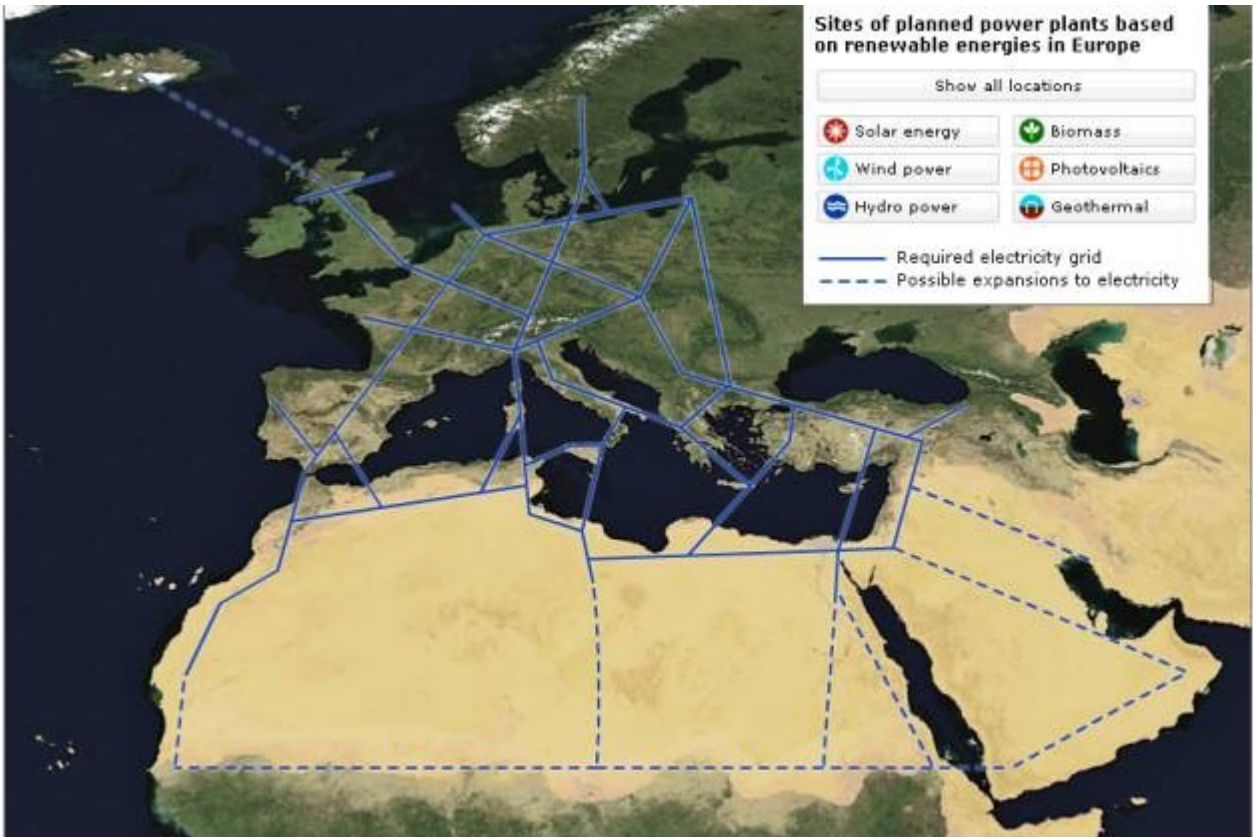
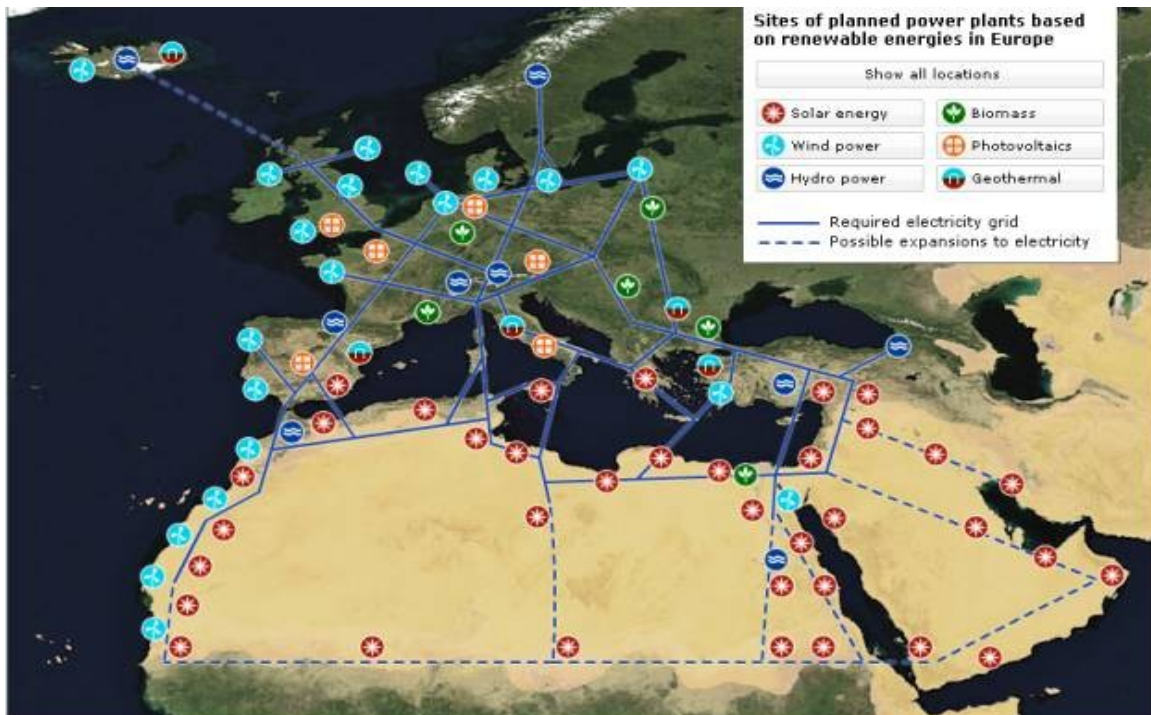


