

eco

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MAY
Concluding
Issue

Eco has been published by Non-Governmental Environmental Groups at major international conferences since the Stockholm environment Conference in 1972. This issue is produced co-operatively by CAN groups attending SB-24 in Bonn, May 2006.

AWG MOVES FORWARD

In a mercifully brief late-night plenary, the brakes were taken off the AWG, and a green light given for a six month programme of work. ECO hopes that the word 'expeditiously' will be taken literally by Annex I Parties as they prepare their submissions as well as their data and analysis, which will be presented at the workshop in Nairobi.

Hopefully, Parties will begin to trust each other a bit more and give each other the benefit of the doubt to try and regain some of the 'Montreal Momentum' that was severely lacking at times during the last two weeks.

Although ECO welcomes the fact delegates came to an agreement, it is clear that if we are to seriously address the threat of climate change we must seriously lift our game in these negotiations.

Please refer Page 2 for results of Cartoon contest in Wednesday's ECO (Issue 4)

ALICE DOWN UNDER

We all know the story of Alice in Wonderland, which takes us to a place through the magic mirror where Down is Up, Up is Down and Australia is leading the world into a new era of climate protection!

ECO took a short break from the almost overwhelming task of reading the daily news from Canada on the peregrinations, denials and shenanigans over the new Government's position on the Kyoto Protocol, to catch up on some Antipodean News. It was a short break and full of the usual sport news (Australia beat Greece in a World Cup lead up match in Melbourne: this is the most likely reason that the entire Greek delegation left Bonn early, depressed). However, even more surprising news was found.

You, Dear Delegates, have chosen Australia to lead you forward in the battle against climate change. In case you didn't know this, let us quote from the press release of the Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Senator Campbell of 19 May 2006, headlined

"Australian chosen to lead major global climate change action group". The press release goes on to say that Senator Campbell "welcomed the appointment saying this was clear evidence that Australia not only had a seat at the international table

battling climate change, but is indeed leading the way."

The Australian newspaper dutifully reported this amazing development with just the right spin: "AUSTRALIA will steer a new round of global talks between 189 nations to build a post-Kyoto plan for climate change without binding targets." It went on to quote the Minister at length:

"I think the work Australia will now head up under (John) Howard's leadership is probably the most important international work in terms of getting to a comprehensive and international framework," the Minister said. One of the most pressing tasks would be to find ways to help developing nations stem their greenhouse emissions growth and set long-term frameworks for action, he said. To that end, market mechanisms, such as carbon trading, would be a key theme of the discussions. "It could certainly lead to a dialogue about a more flexible and broad (carbon trading) market with a bigger reach," Senator Campbell said. Europe's fledgling carbon market was viewed with scepticism because of its narrow reach, but a "market mechanism working across the world would create extra pull for new technologies as they develop".

Continue (Alice...)

So there. Dear Delegates, we suggest you all relax, sit back and wait to be led by Australia to the promised Post Kyoto Land where more and flexible carbon trading mechanisms will start on the 1st of January 2013 without the burdensome issue of binding targets. In this Land, the role of small emitters such as Australia will be fully and properly recognized - according to the Minister: "Australia contributes just 1.4 per cent of the world's greenhouse gas emissions - for example, if we turned off all power stations in Australia, the greenhouse gas emissions would be completely replicated by the fast growth of China in just 11 months". In this land at the bottom of the world, a massive 51% increase in emissions from the power sector can be welcomed as victory for climate protection. We have indeed won a great victory...we all now love Big Brother. (*Apologies to George Orwell and Lewis Carroll, that pair of whingeing Poms*)

DESPITE HARPER, CANADIANS HAVE NOT ABANDON THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY WHEN IT COMES TO KYOTO !

Coolheaded Canadians have been getting steamed over the last weeks, as Prime Minister Harper and his side-kick, Rona Ambrose, unfolded their anti-Kyoto scams and schemes. Canadians do not buy that Harper's "made-in-the-oval-office" climate change plan will be better than getting on with implementing the first phase of Kyoto and negotiating a stronger global climate regime beyond 2012.

Harper failed to learn from his friend, President Bush, that backlashes would be inevitable if he tried to prevent his country from doing its part in fighting climate change. However, if events over the last couple of weeks are any indication, this backlash has already started:

May 10: Canadian environmental groups call for Rona Ambrose's resignation as President of CoP, after Harper government announced that it would not live up to its Kyoto commitments.

