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ADOPT IT
ISSUE

Adopt the Compliance Decision and Annex Now!

Jaded yet optimistic Eco compliance stalwarts returned last evening to their positions in the rear of the conference hall. Our message after the session remains the same as the one we brought at the beginning: Adopt the compliance decision and annex now! The Co-Chairs have done an admirable job transcribing the Bonn Agreement as well as the results of the past years' negotiations into final text. Now it is time for all Parties to end their posturing, cease the search for tactical advantage, and complete the task that has brought them here to Marrakesh. The decision text and the annex are ready. Adopt them now.

Many of you may believe that Eco cannot publish an article on compliance without mentioning binding consequences. Perhaps you are

right. Binding consequences are what will make the Kyoto mechanisms viable. They are key to the Protocol's success, where the Convention has failed. The Bonn Agreement defines and anticipates such consequences. Yet, as the EU accurately noted yesterday, ministers deferred the question of whether the consequences would be *legally binding as a matter of international law*.

It is time for other Parties to stop posturing on this matter. Nowhere in the Bonn Agreement does it say that COP/MOP1 is *obligated* to adopt a legally binding instrument. Yet Eco will push very hard in the coming years to ensure that it does. Let us not pretend that all Ministers committed themselves in Bonn to accept the

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ICAO stuck in bunker

SUBSTA missed yet another opportunity yesterday to take action on bunker fuels (i.e. fuels used for international transport). At 3.5 per cent per year, emissions from aviation constitute the fastest growing greenhouse gas emission sector worldwide. Yet they are not included in Climate Convention (CC) or Kyoto commitments, Parties do not have to report on them and they are tax-free. This clearly is an outrage.

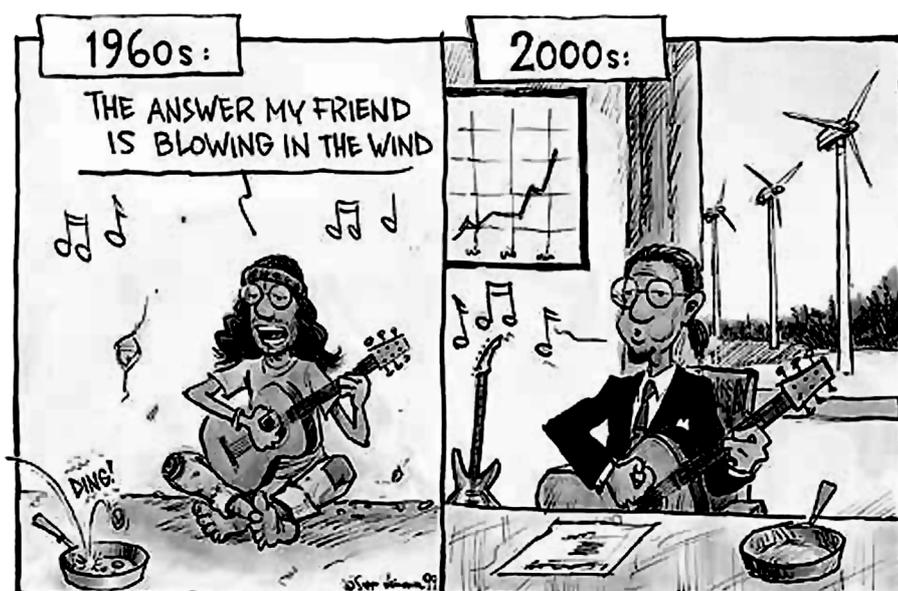
After years of dithering, and a damning IPCC report on the harmful effects of air transport, the body nominally responsible for the regulation of international aviation, the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), announced yesterday it would be a good idea to have a cap and trade scheme for aviation emissions – provided it is “an open one across economic centres”.

What ICAO has overlooked is that advanced plans for such a scheme already exist. It is known as the Kyoto Protocol emissions trading scheme. It already has agreed on caps (obviating the need to negotiate new ones) and it enables participants to trade across all economic sectors except, at present, international aviation and marine transport.

A golden opportunity was thus missed. All that was needed yesterday was for SUBSTA to have a short debate on the allocation of emissions from international transport to individual countries. (The debate could have been very short because there is only one practical option: allocation of emissions to the point of sale of the fuel.) ICAO could then have agreed to include aviation-related emissions under the Kyoto cap.

Seriously, ICAO just had its assembly and only meets every three years. Unless Parties to the CC decide the allocation and cap issues in

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Success story of a Kyoto Protocol-born CDM entrepreneur

Who is your leader, Russia?

Positions of the Russian government's delegation at the Climate Convention and Kyoto Protocol negotiations have, for many years, displayed a serious lack of understanding of issues at hand. Further, some proposals it had tabled such as voluntary compliance regimes can only be described as ridiculous.

But the most unusual behaviour recently has been the action of its delegation's head in contrast to the aspirations of his president.

How?