ΤΟ ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑ ΗΛΙΟΣ

Ο ΤΡΙΤΟΣ ΓΕΡΜΑΝΙΚΟΣ ΙΜΠΕΡΙΑΛΙΣΤΙΚΟΣ ΚΥΚΛΟΣ



Plans are in store for a future smart grid that would cover the European continent as well as Britain and Ireland. It will be used to distribute renewable energy intelligently, delivering electricity produced by solar plants in the Mediterranean countries, wind power from the North and Baltic Seas and hydropower from Norway. It would also deliver excess energy to power storage sites to make the system more efficient.



Η ΚΡΗΤΗ ΣΤΟ ΣΤΟΧΑΣΤΡΟ ΤΟΥ ΓΕΡΜΑΝΙΚΟΥ ΙΜΠΕΡΙΑΛΙΣΜΟΥ

10% πάνω η ταρίφα (που θα πληρώνουν οι Έλληνες καταναλωτές ;) για τα Γερμανικά Φ/Β

Με την παράγραφο 12 του πρώτου άρθρου, παρέχεται η δυνατότητα προσαύξησης έως 10% των τιμών πώλησης, που προβλέπονται κάθε φορά, ηλεκτρικής ενέργειας για φωτοβολταϊκούς σταθμούς. Βασική προϋπόθεση για την προσαύξηση αυτή αποτελεί ποσοστό έως 80% του κόστους του εξοπλισμού του εν λόγω σταθμού να έχει παραχθεί σε χώρα της Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης ή σε χώρα της Ευρωπαϊκής Οικονομικής Ζώνης. Πρόκειται για ένα μέτρο που θα δώσει ώθηση στην ευρωπαϊκή παραγωγή. Ο ακριβής καθορισμός των ανωτέρω ποσοστών καθώς και ειδικότεροι όροι και προϋποθέσεις αναφορικά με την εφαρμογή του εν λόγω μέτρου θα τεθούν με την έκδοση απόφασης του Υπουργού Περιβάλλοντος, Ενέργειας και Κλιματικής Αλλαγής.

