To inform the public opinion and the Parliament about its results.