

ORANO AND EDF - RUSSIA

→ Formal notices

March 21, 2022

ISSUES

Greenpeace criticised EDF and Orano for not ending their commercial relations with the Russian nuclear industry after Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022. On the grounds of duty of vigilance law, it asked them to break off their contracts with Rosatom and not to contribute to the violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms by the Russian state.

ACTORS

Greenpeace France initiated the formal notices.



CASE DESCRIPTION

According to Greenpeace, Orano and EDF have links with the Russian nuclear industry Rosatom. The organisation highlighted 'the interdependencies between the French and Russian nuclear industries, from uranium mining to waste treatment, from the construction of power plants to their operation'[1] and links covering the entire civil nuclear energy production chain, right through to the sector's research and development activities [2].

Even though in March 2022 the European Parliament called on the Member States 'to put an end to all collaboration with Russia in the nuclear field' [3], the two companies are said to have continued their business and commercial relations with Rosatom.

According to Nicolas Nace, Energy Transition Campaigner at Greenpeace France, 'the urgent need to put an end, by all peaceful means, to the war being waged by the Russian state in Ukraine means that contracts between the French and Russian nuclear industries must be terminated. France can put the brakes on the Russian reactor export drive, which Vladimir Putin is using for geopolitical ends. Preserving the interests of the French nuclear industry cannot be achieved at the expense of human rights' [4].

Greenpeace France pointed out that: 'France [...] must set an example by following the European Parliament's resolutions following the war in Ukraine, and take the lead in developing an energy policy that guarantees France's and Europe's energy independence and security'[5]. The organisation stressed: 'It is urgent to stop all support and funding - via nuclear and fossil fuels - for the war effort by Vladimir Putin's regime, which is also brandishing the nuclear threat. France and French nuclear companies can and must end their partnerships with Russia today'[6].

[1]<https://www.greenpeace.fr/espace-presse/greenpeace-france-demande-a-edf-et-orano-de-rompre-immEDIATEMENT-leurs-contrats-avec-lindustrie-nucleaire-russe/>

[2]https://cdn.greenpeace.fr/site/uploads/2022/03/Decryptage-Lindustrie-nucleaire-francaise-une-alliee-du-regime-de-Poutine-Greenpeace-France-mars-2022.pdf?_ga=2.129902668.1788037097.1647852898-1999540756.1598256811

[3] https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2022-0052_FR.html

[4]<https://www.greenpeace.fr/espace-presse/greenpeace-france-demande-a-edf-et-orano-de-rompre-immEDIATEMENT-leurs-contrats-avec-lindustrie-nucleaire-russe/>

[5]https://cdn.greenpeace.fr/site/uploads/2022/03/Decryptage-Lindustrie-nucleaire-francaise-une-alliee-du-regime-de-Poutine-Greenpeace-France-mars-2022.pdf?_ga=2.129902668.1788037097.1647852898-1999540756.1598256811

[6] *ibid.*