Τροπολογία στο σχέδιο νόμου «Αξιοποίηση του πρώην αεροδρομίου Ελληνικού-Πρόγραμμα Ήλιος-Προώθηση της χρήσης ενέργειας από ΑΠΕ-Αιτιολογική έκθεση



02/27/2012 **A Capital Error ;** <http://www.spiegel.de/international/germany/0,1518,817781,00.html>

Germany Created Own Threat with Chinese Solar Aid

By Alexander Neubacher

Germany long aimed to be a front runner in the solar energy industry, but waning subsidies

and rising competition from China have clouded its outlook. To add insult to injury, the Chinese boom has been generously supported by German financial aid.



It was a bad week for Germany's crisis-ridden solar industry. First the government announced plans to slash subsidies for electricity from solar energy. Then the share prices of solar-panel makers plunged. Finally, after several rainy days in a row, the outlook for Germany's solar economic miracle, long enthused about by Environment Minister Norbert Röttgen, now seems worse than ever before.

The environment minister with the center-right Christian Democratic Union (CDU) is aware who is principally to blame for the plight of the German solar industry: [the Chinese](#). The emerging economy's dumping policy has led to ruinous competition in the global market for solar panels, Röttgen said last Thursday, when he accused the Chinese of pursuing a "pricing policy designed to displace German companies." Thanks to generous Chinese government subsidies, he added, the competition is able to "obtain almost unlimited capital."

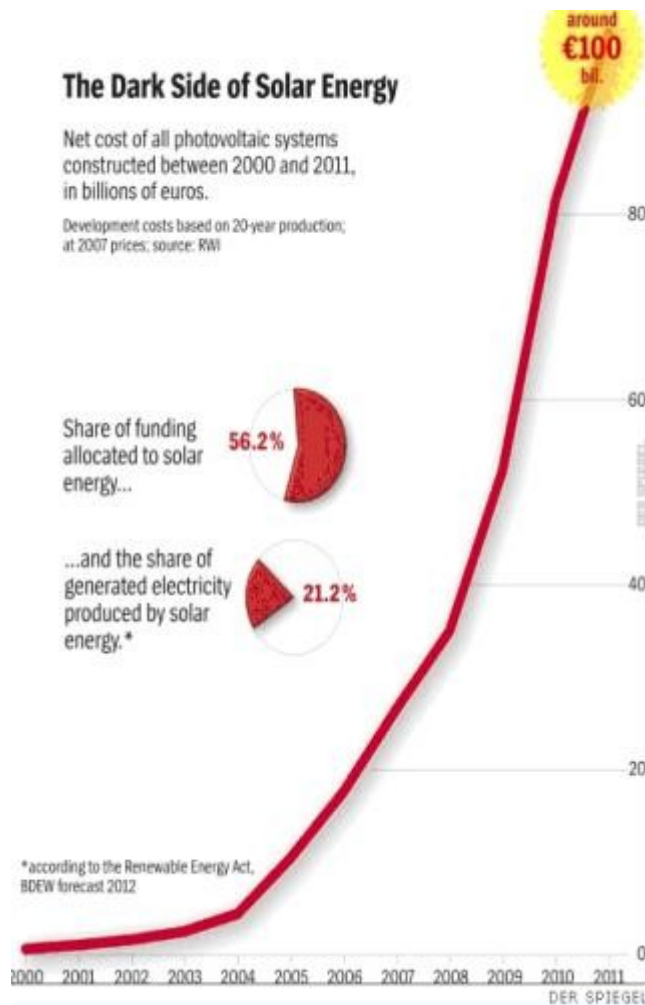
It is indeed true that Asian low-wage manufacturers have access to funding sources to which German companies do not. Those sources include the German government's budget for development aid, as well as the budgets of government institutions that aim to promote what the environment ministry calls "global climate justice" in its brochures. More than €100 million (\$134 million) in government subsidies have already reached China from Germany, partly along circuitous routes, to bolster an industry that has already become the dominant global market player in some areas.

