# GUTA ENVIRONMENTAL LAW ASSOCIATION

# Due Account of Scientific Assessment in Energy Sector Decision-making

Christiana Mauro Guta Association

Aarhus Convention Task Force on Access to Justice, 14th meeting, Palais des Nations, Geneva, April 27, 2022





- I. Public interest litigation case studies:
  - 1. StocaMine Deep Depository (France)
  - 2. Paks NPP Expansion (Hungary) [Articles 9(2) and(4)]
- II. Public participation [Articles 6(4) and (8)]
  EU taxonomy Climate Delegated Act (4 June, 2021) and Complementary Climate Delegated Act (9 March, 2022)
  (European Commission)

#### III. Recommendations

# 1. StocaMine – Whitlesam, France



## 1. StocaMine – Whitlesam, France

44,000 tons of toxic waste threatening one of the largest groundwater reservoirs in Europe (potential ecocide)



## 1. StocaMine – Whitlesam, France

@gouvernementFR publie un décret pour enterrer les derniers espoirs de concertation et de transparence

dans ce dossier. Que veulent-ils caché? 🖖



## 2. Paks II NPP – Hungary

Site suitability for nuclear power plant construction

- -EIA procedures or consultations are not sufficient; public interest organizations with [Art. 9(2)] "sufficient interest" should be perceived as partners
- Procedures for access to justice must be "fair, equitable, timely and not prohibitively expensive" [(Article 9(4)]
- -No Environmental Ministry; fragmentation of agencies and integration into sectoral ministries = *de facto* weak protective framework

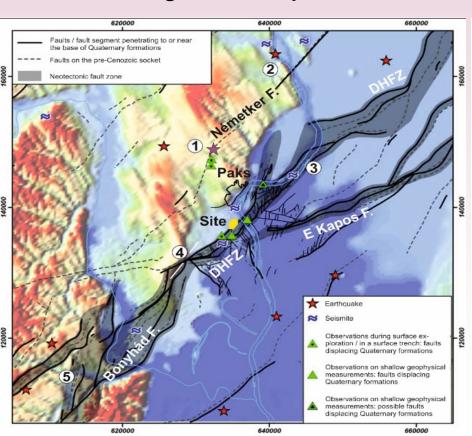
# Seismic safety recommendations for site selection disregarded



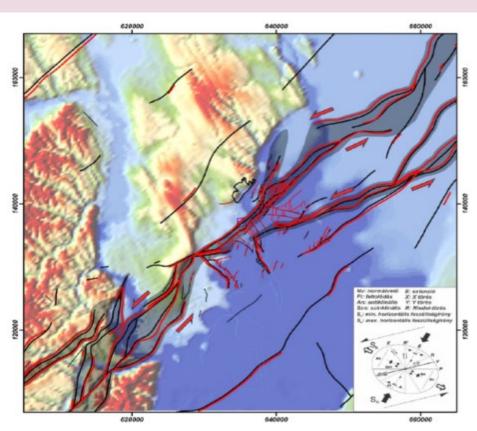


# Misrepresentation of seismic risk in 2017 MVM Paks II Site Safety Report? (potential environmental crime)

#### **Geological Site Report**



#### **Site Safety Report**



### "No new information has come to light about the site within the past 5 years"

 Hungarian nuclear regulator (HAEA), 2022 Siting permit validity prolongation decision



## Extent of the DHFZ below the Paks site

Yellow polygon: Paks 2 site

Figure: Geological Site Report, Ács et al., 2016, Fig. 418; outline of Paks 2 site added

# II. EU Taxonomy Climate Delegated Act and Complementary Climate Delegated Act – European Commission

- -The taxonomy will determine for investors which economic activities can be labeled as climate-friendly
- -Broader, negative economic and environmental impacts of a flawed taxonomy are clear to climate scientists and to the public
- The EU must conduct the necessary public consultations and impact assessments compulsory under the Convention and consult the Member States expert groups on sustainable finance, offering sufficient time to advise

### III. Recommendations

- Recall to the Parties that pubic participation is not exhausted by formal EIA procedures
- Guidelines on the application of science-based methodology in decision-making
- Institutionalization of citizen science organizations
- Financial support mechanisms for transnational collaboration and crowdfunding initiatives

# GUTA ENVIRONMENTAL LAW ASSOCIATION

# For further information please contact

Christiana Mauro

Email: vedegylet.inbox@protonmail.com

Védegylet Egyesület

Budapest

Office: +36 1 237 6020