

Yann PERROTTE intervention in the discussion of 1st November 2012 Global Meeting IndustriAll Sector Energy Production

Presentations this morning were very interesting and gave us lot of informations. I wish to speak on four points: the future of nuclear energy policy, precarious employment, and renewable energy in terms of their development and in terms of the electricity price fixing.

On nuclear energy in electricity production, in France unions are mostly favorable AREVA EPR reactor, because safer and allows more recycling of uranium and plutonium from reprocessing.

Indeed, one of the lessons of Fukushima is the problem of pools, and on the site of La Hague in France, in my factory, there are 10,000 tons of spent fuel in pools. We are in favor of decreasing the stock to 1,500 or 2,000 tons, corresponding to the annual flow.

We also support the construction of another EPR in France, that would amortize the cost.

We also support in France the development of a new fast breeder reactor (ASTRID project) which would also consume uranium and plutonium, and thus would increase the amount of recycled nuclear fuel.

In France, unions are mainly for development of nuclear power, which provides sustainable jobs, skilled employment, and higher social rights.

About precarious employment, we totally agree with the intervention of Danish Comrade Jörgen RASMUSSEN. This joins our claim to get in France a collective agreement covering employees of large enterprises and outsourcing (excluding employees covered by a statute or law, for example: EDF).

The development of renewable energies requires, as has been explained, an extension of electricity networks. But in France environmental associations (NGOs) contest the creation of new high voltage lines.

On the other hand, the development of renewable energy has an effect on electricity price fixing because they are much more expensive to produce than nuclear. In France, a tax on the electricity price has been created to support this development, which means that the electricity price, which is low thanks to nuclear, has been increased to fund the development of a production more expensive! Obviously this is not good for consumers so for employees.