Helping Hand From Germany

Somehow the German government must have lost sight of the fact that its policy in fact encourages the demise of Germany's own solar industry. The development bank of the government-owned KfW group of banks supports China's green industry with low-interest loans. Ironically, the German Investment and Development Company (DEG), also a subsidiary of KfW, is one of the financial backers of Chinese industry giant Yingli Solar, which itself was a major sponsor of the last soccer World Cup and currently sponsors the German soccer club FC Bayern München.

And even though Development Minister Dirk Niebel, a member of the pro-business Free Democratic Party (FDP), terminated his aid programs for China more than a year ago, the German development bank loans are still active.

What many taxpayers might see as a particularly absurd episode from the labyrinth of German environmental policy makes perfectly good sense to those involved. They say the policy helps China so that it can help itself. According to KfW officials, it was precisely the subsidy policy's goal to help Chinese solar producers achieve a breakthrough, in order to promote the environmentally friendly technology internationally.



Success or Failure?

Seen in this light, the German government's climate protection program for China is in fact a huge success. The German Environment Ministry contributed €9 billion (\$12 billion) in seed capital for the program, using funds generated from the sale of CO₂ pollution certificates to German industry.

The program also consists of low-interest loans issued by the KfW Development Bank. The first loan, some €75 million, went to the state-owned Export-Import Bank of China. It added funds of its own and then distributed the money to manufacturers in China's environmental industry, including solar giants Yingli, Sunergy and JA Solar.

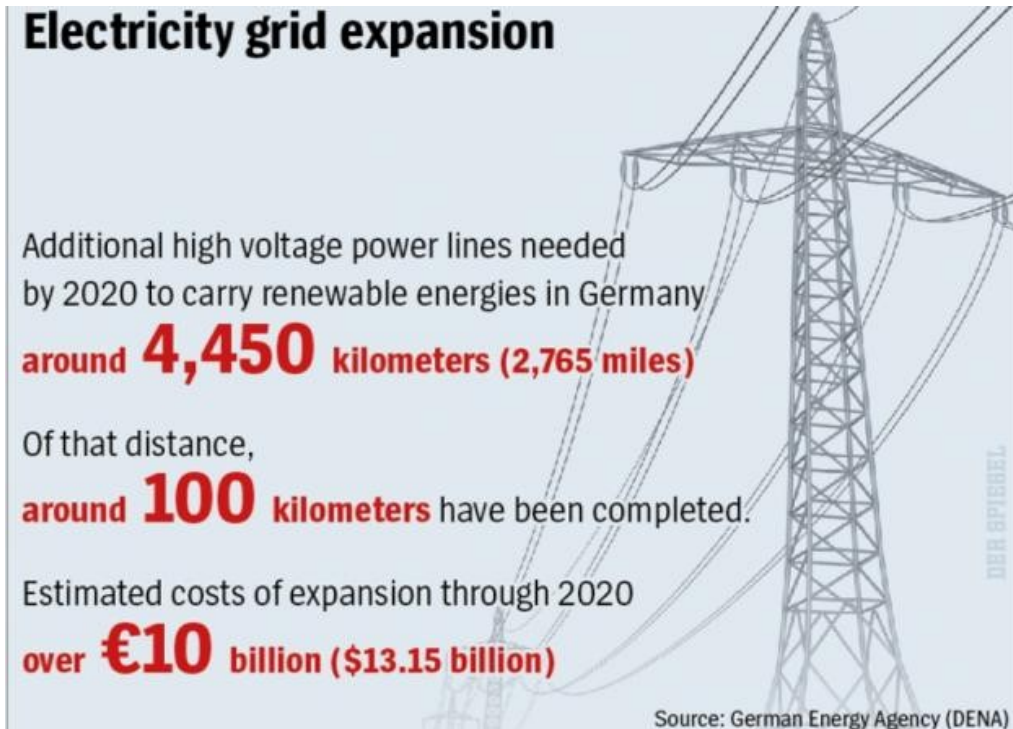
One Chinese company, LDK Solar, promptly took the money back to Germany, where it recently invested in German solar cell producer Sunways, based in Konstanz in southwestern Germany. "Subsidizing solar may be part of the German government's climate protection policy, but for China it's part of an aggressive export offensive," says industry expert Wolfgang Hummel of Berlin's Center for Solar Market Research.

