

Finland Calls For Sixth Nuclear Plant To Meet Kyoto Goals

Finland's Trade and Industry Minister Mauri Pekkarinen has called for a sixth nuclear reactor to be built so his country can meet its Kyoto goals. Finland can meet EU limits on carbon dioxide emissions by 2010 through greater use of renewable energy and biofuels but further tightening of the limits means more nuclear plants are needed, says Pekkarinen. "Finland should have realised the need to increase the use of bioenergy considerably earlier. We can no longer meet our emission obligations with bioenergy," he says. The government is now building Finland's fifth nuclear power reactor on the western coast – the Olkiluoto 3 plant is the first reactor to be built in western Europe in more than a decade. Europe's nuclear landscape is poised for change however, with Germany expected to drop plans to phase out its 17 nuclear power plants in the face of concerns about Russian energy dominance, climate change obligations and higher oil prices. France has also indicated it will develop a new generation of nuclear reactors by 2020 and in Poland talks have begun between Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland to build a new nuclear plant costing up to US\$4 billion.

[Source esaa news]