

Federal Chancellery
Chancellor
Olaf Scholz

Willy-Brandt-Strasse 1
10557 Berlin

Berlin, March 21, 2022

Open letter to the Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, Mr. Olaf Scholz, on the continued operation of German nuclear power plants

Dear Chancellor,

With this letter, we, the industry association Kerntechnik Deutschland eV (KernD), would like to urgently appeal to you, in view of the potentially dangerous situation in our country's energy supply, to reconsider the government's current position regarding the use of nuclear energy and to take all steps immediately to advocate for a prepare for emergencies.

In order to be prepared for a further escalating situation as a result of the war in Ukraine, which can lead to gaps in the power supply this year, or in the worst case in the coming winter of 2022/2023, all available energy sources must be used. When it comes to power supply, these are undoubtedly German nuclear power plants, which, with their availability around the clock and are also climate-friendly, not only stabilize the power grid in an emergency, but can also cover a not inconsiderable part of the base load requirement with their generation.

Nuclear power plants can then continue to be operated this summer without any problems at least until next spring by means of so-called stretch operation and, if necessary, fuel-saving operation. If desired, they can contribute to the security of the German and European power supply for years to come by recharging with new fuel elements and at the same time reduce dependence on imported fossil fuels. This measure could be decided immediately and implemented at short notice. Unlike, for example, the new liquid gas terminals currently being considered or also extensions to renewable energies with the associated network expansion.

As an industry, we had already made public our offer of help for the continued operation of German nuclear power plants on March 4th. Shortly thereafter, in a test report entitled "Review of the continued operation of nuclear power plants due to the Ukraine war", the Federal Government presented to the public a catalog of obstacles which, in our opinion, are often technically incorrect and, above all, do not do justice to the current critical situation. We then commented on the test report in detail and published it.

Even if we all hope that the Ukraine conflict can be resolved as soon as possible, that is currently no more than a wish. And the pursuit of a reduction in gas consumption and gas imports in the interests of climate protection cannot be realized in the short term. Such measures must be accompanied by a safe and reliable energy supply.

Dear Mr. Federal Chancellor, please ensure that the fundamental decision is taken now to continue operating nuclear power plants to ensure energy security, so that the necessary measures can be taken in good time.

Yours sincerely

dr Thomas Behringer
Managing Director KernD eV