The low-interest loan the KfW issued to the Export-Import Bank of China expires in December 2013. Yingli, currently one of the world's largest solar producers, can also take its time to repay its German business partners the \$25 million it borrowed under favorable terms. Its last payment is due in September 2013, but until then Yingli can allow the money to work for it.

No Sign of Crisis

At Yingli, there is little evidence of the crisis the German solar industry is undergoing at the moment. Production is up, and the number of employees is growing. Germany is Yingli's best customer. The company sells almost half of its systems to German homeowners and solar farm operators.

The current situation is precisely what German development officials had hoped for. In September 2008 Winfried Polte, the then representative of DEG, a subsidiary of KfW, said that his organization was proud of helping Yingli with its expansion strategy. The first loan agreement had just been finalized. "The expansion," Polte promised, "will create thousands of new jobs in China."



One of the sticking points of the new energy policy is the construction of new high-voltage power masts that are needed to transport renewable energy to storage facilities. This graphic illustrates the limited progress which has been made on this front.



Power mast construction progress has been hindered by not in my backyard (NIMBY) lawsuits

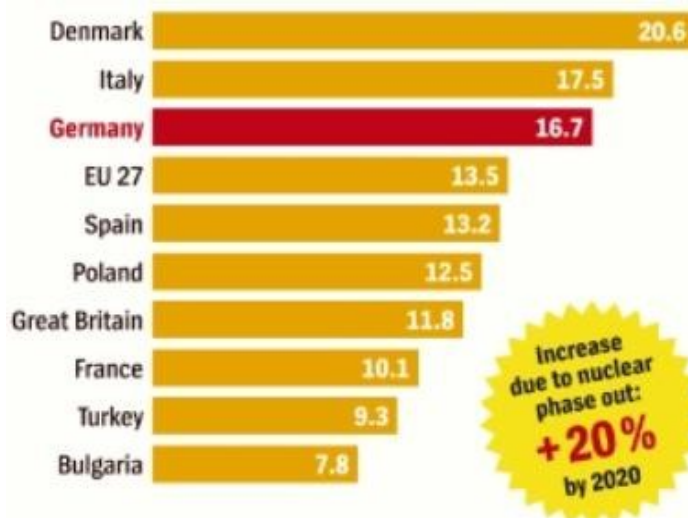
and concerns they will be a blight to the landscape.

02/24/2012

Merkel's Switch to Renewables

Rising Energy Prices Endanger German Industry

By [Frank Dohmen](#) and Alexander Neubacher



Last spring, Chancellor Angela Merkel set Germany on course to eliminate nuclear power in favor of renewable energy sources. Now, though, several industries are suffering as electricity prices rapidly rise. Many companies are having to close factories or move abroad.

The red signs are still hanging in front of the gate to the steel mill on Oberschlesienstrasse. "Hands off!" they read, or "The Krefeld steel mill must stay!"

But now it's all over. Despite the signs, protests and pickets, ThyssenKrupp, Germany's largest steelmaker, sold its Krefeld stainless steel mill to Finnish competitor Outokumpu two weeks ago. The new owner plans to shut down production by the end of next year, leaving more than 400 workers without a job. The economic loss to this stricken city on the lower Rhine will be significant.

The closing of the Krefeld mill cannot be blamed on low-wage competition from the Far East or mismanagement at ThyssenKrupp's Essen headquarters, but rather on the misguided policies of the German government. That, at least, is the view held by those affected by the closing. Since Chancellor Angela Merkel's government abruptly decided to phase out nuclear energy last spring in the wake of the nuclear disaster in Fukushima, Japan, the situation for industries that consume a

lot of electricity has become much more tenuous.

