

# eco

16  
MAY

dialogue  
issue

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## DESPERATELY SEEKING CLEAN TECHNOLOGIES

Everyone in these negotiations understands the key role that technology must play in the effort to keep climate change below 2°C. The IPCC mitigation report indicates that renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies offer the most carbon dioxide mitigation potential by 2030. These technologies are already available and in many cases economically beneficial, and much greater efforts should be made towards their adoption and deployment. In this regard, the extremely poor representation of the energy efficiency and renewable energy sectors in today's dialogue session is quite disappointing.

We've heard a lot this past week from the IPCC, other expert bodies, and both Annex 1 and non-Annex 1 parties about the need for national policies to drive deployment of climate-friendly technology. These include research and development programs, renewable energy and energy efficiency standards, and financial incentives. Several industrialized countries have taken strong action to put such policies in place, and China is emerging as a leader in this area. We've also heard the clear call for Annex 1 Parties to live up to their obligations on technology and technology transfer under the Convention.

In terms of the post-2012 regime, Annex 1 countries need to set emission reduction targets of at least 30% by 2020; such targets will help drive the development and take up of clean technology on a massive scale. Robust carbon markets at the national, regional, and eventually global scale will help drive the adoption of lower carbon technology in industrialized countries, and if properly designed and implemented, can assist in the transfer of technology to developing countries.

However, carbon markets, whilst necessary, are not sufficient to bring about the scale of investment needed in low carbon technology. There are several other approaches which show promise in terms of more rapid deployment of cleaner technologies.

Technology-oriented agreements, both bilateral and multilateral, have the potential to assist in emissions reduction, provided they are binding, effective, and designed appropriately. Sector-specific international emissions reduction standards, such as on vehicles, also have a role to play. Companies such as Toyota, BMW, and Daimler Chrysler, who are engaged in efforts to block state, national and regional advanced car standards, should cease and desist. Industry should instead be taking a proactive stance in development and promotion of clean technology standards.

The Expert Group on Technology Transfer has done some useful work on innovative options for financing, and there are several promising ideas emerging from the finance community. More attention needs to be given to the potential of such instruments, and to developing a better understanding of synergies between carbon markets and other innovative financing options.

ECO hopes today's dialogue will shed more light on the need for a portfolio of complementary policies, together with deeper quantified emissions targets for Annex 1 countries and robust carbon markets, to drive the massive deployment of clean technology needed to avert climate disaster. This would serve us well as we prepare for the beginning of negotiations on the post-2012 regime in Bali.

## THE 2 DEGREE CHALLENGE

The unequivocal findings of the IPCC and Stern Report have shown that it is both feasible and necessary to keep global warming below 2°C.

EU's early and unilateral proposal for 20 – 30% cuts by 2020 has given a strong boost to this global challenge.

Interestingly, many countries in AWG sessions on Monday and Tuesday had a rather schizophrenic reaction to the EU's proposal. Clearly it had the desired effect of increasing the pressure on other Parties to step up to the plate. Japan, for example, appeared positively irritated by the EU's proposed targets.

But the most remarkable reaction came from developing countries. Rather than calling on other Annex 1 countries to follow, match, or exceed the EU and Norway's example, the G77 and China's reaction was to make fun of their targets.

ECO understands the delicate situation in which many developing countries find themselves when reacting to the EU's proposed target. If developed countries actually take the 2°C ceiling seriously, and plan their reductions around that, then their reductions must be part of a global effort that goes beyond the narrow confines of the Article 3.9 negotiations.

*(continued back page, col 1)*

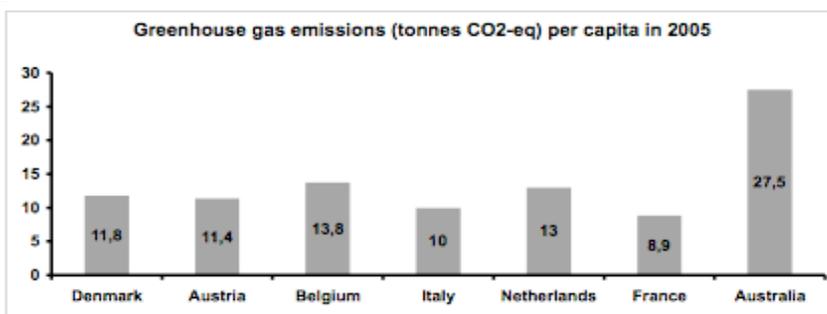
**NAME AND SHAME – BUT GET YOUR NUMBERS RIGHT**

ECO is aware that the Australian Government has distributed brochures in response to their citizens who ask that the Australian Government ratify Kyoto. The brochure justifies Australia’s position by arguing that it is doing more than a number of EU member states on climate change and implying that these countries are letting the team down.

Country	Kyoto Target	The figures Australia re-ported as emissions	The actual figures from UNFCCC
Denmark	79%	104%	98.3%
Austria	87%	109%	115.4%
Belgium	92.5%	101%	100.7%
Italy	93.5%	104%	112.1%
Netherlands	94%	104%	101.6%
France	100%	109%	99.7%
Australia	108%	Not in brochure	102.3%

Sources: 2004 CRF tables for the respective countries, as submitted to UNFCCC in 2006 (the brochure claims to use the latest data, which at the time of its publications would have been from 2004)

ECO is surprised that Australia would want to criticise EU states. Something about people in glass houses throwing stones. For example, see graphical comparison on per capita emissions for the countries the Australian brochure targeted for criticism.



Sources: 2005 CRF tables, as submitted to the UNFCCC in 2007. Eurostat website. Australian national statistics (June 2005)

ECO has kindly made available the Australian public information brochure at its desk.

*-The 2°C Challenge, from page 1*

Any reference to strong Annex 1 climate targets apparently triggers an aversion to long-term projections and scenarios, especially any that will actually avoid dangerous impacts of climate change on their people, economies and ecosystems.

However, some developing countries have trouble acknowledging that keeping warming below 2°C means losing large parts of the Amazon to savannization, fatal reduction of rainfall in southern Africa, massive desertification and degradation of water supplies in China, and unmanageable sea level rise in many countries.

This omission begs the question – if not 2°C, then what?

This is exactly the question we are really discussing over the next crucial six months.

Yet there is still a hope that we

may not see those disasters happen since many of the developing countries have also shown enthusiasm for real action. Bangladesh, for example, warmly welcomed the EU targets and strongly endorsed the 2°C limit. In other countries, where the dangers are not so graphic and ever-present, it seems to be taking longer for the point to sink in...

