

Coal power plant Datteln4 is unnecessary and harmful for the German energy transition!

**Environmental activists protest in front of
the Finnish embassy in Berlin**

Berlin, 16.03.2020| **Activists of the German environmental organization ROBIN WOOD protested today in front of the Finnish embassy in Berlin against the planned commissioning of the hard coal power plant Datteln 4. The activists unfurled a banner saying “How dare you? - Stop Datteln 4!” on flagpoles in front of the embassy building. Via the state-owned energy provider Fortum, the Finnish government holds shares in Uniper, the operator of Datteln 4. Due to the Corona Pandemic, the protest took place in a smaller scale.**

According to ROBIN WOOD the commissioning of Datteln4 would amount to a confession of failure of German climate politics. Instead of new, centralized fossil power plants the organization demands a fast transition towards a decentralized, renewable energy system.

Tomorrow the Fortum Annual General Meeting will take place in Helsinki. The Finnish government under Prime Minister Sanna Marin has announced to make climate change its first priority. The Scandinavian country is expected to phase out of coal by 2029. Datteln 4 will show whether Sanna Marin keeps her word.

“The switching on of the Datteln 4 coal-fired power plant would trample on climate protection and send a disastrous signal internationally. Uniper and the German federal government are willingly accepting this. Now the Finnish government must take responsibility and speak out clearly at the Fortum Annual General Meeting tomorrow for the closure of the power plant”, says ROBIN WOOD energy campaigner Ronja Heise.

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Contrary to what the operator Uniper and NRW's Prime Minister Armin Laschet previously claimed, the commissioning of Datteln 4 would result in considerable additional CO2 emissions. Studies of the Federal Environment Ministry and the German Institute for Economic Research speak of ten to 40 million tons of additional CO2 compared to the original shutdown plan of the coal commission. And even this coal phase-out plan is far too lax and a rejection of international climate justice.

"It is absurd that we are currently discussing the switching on of a new coal-fired power plant in Germany. The climate crisis is already destroying people's livelihoods worldwide. For decades, the industrialized countries have benefited enormously from the burning of fossil fuels and fueled climate change. Now it has to be a matter of phasing out coal and all other fossil energies as quickly as possible!", says ROBIN WOOD activist in Jana.

In addition to enormous CO2 emissions, the commissioning of Datteln 4 would also lead to the further import of hard coal.

"Hard coal kills - by heating up the climate crisis as well as by massive destruction and human rights violations in the mining areas. Millions of lives worldwide must not be put at risk for the profit of fewer companies in the industrialized countries!", says Aaron. "Climate change is not waiting for the corona pandemic to end. We continue to put pressure on the government to pursue a rapid phase-out of coal. "

The climate justice movement and numerous environmental organizations have announced various protests against Datteln 4 for the next few months. The Finnish government must be clear: with Datteln 4, Fortum has taken on an considerable investment risk.

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Background and further links:

The Finnish Chancellery holds 50.76 percent of the shares in Fortum.

The rest of the shares are largely held by pension funds, banks and

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foundations. <https://www.fortum.com/about-us/investors/share-information/major-shareholders>

Fortum acquired E.ON's stake in Uniper in 2017. Fortum has held 49.9 percent of the voting rights since 2018. Fortum plans to acquire a further 20.5 percent of the shares - the transaction still has to be approved by regulatory authorities in Russia and the United States. <https://ir.uniper.energy/websites/uniper/English/1400/shareholder-structure.html>

ROBIN WOOD information on the coal exit:

<https://www.robinwood.de/schwerpunkte/kohle> (in German)