

## **CITIZEN DELIBERATION - SMALL GROUP DECISIONS**

The participants in citizen deliberation were divided into 12 small groups, which made decisions in two different ways. Groups 1-6 voted on the question “Should a sixth nuclear power plant be built in Finland?”, whilst groups 7-12 wrote a common statement in which the key themes and facts concerning the question of nuclear power and the groups’ views on the above-mentioned question were recorded. The decisions made by the groups can be read by clicking here ([LINK](#)).

### **GROUPS 1-6 VOTING RESULTS**

#### **Group 1**

yes 3, no 7, 1 empty ballot

#### **Group 2**

yes 4, no 7

#### **Group 3**

yes 9, no 4

#### **Group 4**

yes 9, no 2

#### **Group 5**

yes 3, no 7, 1 empty ballot

#### **Group 6**

yes 5, no 4, 1 empty ballot

### **GROUPS 7-12 COMMON STATEMENTS**

#### **Group 7 common statement**

##### **Most important themes concerning the question of nuclear power:**

- Pristine nature and its preservation
- Control of the growth in energy consumption or even possible reduction
- Development of alternative forms of energy and thereby a reduction in nuclear energy or keeping it at the same level
- Know-how and education in energy-related matters should be increased

##### **Facts concerning nuclear power**

- In the near future, the need for energy will increase
- Modern Man cannot manage without electricity
- Irrespective of the method of energy production, emissions will be caused one way or another

#### **Should a sixth nuclear power plant be built?**

- The group are unable to reach a consensus on the building of a sixth nuclear plant A majority are, however, against by eight votes to four.

### **Group 8 common statement**

In the opinion of the group, the key themes concerning the question of nuclear power are the saving of energy and taking account of energy consumption in general, the development of alternative forms of energy, the study of the aims and development of other countries, the taxation of major energy consumption, the risks of all forms of energy and nuclear waste disposal.

Unanimity was reached on the following facts concerning nuclear power, although, in the opinion of the group, no matter related to nuclear power is one-hundred-percent certain. The group felt that energy savings could be made by households, and, in the opinion of a majority, also by industry. Evaluating the risks of nuclear power is challenging. Probability of accidents exists, but the weighting coefficients of the consequences are different, and natural catastrophes are a risk for the availability of energy in general. There is not a single alternative form of energy that can replace nuclear power, and fine particles present a risk for some alternative forms of energy.

A majority of the group (9) favour the building of a sixth nuclear power plant, with four (4) against. All those in favour of the building of a nuclear plant are, however, of the opinion that the development of alternative forms of energy is a precondition of the further expansion of nuclear power.

### **Group 9 common statement**

In the opinion of the group, the most important themes concerning the question of nuclear power are as follows: controlling electricity consumption and saving and enlightenment through education; the safe production of nuclear power in Finland by Finns for Finnish consumers and industry; the ethical soundness of uranium mining and nuclear waste disposal; commitment to the continued development of nuclear power in the development of alternative energy sources.

In the opinion of the group, the key facts concerning nuclear power are as follows: the Finnish Parliament will make the final decision concerning the sixth nuclear power plant; the greatest risk in the production of nuclear power is the human factor; the raw material required for nuclear power is not yet a domestic natural resource; nuclear power is a economic way of producing energy; not even nuclear power is completely non-polluting and uranium reserves are also limited.

The group were unable to reach a consensus on the building of a sixth nuclear plant, so the matter was decided by a vote. Four members of the group were in favour of the building of a sixth nuclear power plant, six were against and two abstained.

### **Group 10 common statement**

**SHOULD A SIXTH NUCLEAR POWER PLANT BE BUILT IN FINLAND?**

In future, when a decision is made concerning nuclear power, all members of the group think it important to take the following into account:

- safety matters concerning the use of nuclear power (unanimous)
- the economic guarantee of Finland's self-sufficiency in energy within sensible limits (unanimous)
- the study of alternative forms of energy (unanimous)
- the positive and negative environmental impact of nuclear energy (unanimous)
- mass education on a micro-level as a basis for Finnish energy consumption (unanimous)

When considering questions of energy, in the opinion of the group it is also important to invest in innovation and research, which is considered a prerequisite for development.

The participants of the group think that mass education in energy consumption should be provided from childhood, both at home and at school. The objective should be that Finns would not needlessly consume energy, and be sensible and economic consumers. In the opinion of the group, attention should also be focused on people's basic values.

The members of the group are in agreement that one of the facts concerning nuclear power is that there is insufficient knowledge about it (unanimous). To put it another way, the public suffer from a lack of information about and research into nuclear power, which in turn leads to prejudice towards the matter.

In the opinion of the group, nuclear power is for now a necessary form of energy for mankind (one participant not in agreement). Nuclear power is a form of energy, which does not create CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (unanimous).

In the opinion of the group, it is a fact that coming up with new energy solutions is an urgent matter (unanimous).

Of the group participants, seven feel that Finland should build a sixth nuclear power plant and three are against. The participants declare that, during the citizen deliberation, their opinions concerning the matter did not change.

### **Group 11 common statement**

The decision on the building of a sixth nuclear power plant must be based on the common view of the decision-makers concerning future energy requirements. The aim of energy policy should be self-sufficiency. Once the need for additional energy has been jointly agreed, a study should then be made of the capacity of alternative energy forms to satisfy this need. We require an extensive risk assessment.

Nuclear power is a cost-efficient and environmentally-friendly way of producing energy, if the technology is watertight. Electricity produced by nuclear power is an easy and reliable alternative from the consumers' point of view. Nuclear power entails great risks, which are far-reaching.

If the stated additional requirement for energy cannot be produced through alternative forms of energy, a sixth nuclear power plant should be built. One member of the group was of a different opinion.

### **Group 12 common statement**

Group 12 is unanimously of the opinion that the most important thing is to concentrate on alternative sources of energy. It is highly important, that the development of other alternative sources of energy happens simultaneously with the expansion of nuclear power. The group is concerned that this development may come to an end if a sixth nuclear power plant is constructed in Finland. The group is concerned about safety and the problems that the storage and management of waste can bring about. It is important that individuals contribute to energy saving and use alternative sources of energy. The State should actively take a stand to support the development of alternative sources of energy and the development of new technology, and the renewal of the old methods should be encouraged. People should receive more information and knowledge through the media and education. The majority feels that Finland should strive for a reduction in electricity import from Russia.

The group is unanimous concerning the statements about lack of knowledge of how long uranium is going to last. The group requests more accurate information and prognoses about where the consumption of electricity and energy is expanding the most. According to the group, the panel of experts was not consistent in the use of different terms (for example the difference between electricity and energy).

Half of the group (five persons) finds that Finland should not build a sixth nuclear power plant, while the other half (five persons) are in favour of the proposal. Those against the sixth nuclear power plant justify their view by raising issues such as security, radioactive radiation and the uncertain storage of waste. At the same time, it is considered that the development of and investment in alternative methods will cease if a sixth nuclear power plant is built.

Those in favour of the proposal emphasise the competitiveness of industry, the extent of self-sufficiency and the greenhouse effect as validations for their standpoint. However, they stress that the trend of building new nuclear power plants should be broken and the investment in alternative sources of energy should continue.