

Big money with big controversy hidden under EU energy projects

Dear Friends,

we would like to share with you news, facts and our actions related to EU controvesial PCI projects, which are still partly hidden behind the curtain for the public.

PCI = EU priority energy projects, such as LNG terminals, power lines and pump storages, important for the achievement of the EU's energy goals. Once selected as PCI, the project will benefit from faster decision-making and EU funding.

News/Announcements:

- [Join the PCI evaluation](#) and ranking NOW to stop environmentally damaging energy projects from being labelled “EU priority”.
- [Public consultation](#) on the Gas Ten Year Network Development Plan (TYNDP) 2015 started. Its important to be involved since a project can become PCI only when its in the Plan.

We demand: Participation and environmentally sound decisions

The J&E network has been involved in the designation of EU Projects of Common Interest (PCI) in the area of energy infrastructure. We claim to have environmental “costs” of these projects assessed and taken into account when deciding upon their PCI status, since EU is equally committed to the protection of biodiversity within its territory. Therefore we demand that the PCI designation process is made transparent and participative.

[Read more on the main claims of J&E towards EU regarding opening the PCI](#)

[designation process.](#)

Justice and Environment (J&E) is a Network of European Environmental Law Organisations from 12 different countries aiming at better legislation and implementation of environmental law on the national and EU level to protect the environment, people and nature.

Controversial projects with PCI Status



One of the controversial projects with PCI status is the case of the Kaunertal Hydro Pump Storage. This PCI candidate falls under heavy criticism by the Austrian civil society - ÖKOBÜRO, WWF, Greenpeace, Friends of the Earth Austria and others. By construction of 25 km of tunnels the project would damage the Venter and the Gurgler rivers - nominated river sanctuaries in accordance with the Water Framework Directive and compromise a Natura 2000 site (the "Ötztal Alps"). The project is also not in compliance with the corresponding EU law. Purpose of the PCI framework is the development of trans European Energy infrastructure and not to support a production increase of private energy producers.

[Read more...why Kaunertal Hydro Pump Storage should not be among PCIs.](#)
[Other controversial PCI projects...](#)

Voice your comments re PCI projects!

PCI are selected over a 2-year cycle - projects are re-assessed and new list is adopted. Presently the EC is conducting a second PCI selection process, which began in September 2014. The public consultation on the PCI Candidate Projects ended on 31st March 2015. Discussion of project specific questions and comments shall follow by June 2015 - stakeholders will be invited. It's the last chance for environmental stakeholders and local communities to pronounce criticisms on specific energy infrastructure projects.



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