

Mining waste dumping in the Førde Fjord

The Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe Party convening in Oslo, Norway on 9 May 2015:

- Notes that Nordic Mining has applied to dump nearly 6 million tonnes of tailings per year for 50 years into the Førde Fjord, one of the country's most important spawning grounds for cod and salmon, and a site where whales and porpoises congregate. According to company statements, the plan is to remove around 250m tonnes of minerals stone from the nearby Engebø mountain. The annual mining waste would include 1,200 tonnes of sulphuric acid, 1,000 tonnes of sodium, 1,000 tonnes of phosphoric acid, 360 tonnes of carbonic acid and 90 tonnes of acrylamide as well as other acids, solvents and heavy metals including copper, nickel, lead, zinc and mercury;
- Further notes that scientists from the Norwegian Institute of Marine Research are deeply concerned and have also said that the very fine waste particles will spread far from the fjord, polluting the food chain and harming its vulnerable ecosystem;
- Disagrees with the mining firm Nordic Mining's plans to deposit waste in the Førde Fjord, in the Sunnfjord region of Western Norway;
- Deplores Norway's decision to allow a titanium mining company to dump hundreds of millions of tonnes of mine waste directly into a fjord;
- Points out that pollution on such a grand scale would have a major downstream impact in Norway's unique fjord landscape and beyond, by the pollution entering into the food chain;
- Underlines that questions of marine environmental management should be and are considered a matter of international interest, as the consequences of non-sustainable management will have a wide impact, and as ill-advised national decisions may set unfortunate precedents;
- Encourages Norway's political parties to put ecological sustainability above narrow economic interests in reversing the decision to allow mining waste to be dumped in the Førde Fjord.

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