

# ECO

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The Push  
Issue

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## The Road to Hell is Paved with Conditions

Who ever heard of a government refusing to build a hospital until other governments agree the same thing? Yet, in climate change politics, it has become common for governments to make their own action conditional on long lists of demands from others.

When it comes to mitigation, we are told the reason for this absurd game is trade – i.e. governments are scared to commit to climate action because they fear they will lose their competitive edge.

This argument has been repeatedly picked apart by analysis showing that a green and energy efficient society brings with it a prosperous economy, green jobs, energy security and improved public health. And, let's not forget the benefit of avoiding the consequences of catastrophic climate change.

But game playing seems to be the order of the day. Take the US, who have announced they won't let the negotiations on long-term sources of finance move forward until the negotiations on MRV and transparency have progressed 'sufficiently'. In other words: Poor communities in Africa who desperately need to adapt to climate change will not know whether, how, and when they will get international funding, until the US and China are finished fighting about national

reporting to the UN. This hostage taking pulls the negotiations down to an all time low.

Other governments are also trying the bluffing game – look at the EU, who insists it will reduce its emissions by only 20% by 2020 compared to 1990 levels, despite the fact that its own analysis shows that the policies it has already agreed will reduce domestic emissions 25% by 2020.

Regardless of whether the demands governments put to each other are fair and realistic, these wobbling towers of conditionality bog down the talks and spread ill will. It's time for governments to realize that the best way of demanding action from others is to take action themselves. Isn't this a lesson we all teach our children?

And, Governments should realize that it's not just their image that's at stake. The mistrust they are creating is dragging down the negotiations. The window of opportunity to prevent runaway climate change is closing in front of the eyes of our poker-playing governments.

Therefore, dear governments, stop gambling with the well being of your citizens. If you are willing to do what's best for the people you claim to represent, hiding reality will not be part of your plan.

## Push Europe!

European delegates are being treated to special guests at their usually closed coordination meeting today. European youth are leading a campaign to "Push Europe" to show leadership at the UNFCCC and make them commit, before Durban, to at least 30% domestic emissions reductions by 2020

Youth representatives are visiting the heads of delegation of the 27 EU Member States to show that along with working at home in their own countries, young people are here in Bonn, Pushing Europe as a block.

ECO joins with the young people to remind the EU that adopting a 30% target is only the first step; but it is not enough. If the EU is really serious about their future they would set a target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by at least 40% by 2020.

Under the banner "30% = 6 millions jobs," youth from across Europe will be lining up outside the European coordination meeting, handing delegates their CVs, and showing their negotiators that 30% is not just a political playing card in these negotiations. Moving its target to 30% is a decision that will improve millions of lives in the face of rising unemployment and economic strife.

## TEC Politics

ECO is shocked to be informed by Parties that the Technology Executive Committee (TEC) nominations are still lying vacant. ECO fails to understand why Parties could not select 20 members for the TEC. In Cancún, Parties had overwhelmingly agreed to establish the TEC – ECO is wondering what has changed between Cancún and now.

ECO has learnt that some developed Parties would rather see the TEC be defunct, as they do not want an institution, which is party driven, transparent, and accountable. Further, ECO is concerned that the TEC is biased towards mitigation technologies – they would rather support something outside the Mechanism. According to rumors, a defunct TEC will serve their purpose of making profit from technology transfer and therefore not meeting needs of developing countries. A weak institution would pave the way to even weaker Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) making the whole Mechanism useless.

Establishment of TEC is an integral to operationalize the Technology Mechanism. In Cancún, Parties agreed to develop the work programme for the TEC so that it would be up and running from 2012 onwards. Given this unlikelihood, it seems that the forthcoming committee meeting is unlikely to be anything but a dream.

ECO would ask all Parties to get serious and fill in the nominations; and strike the balance between technologies for adaptation and mitigation; it takes only a few minutes to fill out the form.

Watching young people push Europe for their future and future generations reminds ECO what these negotiations are really about – ECO hopes the EU is listening! European young people are fighting for the future they deserve – we need ambition and commitment. By signing up to a second commitment period of the KP, EU delegates would show young people that they are

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## Latinoamérica Camino a Rio +20

América Latina es tan diversa como los océanos que bañan a la región, desde las calidas aguas del Caribe hasta las congeladas rutas de Magallanes. Pero hoy sus diferencias deben unirlos, pues los retos ante el cambio climático son comunes y ECO quiere hablar de cinco ejemplos de países cuyas oportunidades manejadas con inteligencia marcarán diferencias.