Energy prices are rising and the risk of power outages is growing. But the urgently needed expansion of the grid, as well as the development of replacement power plants and renewable energy sources is progressing very slowly. A growing number of economic experts, business executives and union leaders are putting the blame squarely on the shoulders of Merkel's coalition, which pairs her conservatives with the business-friendly Free Democrats (FDP). The government, they say, has expedited de-industrialization.

The energy supply is now "the top risk for Germany as a location for business," says Hans Heinrich Driftmann, president of the Association of German Chambers of Industry and Commerce (DIHK). "One has to be concerned in Germany about the cost of electricity," warns European Energy Commissioner Günther Oettinger. And Bernd Kalwa, a member of the general works council at ThyssenKrupp, says heatedly: "Some 5,000 jobs are in jeopardy within our company alone, because an irresponsible energy policy is being pursued in Düsseldorf and Berlin."

A Lack of Direction

In macroeconomic terms, the impending demise of heavy industry is all the more worrying, because the job losses will not be offset elsewhere. There is no sign yet of the green economic miracle that the federal government promised would accompany Germany's new energy strategy. On the contrary, many manufacturers of wind turbines and solar panels complain that [business is bad](#) and are cutting jobs. Some [solar companies](#) have already gone out of business. The environmental sector faces a number of problems, especially -- and ironically -- those stemming from high energy prices.

Meanwhile, the federal government is helpless and seems to lack direction. Environment Minister Norbert Röttgen, a member of Merkel's Christian Democrats (CDU) and Economics Minister Philipp Rösler (FDP) are at odds over key issues. Röttgen is calling for stricter electricity conservation rules, which Rösler opposes. Röttgen had long been opposed to Rösler's demand that solar subsidies be cut prior to this week's agreement to slash such support by up to 30 percent beginning in March. Because the two ministries have had such different agendas for so long, German representatives have spent months abstaining from votes during energy policy meetings in Brussels.

And now, the immediate shutdown of seven nuclear power plants last March is affecting supply, as the Krefeld example shows. The steel mill requires massive amounts of electricity to produce stainless steel, used in such products as sinks and auto bodies. The metal is heated to more than 1,600 degrees Celsius (2,912 degrees Fahrenheit) in giant furnaces. A single smelter consumes about as much energy in an hour as 10 single-family homes in an entire year. Electricity makes up a fifth of the mill's total costs, says Harald Behmenburg, the plant manager.

The price of electricity is moving in only one direction: steeply up. For the Krefeld plant, the cost of a kilowatt hour of electricity has tripled since 2000.

And there is no end in sight. When Merkel's new energy policy was introduced last year, says plant manager Behmenburg, planning for the future became virtually impossible. Behmenburg says that it is impossible now to know what will happen to the supply situation and the price of electricity in the coming years. The mill, steeped in tradition, didn't stand a chance of surviving, he says.

Voltage Fluctuations and Power Outages

Other companies could suffer a similar fate. Berlin's energy policy affects all classic industrial sectors, from the steel and aluminum industry to paper and cement manufacturers, as well as the chemical industry. The metal industry, long an important sector in Germany, is already migrating

to countries with cheaper electricity.

The Düsseldorf-based conglomerate GEA closed its zinc plant in nearby Datteln. Aurubis, the Hamburg-based company that is Europe's largest copper producer, is critical of higher energy costs and has announced plans to invest abroad, especially in Asia and South America. According to a recent survey by the DIHK, almost one in five industrial companies plans to shift capacities abroad -- or has already done so. The study also finds that almost 60 percent fear power outages or voltage [fluctuations in the power grid](#), because wind and solar power are still too unreliable.

"The promotion of renewable energy has led to substantial displacement effects on employment in the conventional energy production sectors, as well as in downstream industries that are particularly energy-intensive," concludes the report on a conference held at the Federal Ministry of Education and Research last year. The political opposition has also recognized the importance of the issue. Some believe that the green economy is everything, warns Sigmar Gabriel, chairman of the center-left Social Democratic Party (SPD). "But they forget that they can't make a wind turbine without steel, plastic, mechanical engineering and electrical engineering."

