

The Biggest Disaster in the History of Çeşme!

The cranes which will erect the turbines of the wind Energy Plants started arriving in Çeşme as of yesterday. The residents of Çeşme are up in arms about. A petition has been started in front of the Aghia Haralambos Church on İnkılap Caddesi. If necessary, environmentalist volunteers have said they will walk all the way to Ankara and deliver the signatures which have been collected to the Ministry.

According to news reported in Çeşme Aktüel, the Archaeological Excavation Works at Bağlararası revealed that there was a huge earthquake in the centre of Çeşme 3700 hundred years ago. The ancient residents of Çeşme left their homes as they were, and established a new residential area. This is the biggest disaster facing Çeşme since then. The luxury of relocating is not even open to us anymore.

Investors, who have obtained permission from the state to set up Wind Energy Plants within the borders of the residential areas in Çeşme, are racing against time to achieve their ambitions, without taking notice of the law suits brought against them, and despite the fact that 99 percent of the residents of Çeşme are against them.

THE EU WOULD NOT WANT IT IN THE MIDDLE OF THEIR OWN TOWNS BUT

Civil Engineer Hüseyin Boyacı, who began the fight against the Industrial Wind Turbine projects as a member of the Municipality Council in the previous term, with the slogan, "Don't Massacre Çeşme", together with other Çeşme residents who have an interest in protecting the environment, stated that no one was against wind energy plants in Çeşme, but that they were against the lack of consultation, and poor planning which places these turbines within the borders of residential areas, and on the hills which possess the most beautiful views of Çeşme. Boyacı said, "Wind Energy Plants will of course exist, and they should. But they cannot do so in the centres of towns. There are tens of suitable areas and hills to the east of the boundaries of the district – in the direction of İzmir. Why are they not being built there, and instead being built right in the heart of Çeşme, who's lifeblood is tourism. While in the European Union (EU), whom Turkey is waiting to join, there are strict regulations determining the distance between Wind Plants and residential areas, here we are attempting to build these plants in town centres and within the boundaries of residential areas. And we are doing this by obtaining credit from the EU, and erecting turbines imported from the EU. If this world is truly a single entity, how can the authorities of the EU turn a blind eye to this massacre? How can they deem such a practice, which they do not accept for themselves, fit for Çeşme?"

LET US NOT LOSE BILLIONS OF DOLLARS OF FOREIGN CURRENCY JUST SO THAT WIND PLANT INVESTORS CAN MAKE A LITTLE PROFIT

Hüseyin Boyacı, who emphasised that the investors were ruthlessly massacring nature without morality, and without the consent of the local residents, in a manner where they are blinded by avarice, continues as follows:

"They are only thinking about their pockets. They are saying that it would be a loss for the whole country if the wind plants are not built. What is a loss for the whole

country are actually the repayments that need to be made abroad, and the profits they will make in the meantime. As stated by the Minister, we do not even need to mention the brokers here. Rather than transferring billions of Euros abroad, they should first establish a turbine production facility in our own country. If they can, they should find the credit for this facility, and they should use it. You can profit, and your country can at the same time. They should not act as representatives of the economy of Europe.

While land owners are finding it difficult to obtain permission even for fences on their land because there are protected areas, one company, ABK has ignored all laws and decisions of the courts for a stay of execution in Çeşme, claiming, "I can do what I want", and tearing both private and public sector lands to shreds. All of the endemic vegetation cover within these lands is being destroyed. These illegal attempts to create an aura that this is unstoppable must, most definitely be stopped. Another of the examples of not caring for and ignoring national and local values is the desire of the Ministry for the Forestry and Water Works to turn an area in Gallipoli into a 'National Park', claiming that it possesses historic and ecological value. Investors who have obtained licenses are critical of this decision. All they care about is easy profits. Going up to the tops of the mountains is costly. So they want to set up plants in the centres of towns instead.

Article 6 and Temporary Article 9 of the Electricity Market Legislation, and Temporary Article 15 of the Electricity Market Regulations stipulate that wind plants, which were at the stage of obtaining a license, needed to obtain building permissions by 2 May 2014. If they were unable to do so their licenses would be cancelled.

As far as we know no investor was able to obtain building permissions in Çeşme by this date, due to the continuing court cases over the projects legality. This the reality which lies behind the mistruths that has been created in Çeşme, and the reason why they are in such a hurry. Yesterday, the first cranes which will set up the Wind Energy Plant turbines arrived in Çeşme. I invite all of the residents of Çeşme to be sensitive and support this issue. Sign the petition which has been started in front of the historic Aghia Haralambos Church. If we cannot prevent this attempt, we are signing Cesme's death warrant Let us not lose the billions of foreign currency which will come from tourism just so that a few investors are going to make a little profit.

The Mayor of Cesme Muhittin Dalgic : "Time is of the essence, public support is now needed to highlight and halt the activities, to ensure that the the decision makers in Ankara take notice of Cesme as we know it will cease to exist. We are not against green energy, in fact we support sustainable energy solutions. Our problem is where they are being placed.

The turbine plants to the west of Cesme in unpopulated areas makes sense. What does not make sense is situating these turbines in close proximity to densely populated areas, noise and sight pollution so close to homes and schools should be avoided at all costs. The issue is with the Ministry of energy and national resources. There is no way back if this goes ahead.