

## **IDEAS demands that scientific criteria prevail to choose the location of the nuclear repository so it can offer more storage guarantees for the necessary successive periods**

The Executive Vice President and head of IDEAS Foundation, considers that scientific criteria must prevail when choosing the location of the future nuclear repository of radioactive wastes, so the facility can offer more technical storage guarantees for the storage period of the waste.

Beyond this, and in order to tackle the issue of the location of the nuclear repository, the head of IDEAS Foundation, Jesús Caldera, demands a deeper debate on the future, the pros and cons of nuclear energy, insisting that the position of the think tank of the is in favor of the gradual and orderly closing down PSOE of all the nuclear reactors that currently exist in Spain.

In Caldera's opinion, the controversy on the location of the nuclear storage raises once again the serious problem of what to do with nuclear wastes, a problem to which scientists worldwide have not yet found an answer despite the fact that Humanity has been leaving in the so-called nuclear era for more than 60 years.

Caldera's position is founded on technical arguments offered by Jeremy Rifkin, President of the Foundation on Economic Trends, in the report "A new energy model for Spain. Recommendations for a sustainable future", published last May by IDEAS Foundation. The head of IDEAS recalls that, the fact that engineers have not yet found a final technical solution to the storage have led to a situation where the rods of impoverished nuclear fuel are scattered all over radioactive facilities worldwide.

Only in the United States and in order to build the hermetic subterranean sarcophagus under Yucca Mountain, the Federal Government spent more than 8 billion dollars. Despite the effort the Agency for the Protection of the Environment accepts that this vault, which was designed to guarantee the air tightness of the wastes for 10,000 years, will leak in the future. An umpteen number of problems have also aroused with the project of nuclear storage in Bure, France.

Caldera affirms that waste storage, the problem derived from the safety of the plants together with the expenses of this type of containers, must make governments think about the profitability of nuclear energy as well as, not only on the economic cost but also the environmental, and on the need to continue pledging for nuclear energy, which currently generates only 15% of power globally.

Finally, we must remember that, according to the majority of international organizations, global uranium reserves are expected to be exhausted in 70 to 80 years' time and thus international community should not delay the debate on a nuclear energy free world.