

Open Letter

E.ON SE
Dr. Johannes Teyssen
Brüsseler Platz 1
45131 Essen

Uniper SE
Dr. Klaus Schäfer
E.ON-Platz 1
40479 Düsseldorf

Bremen, 30th June 2016

Planned wood firing at the Provence Power Station poses threat to forests

Dear Mr Teyssen, Dear Mr Schäfer,

During an international NGO meeting of the Forest Movement Europe network, held in Scotland at the beginning of June, E.ON's biomass plans came under strong criticism. The critique was also related to the Provence Power Station in Grandance, France, which is now operated by E.ON's newly established subsidiary Uniper. Plans to burn more than 800.000 tonnes of woodchips a year in Unit 4 of the power station impose a serious risk to the environment. They threaten forests in southern France and forests overseas, since more than half of the wood is to be imported.

We therefore call on E.ON/Uniper to immediately cease the conversion of Unit 4 of Provence Power Station to biomass.

The following negative consequences can be foreseen:

- E.ON's/Uniper's enormous demand for fuel will significantly increase the pressure on forest ecosystems throughout the sourcing area for the power station in France. There is a significant risk that biodiverse natural forests could be converted to industrial tree monocultures, with disastrous consequences for biodiversity. Furthermore, E.ON's/Uniper's plans are threatening tourism, which forms an important part of the economy, and local structures.
- According to our information, E.ON/Uniper is planning to import more than half of the wood. There are many instances of exploitative and destructive logging practices in potential sourcing regions, such as in Brazil, North America and Eastern Europe. Furthermore, E.ON's/Uniper's own wood sourcing policies are not sustainable: For example, E.ON/Uniper has commercial links to the US wood pellet company Enviva. Environmental NGOs have provided exhaustive documentation that Enviva sources wood for its pellets from clearcut forests.
- Wood-based bioenergy generated in large power stations does not help to mitigate climate change. On the contrary: Such wood combustion emits significant amounts of the greenhouse gas CO₂, which accelerates global warming. The advantages for the climate promised by E.ON/Uniper in respect of the power station's conversion to biomass are not backed up by evidence.
- E.ON/Uniper is profiting from a false EU biomass strategy. In this case, E.ON/Uniper is looking for public finance to extend the lifetime of this ancient power station through a conversion to wood burning.

Moreover, E.ON/Uniper should re-examine all other biomass plans and instead invest in an energy transition which is worthy of the name, without recourse to fossil fuels.

The signatories to this letter would appreciate a prompt response from E.ON/Uniper on this matter. We would be happy to discuss the issue further with you.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Gerhardt	denkhausbremen, Germany
Almuth Ernsting	Biofuelwatch, UK
Nicolas Bell	SOS Fôret du Sud, France
Mary S. Booth	Partnership for Policy Integrity (PFPI), USA
Rémy Carrodano	Collectif de Vigilance- Gaz de Gardanne-Pays d'Aix, France
Simon Counsell	Rainforest Foundation, UK
Sylvia Hamberger	Gesellschaft für ökologische Forschung, Germany
Tim Keating	Rainforest Relief, USA
Wolfgang Kuhlmann	Arbeitsgemeinschaft Regenwald und Artenschutz (ARA), Germany
Andrey Laletin	Friends of the Siberian Forests, Russia
Andrew Llanwarne	Friends of the Earth Tayside, Scotland
Simone Lovera	Global Forest Coalition, Paraguay
Lazlo Maraz	Forum Umwelt & Entwicklung/ AG Wälder, Germany
Wally Menne	Timberwatch Coalition, South Africa
Winnie Overbeek	World Rainforest Movement, Uruguay
Philip Owen	GeaSphere, South Africa
Anne Petermann	Global Justice Ecology Centre, USA
Jannis Pfendtner	Robin Wood, Germany
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