Soon after the political agreement in Bonn, Russia's head of delegation, A I Bedritsky, attempted to reopen text via a letter to the UNFCCC Secretariat on October 10. In particular, he asked to revise "Appendix Z" of the Bonn Agreement, which states industrialised countries have a cap under Article 3.4 for accounting for forest management. Despite being given an extremely good deal, the highest allowance of any Party, he asked to change Russia's allowance from 17 to 33 million tonnes of carbon equivalent.

Why would he want to saddle the emissions market with even more cheap tonnes and further decrease the price for carbon credits?

– ICAO stuck in bunker, from front page the next SUBSTA, we could wait long and hard for a solution to be found in ICAO. Even then, discussion in ICAO is likely to get bogged down in disputes amongst vested interests – those are much more entrenched than in SUBSTA.

"Fossil of the Day" Award

Russia was the sole recipient of yesterday's fossil of the day award. It won the prize because of its submission to the UNFCCC Secretariat requesting to reopen text of the Bonn Agreement. (See lead article on this page for details.)

NGO party is happening

Get ready to put on your dancing shoes. The NGO Party, a popular event at every COP, will take place this Saturday, November 3, from 8.00pm. It will be held at La Dorade restaurant on Moulay Lhassan street, about 200 metres from the Congress centre. All are welcome and entrance is free. Join us to make the party a memorable event again.

This move will actually harm Russia which stands to gain more than anyone from a high price for carbon. Apart from this, Russia has no accepted forest management inventories in place that could credibly account for its carbon sinks.

The legitimacy of the Russian delegation head's behaviour has to be questioned. On the occasion of the EU/Russia Summit in early October, Belgian prime minister Verhofstadt, on behalf of the EU, and Russian president Putin made the statement: "...we shall work together for its full implementation (the Bonn ministerial agreement) with a view to early ratification and entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol..."

This was an endorsement of the Bonn Agreement as it helped "...to increase European investment in the energy sector in Russia in order to improve its energy efficiency and economic performance..." And there certainly is an enormous potential for energy efficiency investments and CO₂ cuts in Russia – which will not be realised with cheap sinks flooding the market.

Having noted Putin's statement, a strong message must be sent from the Russian government to its delegation in Marrakesh, and from

– Adopt the Compliance, from front page legal obligation. Instead, let all of us who believe in the Protocol and who understand the necessity of binding consequences, redouble our efforts to educate those few who do not yet comprehend that the spectre of uncontrolled climate change requires concerted, legally binding and enforceable action.

That final comment is, unsurprisingly, directed at the remaining members of the ever-shrinking and isolated Umbrella Group. We realise that you are having difficulty accepting the need for serious action. But your ministers obviously understood what they were doing in Bonn when they agreed that the COP would decide "to adopt the procedures and mechanisms relating to compliance under the Kyoto Protocol." The Co-Chairs' text already captures the spirit and letter of that sentence and the rest of the Bonn Agreement. Your text proposal does neither.

The time for posturing is over. Accept the political mandate of the Bonn Agreement and adopt the compliance decision and annex as they are. Now!

We regret that due to unavoidable circumstances, we have been unable to publish Eco on recycled paper. We expect to rectify this situation soon.

the EU (and other governments) to the Russian government, not to allow the head of the hydro-meteorological service of Russia to torpedo the Bonn Agreement and place the Kyoto Protocol's entry into force in serious jeopardy. We would like to pose this question to the Russian delegation: are you backing Bedritsky's agenda or Putin's? Let us know with your actions.

Another issue is the international ramifications of his action. By trying to reopen ministerial agreements at Bonn, Bedritsky's proposal makes a mockery of high level agreements and paves the way for further dilution by other governments on this and other issues.

Russia must realise it was given a very generous deal under the Kyoto Protocol – only to stabilise its greenhouse gas emissions in the first commitment period. The rapid economic decline of the Russian Federation after 1990 has already led to a 30 to 35 percent decrease in its emissions.

Provided Russia meets the eligibility requirements for participating in the Kyoto mechanisms, it can sell a few hundred million tonnes of excess assigned amount. But this "Hot Air" does not seem to be enough. Russia wants more.

Ibrahim

Dozing gently as usual through the mechanisms contact group, Ibrahim had his rest interrupted by unexpected signs of life. The Nigerian delegate, clearly struggling to read from Don Perellman's poor handwriting, was shocked to be labeled an "obstacle to progress" by Co-Chairman Estrada, a mere three hours into his obstructive intervention. The honourable delegate for Saudi Arabia also protested that resorting to telling the truth was unacceptable behaviour in a UN chairman. Estrada has offered to repeat these outrageously accurate allegations in writing. The autograph of a man like this might be worth keeping.

THANKS

The Climate Action Network would like to thank Climate Network Europe, David Suzuki Foundation, Environmental Defense, FoE International, Greenpeace International, RAC-France, Swedish NGO Secretariat on Acid Rain, WWF/EPO and WWF International. ECO can be contacted at ecopaper@hotmail.com ECO website : <http://www.climatenetwork.org/eco>