Avoid The Bar

Even as the G77 and China have rightly been calling to focus negotiations on the targets, and Annex 1 Parties have rightly been highlighting the importance of finishing the LULUCF rules before targets are set, LULUCF negotiators have instead unleashed a new idea into the Talks: The Bar.

What does it mean? Eco has found few answers in the fog of uncertainty surrounding this idea, which no one has put on paper. But this much is clear: there is danger in the air.

The Bar would allow each Party to negotiate the standard against which its forest management compliance will be measured: lower the bar, get more credits! ECO is convinced that this approach will not have environmental integrity, encouraging Parties to argue for a bar that makes them the winners, even if the atmosphere loses. This is black magic.

In his briefing for observer organizations on the in-depth LULUCF discussions, the Chair of the AWG-KP expressed optimism that The Bar could be the basis of common ground. But ECO is concerned that the detour down this unlit road will instead delay the LULUCF negotiations further. What will happen to target-setting? The biggest danger here is that Parties complete their negotiations on The Bar after targets are settled. The Bar could then be an opportunity to undo commitments, just as happened with LULUCF after Kyoto.

ECO also notes that it is in fact possible to put forward new ideas in a constructive way. Tuvalu has made a comprehensive and interesting submission in the form of a draft decision text, rather than a nebulous cloud. Perhaps the EU could consider similar disclosure with The Bar. Or are they spending too much time at the bar to write about it?

How old will our children be in 2050?

Yesterday in a plenary intervention, the youth representatives in Bonn called on Annex 1 countries to reduce their emissions by at least 40% on 1990 levels by 2020, and total decarbonisation by 2050. What the scientists in your delegations are telling you is true; AOSIS knows the stakes: anything else is not enough.

The youth in Bonn also named some names. In particular Canada, Australia, Japan, New Zealand, and Russia: “We condemn your ambition as it now stands, go back to your governments and tell them that. We will support you if they rise to the challenge, naming the targets, uniting on finance, sealing a fair and effective deal in Copenhagen, and beginning the change that we will complete from now until 2050”.

Giving her speech, Kirsty wore a striking blue T-shirt with the slogan ‘How old will you be in 2050?’ and a badge bearing the same message. Thanks to CAN Europe for chipping in with funds, and all the delegates who donated too. They paid for the shirts with their pocket money. This campaign will be ongoing and donations welcome. Euros and emissions reductions targets welcome – but the youth only accept one currency: at least -40% by 2020.

There is definitely a sense that the youth climate movement is growing ever stronger and they thank the chair of the LCA for giving them the chance to speak and ask the plenary: how old will you be in 2050? This campaign was conceived at a meeting in Brussels this year, where representatives from all around Europe and beyond came together to found the European Youth Climate Movement – with the welcome support of CAN Europe. They will be here for the rest of the year and beyond, providing the frank, moral presence that these negotiations need.

Because they will still be here in 2050. Will you?