It is equally important to [stabilize the power grid](#) as quickly as possible to prevent blackouts from occurring. Until now, the reliability of the German electricity supply was seen as a significant advantage for doing business in the country. But the loss of several nuclear power plants, coupled with the unpredictability of electricity from wind and solar sources, has changed the situation.

A Lack of Direction in Berlin

The operators of the major power grids have been in a state of alarm for weeks. Operator TenneT has had to draw on reserve capacity. Nevertheless, there have already been some serious problems caused by split-second power outages, which ordinary consumers don't even notice, but that create difficulties for industry, with its highly complex production processes. Since Merkel's new energy policy was introduced, aluminum manufacturer Norsk Hydro has registered half a million euros in losses at its German plants because of power fluctuations. Even minimal power outages can cause the company's sensitive rollers to seize up.

The losses could have been even greater if Hydro hadn't already substantially cut back production in Neuss, near Düsseldorf. For more than two years, two production lines have been shut down completely, and many of the plant's 450 workers have been working reduced hours since then. It is not, however, the result of fewer orders being placed with the Neuss plant.

Electricity and CO₂-emissions costs are so high that the energy-intensive processes in the aluminum smelters is no longer profitable. Energy eats up about 50 percent of costs.

The management hopes that [legislation pending in the European Union](#) will at least eliminate its CO₂-emissions costs, so that the plant can return to normal production. But given the ongoing steep rise in electricity costs, it is uncertain whether that will be enough, leading to an uncertain future for both the plant and its employees. It's an impasse, says an employee who maintains the smelters, which are slowly rusting away in the giant buildings at the plant.

The leaders of affected companies, like ThyssenKrupp CEO Heinrich Hiesinger, say that the goal is not to reverse the nuclear phase-out. But, Hiesinger adds, the industry does need "a reliable foundation. What we want is to keep our production in Germany competitive." To that end, Hiesinger plans to propose a sort of benchmark system to the federal government. Under the plan, average European electricity prices would be used as the benchmark for what German industry would pay.

The Search for a Plausible Answer

The industry is concerned that it isn't clear how the government intends to guarantee the power

supply in the future. Pumped-storage hydroelectricity plants would have to be built to store energy for periods when there is little wind or solar energy. But hardly any new facilities are currently in the works. Billions would also have to be invested in reliable power grids so that wind-generated electricity can be transported from the coast to the industrial Ruhr region and to the southern states of Bavaria and Baden-Württemberg. But national and state politicians are still fighting over where the lines should be installed and whether it will be necessary to bury all cables underground. Finally, additional natural gas-fired power plants are urgently needed. Not surprising, however, very few companies are prepared to invest in facilities that may or may not be profitable, depending on which way the political winds happen to be blowing.

"In Berlin, they apparently believe that the new energy plan will somehow work itself out," complains one industry representative. "There is no evidence of any coordination of key tasks," says Birgit Ortlieb of the Association of German Industrial Energy Consumers (VIK), which includes many energy-intensive companies. Even parliamentarians from Merkel's governing coalition concede that it can't go on like this. Environment Minister Röttgen, in particular, is playing for time and needs to be pushed to take action, says Martin Lindner, an economic policy expert with the FDP. Thomas Bareiss, energy policy coordinator for Merkel's conservatives, has always been somewhat skeptical of the government's new energy policy, proposed creating a separate energy ministry due to the ongoing disagreements between Ministers Röttgen and Rösler.

At ThyssenKrupp headquarters in Essen, employees are determined to no longer take the federal government's energy policy lying down. In the run-up to German general elections in 2013 and prior to state elections, works council member Kalwa and his colleagues plan to march into party meetings and ask how the candidates intend to regulate the energy supply in Germany in a cost-effective and reliable manner.

"Only those who can provide a plausible answer," says the member of the metalworkers' union, "can expect to receive our votes."

In addition to problems with expanding the country's energy grid, ongoing disputes within Merkel's own cabinet have led to standstill.

<http://www.spiegel.de/international/business/0,1518,816669,00.html>