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The sustainability of nuclear power: facts and faith

**Aviel Verbruggen
University of Antwerp
www.avielverbruggen.be**



Overview

- 1. Sustainability: 4P's & 4 criteria**
- 2. Non-sustainable atomic power**
- 3. Political mistery**
- 4. Saatchi & Saatchi creates virtual reality**
- 5. MediaMishMash**
- 6. Belgian "nuclear policy"**
- 7. Conclusion**



4 P's of Sustainable Development

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Sustainability criteria for energy systems

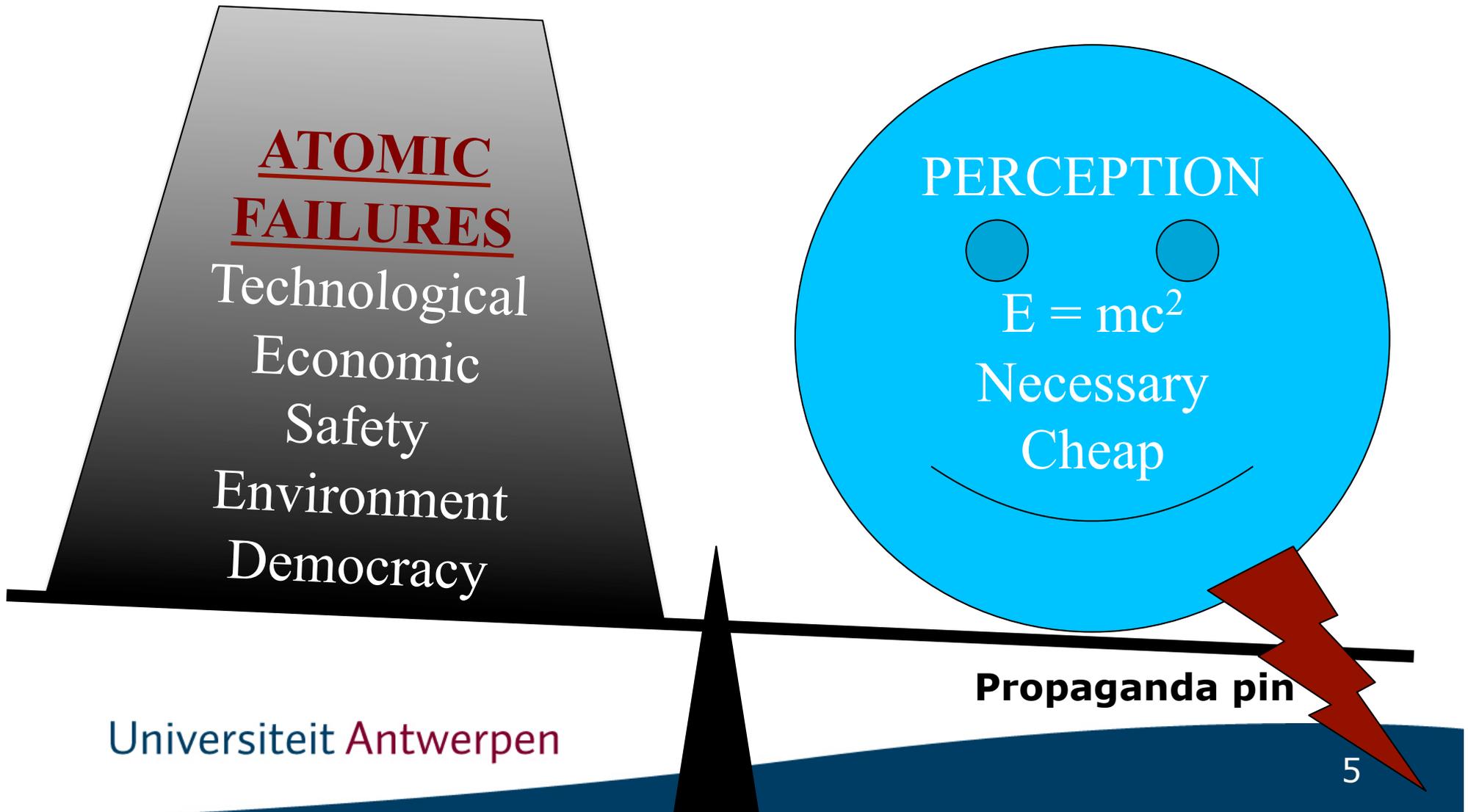


Atomic power ↔ sustainable development

<p>Environmentally benign?</p> <p>Non-exhaustible?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •CO₂ emissions are low •Emissions of noble gases •Radioactivity, waste, accidental releases •Breeder reactors failed •Fusion controllable?
<p>Social responsible?</p> <p>Global?</p> <p>Safe?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Radioactivity; loss of habitats •Capital & technological intensive •Proliferation (e.g. Israël, Iran, enz.)
<p>Low risk?</p> <p>Prosperous?</p> <p>Affordable?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Risks not insurable = not economic •Negative learning curve (increasing costs) •“Safe enough” is excessively expensive
<p>Democratic?</p> <p>Participative?</p> <p>Transparent?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Rejected by risk-aware citizens •Technocratic decision-making •Stealth by military interests



Political Mystery





Creation of *Virtual Reality* by Nuclear Forum – Saatchi&Saatchi

1. **Eliminate opponents** **No debate, nor public fora; Control the mass media**
2. **Confuse the minds of people**
Nobody knows well: “not we, not you, who should?”
No real case, so why do we need [independent] experts?
Anti-nuclear is stupid: how being anti when you don't know
“Pro or Anti” is personal taste like football teams or Pepsi/ Coca; please, let us all be tolerant
3. **Adopt modest slogan** **“Nuclear power is not the solution, but there is no solution without”**
