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TURKEY SIGNED AN AGREEMENT WITH RUSSIA ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF ITS FIRST NUCLEAR POWER PLANT AT AKKUYU

The signing of an agreement between Turkey and Russia was announced today. The 20 billion dollar agreement refers to the construction by Russia of the 1st Turkish Nuclear Power Plant on the Mediterranean shore of Turkey.

Concerning this last development, Thanassis Anapolitanos, Chairman of the Board of the Mediterranean Anti Nuclear Watch and member of the Executive Secretariat of the Mediterranean No Nuclear Heighbourhood – MN3 Network, made the following statement:

"This is a very negative development, signaling the constant presence of the nuclear threat in our region. With this decision a great risk to the Environment, Peace and Life itself is being taken, affecting the Eastern Mediterranean region at least.

Repeatedly and with strong arguments, the Mediterranean Anti Nuclear Watch has proven that the production of power through nuclear technologies in Balkans and the Middle East is both full of risks and is transforming the region into a mine field. These arguments have been communicated numerous times to the Greek Government, which we urged to take initiatives to prevent all these from happening.

Unfortunately, no initiative, despite the calls, has been taken. The responsibilities taken by the Turkish Government are vast, but shared with those that did nothing to prevent this crime-to-be.

The Mediterranean Anti Nuclear Watch in cooperation with NGOs from Greece, Turkey and other countries of the region will continue to press our respective governments towards the prevention of the installation of new nuclear reactors. We call all political powers, the local authorities, academic and social institutions, all citizens to react to this latest development."