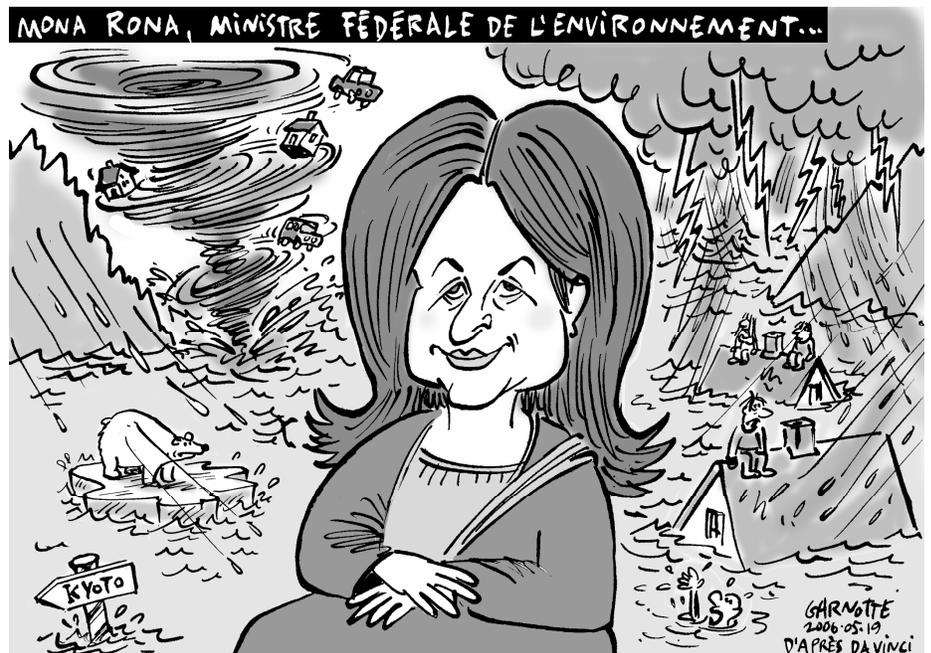
May 16: Opposition parties defeat the Harper government in the Canadian Parliament by voting in favour of a resolution asking the government "to take the necessary measures to ensure that Canada meets its GHG commitments as established under the Kyoto Protocol."

May 18: Opposition party member introduces a bill in parliament entitled the "Kyoto Protocol Implementation Act."

Continued on Page 3

RESULTS OF CARTOON CONTEST

For those of you on the edge of your seat awaiting the results of yesterday's vote on Your Favourite Cartoon of Canadian Environment Minister (and COP President) Rona Ambrose....the envelope please! And the winner is: Mona Rona! [*Apologies to Maestro Leonardo - Ed.*]



DEMONSTRABLE PROGRESS ?

The Kyoto treaty requires parties to provide reports on 'demonstrable progress' by January 2006. Those reports *inter alia* shall contain assessments of how the major policies implemented domestically will contribute to achieving their Kyoto targets. So far, only half of the industrialised Kyoto parties have provided the national reports. Notably absent are large GHG emitting nations such as Russia, Canada, Poland, Italy and Germany. ECO calls on these nations to comply with their reporting duties as soon as possible.

Based on averaged Annex B figures and despite huge variations in emissions trends since 1990, ECO notes that industrialised Kyoto parties are on track to collectively meet their commitments – largely thanks to the economic downturn of Eastern European countries and Russia in the early and mid 90s. Non-climate policy reforms in the agricultural and waste sector in most Annex B countries, such as livestock and fertiliser use reduction under the European Common Agricultural Policy, and increased recycling and landfill gas collection efforts have reduced the emissions of CH₄ and N₂O considerably. Yet, CO₂ emissions from fossil fuel use declined much less rapidly and even increased by around 20% in the sector of road transport.

Most worrying in terms of seeking increased post-2012 emission reduction commitments will be the much reduced availability of Hot Air in Annex B and the almost exhausted cheap options in the waste/landfill and agricultural sector. In order to comply with the stronger targets post-2012 required to stay below 2 degrees, much greater priority must be given to expansion of renewables, energy efficiency, changes to transport behaviour, and a shift to low carbon fuels while excluding nuclear.

However, ECO recommends a couple of positive already implemented policies by countries which could be strengthened or expanded to other regions both in the coming years and post-2012.

The European Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) is a perfect example of linking environmental protection and economic efficiency. Its architecture is well designed. It covers about 46% of all CO₂ emissions in the 25 European nations and regulates approximately 12,000 high CO₂ polluting sources from the power sector and energy-intensive industries. Despite the current over-allocation of emissions allowances, through review and regular approval procedures of the new allocation plans by the European Commission, it has the potential to bring emissions down substantively. This can be done via auctioning, output-specific benchmarks and better harmonisation of allowances procedures across Member States.

The ETS is not a silver bullet. EU-25 has agreed to grow renewable electricity to 21% by 2010. Member states are currently looking into options to further increase renewable energy in the subsequent years. ECO strongly recommends a share of renewable energy of 25% of all primary energy including heat/cooling and transport by 2020. This objective is widely supported by the European Parliament and the renewable industries. Thanks to European feed-in-tariffs and renewable energy promotion including fiscal incentives in *inter alia* Germany, Spain, Austria, Sweden and Finland, Europe is leading in wind, biomass and solar energy development. In addition, the European renewable sector employs more than 200,000 people in Europe – sustainable jobs! (*Conti....Page 4*)

Conti (Despite Harper...)

May 20: Internal government dissidents leak to the public Harper's instructions to Canadian negotiators to oppose a plan to set tougher GHG emission targets for developed countries in the second phase of the Kyoto Protocol.