4. **Lime virtual support: Pro nuclear is who is not explicitly anti, i.e. The silent majority.**
5. **Obscure facts by newspeak: renaissance, GEN-III+, GEN-IV, GEN-V, negligible risks,**
6. **Flirt with renewable energy & efficiency although the natural enemies of bulky atomic power**
7. **Hide when Fukushima burns**



Stimulate MediaMishMash

- **“Neutral” experts speak**
 - **Soft talk about “success”, “hope”, “courage”, ...**
 - **“Radiation is not the problem, it’s human fear”**
 - **There are “no alternatives”**
 - **Fukushima: a heavy industrial accident, nothing more**
 - **Critical scientists are biased – only the nuclear sector is knowledgeable and manned with responsible men**

- **Grey is the color**
 - **Kills understanding (the earth is flat and spheric)**
 - **No learning progress (+ and - = 0)**
 - **No analysis of the issues (technological, economic, safety, environment, democracy)**
 - **Numerous stupid questions with stupid answers**
 - **No important questions with clear answers**



Belgian Nuclear Incumbent Politics

- **Law (2003): 40 years life for 7 nuclear plants**
 - **H. Van Rompuy (2009) pro extension :: left earlier**
 - **July 4, 2012: law overruled by 10-year life extension for Tihange 1 (40 years in 2014)**

- **Stresstests**
 - **Who is in charge? Who supervises? How?**
 - **Can unpredictable unknowns be tested?**
 - **Responsibility is shifted towards the public side**

- **Atom dazzling continues**
 - ***"Germany decided emotionally and egoistically"***
 - **Fukushima holds no lessons; in Belgium no tsunami's**
 - **Perverse focus on "nuclear rents"**
 - **GEN-IV R&D MYRRHA project on lead-cooled breeder**



Conclusion

- **Veiled interests**
- **Insane coalitions**
- **Deliberate desinformation**

EU atomic balloon pierced, one day ...

- **Either by the nuclear lobby itself:
atomic catastrophe in Europe**
- **Or by Efficiency & Renewables making the
nuclear option totally irrelevant**

**“When you discover that you are riding a dead horse,
you should dismount” (Lakota Sioux)**