

Youth sue Swedish state for coal deal

The Swedish sale of its German lignite assets go against what Sweden has signed on to in international climate agreements, national climate targets, the state's ownership policy, and the constitution. Now, young people are taking the next step in the fight for their future.

On the 2nd of July, the Ministry of Industry called to a press conference to announce the approval of the deal in which state-owned utility Vattenfall wants to get rid of its German lignite assets by selling it to Czech Energetický a Průmyslový Holding (EPH) and PPF Investment. The announcement received strong reactions from academia, unions, industry, and environmental organisations across the globe – but to no avail. Representatives from the Swedish youth organisations PUSH Sweden and Fältbiologerna have now, assisted by climate organisations and Swedish and international lawyers, looked over the legal grounds for the sale in a possible last attempt at trying to stop the deal from going through.

– This historically gigantic deal is completely unacceptable. Sweden is one of the best-positioned countries in the world to take climate responsibility, which is why we simply cannot act by short term financial perspectives. Science demands considerably better climate leadership – and so do we, Annika Hagberg from PUSH Sweden says. We hand in the lawsuit application together with some 150 individuals, and hope in this way to encourage our political leaders to seize the remaining chance to stop this immoral and illegal deal, she continues.

– Amongst other things, the deal goes against Sweden's commitments under several international climate agreements, but perhaps most striking is the obvious breaching of the Generational Goal, says legal council Jan Palmblad.

The national Generational Goal was adopted by Parliament in 1999 and is meant to be reached by 2020. The Goal states that: *"The overall target for environmental politics is to hand over to the next generation a society where the major environmental problems are solved, without causing increasing environmental and health problems outside Sweden's borders."*

Selling off the lignite operations also goes against the state's ownership policy and Vattenfall's own policy, and selling to the climate villains EPH and PPF even risks increasing European carbon emissions with 1.2 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide – about 22 times Sweden's current annual emissions. That in turn will hinder the work to reach the joint EU climate targets and send a signal across the world that Sweden is not willing to take climate action seriously.

Jonas Bane, spokesperson for the organisation Klimataktion, one of the organisations supporting the initiative, cannot understand that the state is freeing itself of responsibility outside Sweden's borders. – The emissions are just as harmful wherever they occur and by whomever that produces them. Increased emissions from EPH and PPF will affect us in Sweden too, he explains.

The Swedish state has, by signing the Paris Agreement and putting forward ambitious environmental and climate targets, accepted its responsibility to act powerfully to protect its inhabitants and future generations from the harmful effects of climate change.

– The State does many good things for climate and sustainable development, but in this case they haven't even considered the more climate-smart alternative to responsibly phase out the lignite operations, says President of Fältbiologerna Minou Moon. It is fantastic that so many people have already expressed their support and money to cover our legal expenses has already begun to come in through our crowdfunding site. We continue to gather names of supporters through the website magnoliamalet.se [the Magnolia Case], says Minou.

The filing of the lawsuit took place at **10 AM CET Thursday 15th September at the District Court in Stockholm.**

Further information:

[Homepage of the Magnolia Case](#) (in Swedish)

[Facebook page of the Magnolia Case](#) (in Swedish)

[International crowdfunding site of the Magnolia Case](#) (in English)

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