May 23: Quebec Premier Charest publicly announces that with, or without, the federal government, Quebec would achieve its Kyoto target. Clearly, this is the kind of leadership that is expected from Canada but that is nowhere to be found in the Harper government.

May 23: Rona Ambrose was forced to leave the Regina airport through a side-door to avoid facing pro-Kyoto protesters out front. Then her hometown newspaper in Alberta said that her government has no mandate to abandon Kyoto.

May 24: Manitoba Prime Minister, Gary Doer, says that he does not intend to change his provincial commitment to Kyoto even if Harper's government backs out.

May 24: The Quebec National Assembly adopts a unanimous motion calling on the Harper government to respect Canada's Kyoto commitment.

May 25: Over 50 environmental protesters forced Rona Ambrose to take a detour in her polluting van to avoid being exposed to banners that read "Shame! Cut emissions, not programs."

These recent events must be starting to feel like a political nightmare for Canada's Prime Minister. In fact, things are getting so bad that yesterday an embattled Harper recently announced he wouldn't talk any more to the national press gallery.

If Harper wants to avoid getting burnt, at home and abroad, he will listen to the people of Canada, and agree to lead the country and the world down a path to avoiding dangerous climate change.

Continued from Page 3 Demonstrable...

Further, energy efficiency is one of the most-quoted but often neglected options in climate mitigation. Although EU Member States have acknowledged that the EU can save 20% of its current energy consumption by 2020 while saving up to 100 billion euro a year (based on present oil/gas prices), actions are lukewarm at best, lacking clear targets and progressive standards. Here, all parties can learn from Japan, which has implemented a "top runner" programme. This includes the regular and strong tightening of energy-consumption standards of many energy-using products including cars, electronic consumer goods, air conditioners and fridges. No wonder that Japan is the most energy-efficient nation in the world.

Blueprints of sustainable future transport policies to reduce CO2 are scattered across the globe. Countries are well advised to learn and combine from the various examples of dynamic fuel consumption standards for new cars (California), reduced freight load on roads (Switzerland), expansion of high-speed trains also to replace short-haul air trips (France, Germany) and promotion of almost car-free cities (from the UK to Italy).

Last but not the least, Annex B parties are invited to learn from some developing countries on climate policies. Brazil has embarked on large-scale ethanol production for replacing oil. It emphasizes 'flex-fuel' cars which can run fully on renewable liquids. India displays one of the largest growth rates of wind energy, and with its current 4 GW capacity the country is rated fourth in the world

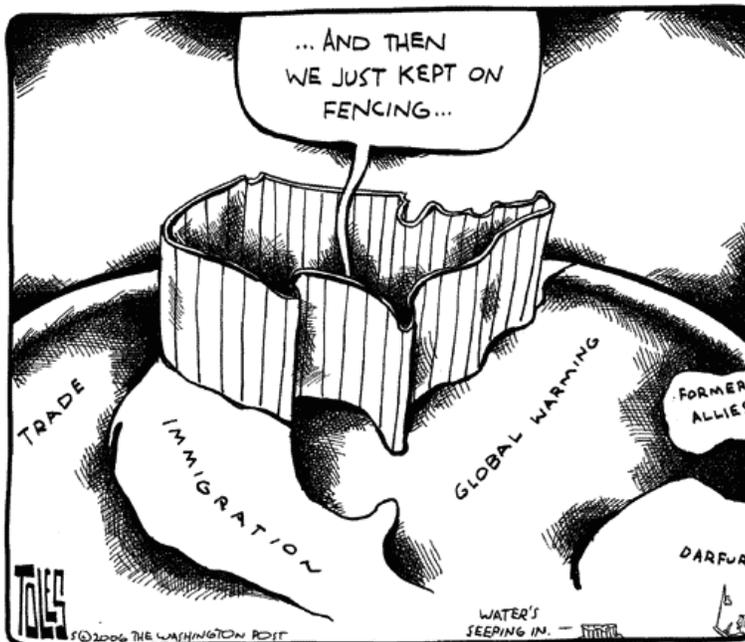
BUSH SNUBS GORE FILM ON GLOBAL WARMING

WASHINGTON – Is President Bush likely to see Al Gore's documentary about global warming?

"Doubt it," Bush said coolly Monday.

"...in my judgment we need to set aside whether or not greenhouse gases have been caused by mankind or because of natural effects and focus on the technologies that will enable us to live better lives and at the same time protect the environment."

Associated Press



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According to the IEA, China demonstrated the most dramatic improvements of all. Global carbon intensity levels (carbon emissions per GDP) declined by 15% between 1990 and 2002. In China it declined by 51%. A new law mandates a further improvement of 20% energy efficiency across the country between 2006 and 2010. In addition, China currently has the most ambitious renewable energy target: by 2020, wind, solar, biomass and others shall grow to 15% of all energy consumed.

ECO concludes by reminding all nations that climate policies are not rocket-science. It's all out there – it just needs implementation. And then reports about 'demonstrable progress' will be easy exercises.

Climate Action Network (CAN) thanks authors of articles to ECO during SB 24, May 2006 in Bonn.