México fue reconocido por sus esfuerzos para lograr avances en la COP16 y ahora por su trabajo para lograr la instrumentación de los Acuerdos de Cancún. Por ello, ECO desea pedir a la presidencia mexicana que mantenga su liderazgo y compromiso en temas cruciales como la creación de un Fondo Verde, la asignación efectiva de recursos de corto, mediano y largo plazo; la inclusión activa y significativa de la sociedad civil en el proceso de la CMNUCC; así como la definición de un mecanismo REDD+ que incluya a los pueblos indígenas, impulsando políticas con perspectiva de equidad de género y un crecimiento bajo en carbono.

Brasil por su parte, aspira a ser un líder mundial y un campeón de los países en desarrollo. En las negociaciones sobre REDD+ Brasil ha mostrado buena iniciativa, sin embargo, a nivel nacional la aprobación de la Ley Forestal por la Cámara de Representantes, y posiblemente firmada por el Presidente, asegura un aumento de las emisiones totales del país. Mientras que el plan de crecimiento económico – que es una

prioridad nacional – es todo menos sostenible. Brasil tiene mucho que ofrecer, y su capacidad es enorme, ¿que están esperando para utilizar esto en la lucha por un futuro justo y sostenible?.

Para Nicaragua, como para toda la región centroamericana, la adaptación es una prioridad para la sobrevivencia y la calidad de vida de miles de personas. Por ello ECO demanda que en este camino a Durban, las partes se comprometan a proporcionar de manera efectiva recursos financieros suficientes para las acciones de adaptación, y que se constituya prontamente el Comité de Adaptación. Y aunque será todo un reto que las estrategias de la región sean objeto de evaluación, esto es necesario para garantizar su efectividad, lo que necesitará procesos de consulta que integren a la mayor multiplicidad posible de actores.

Argentina como presidente del G77 + China jugará un rol importante en estas negociaciones y ECO recibe con alegría las diversas intervenciones que ha hecho en nombre del G77 apoyando un segundo período de compromisos del Protocolo de Kioto, aunque reconoce que todavía hay un largo trecho por recorrer y que Argentina debe continuar trabajando para lograr el consenso en el G77.

ECO desea seguir escuchando de la región y de las acciones que ayuden a avanzar en el proceso, y que tendrán que presentar frutos en la reunión de Rio+20.

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serious about their future.

It is encouraging to see that the presidency of the EU is allowing the young people into their meeting this morning, it shows how much they value them. ECO can only hope that EU policies will improve from here on.

## Bridge the Gap - Bracketing Doesn't Work

When problems abound, the first order of business is to acknowledge them, but it seems that developed countries are having trouble doing even that. ECO has learned that text on expressing concern with respect to the projected rise in emissions by 2020, as reported in developed countries' fifth national communications, is now bracketed. To add insult to injury, so too is the call to intensify efforts. On the KP side, things are equally as worrying. Parties have bracketed the reference to the fact that some countries will need to do more to fulfil their commitments, Parties are on track to meet the aggregate 5% target – albeit with some hot air and creative accounting, (*Here's looking at you, Canada*).

So repeat after ECO:

1. We are developed countries and we have a gigatonne problem
2. We need to get help (in the form of promoting renewable energy, efficient energy and all those other *sexy* mitigation efforts)
3. We will increase our targets by Durban to close that gap and honour our KP commitments!

So off with the brackets and on with the work!!

## Net Incidence - Unlocking Progress on International Transport

ECO has noticed a new expression entering the UNFCCC vernacular, which could be the key to unlocking progress on regulating emissions from the rapidly growing and currently unregulated sectors of maritime transport and aviation, and generating climate finance.

This new expression, “*no net incidence*” (incidence essentially means who really pays), was first introduced in the AGF report on climate finance last year, and provides a way to ensure that the UNFCCC principal of “common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities” can be applied to any global revenue-raising measures, including international transportation.

The concept was recently proposed in the International Maritime Organization (IMO) by developing countries as a criterion for assessing and developing market-based measures to address maritime emissions. Last week, ECO heard China introduce the concept of “*net incidence*” formally into the UNFCCC negotiations for the first time.

Ensuring no net incidence on developing countries means compensating them for the costs incurred, for example through a rebate

mechanism (such as share of seaborne imports by value, as proposed in the IMO). The finance raised attributed to developed countries can be channeled through the financial mechanism of the UNFCCC.

Now we have the interest of developing countries in a way forward to resolve the long-standing impasse over international transport where, ECO wants to know, are the developed countries? Unfortunately they are nowhere to be found on this presently. Some developed countries, such as Australia, Germany, and France have expressed interest in “compensation” for some developing countries in the IMO. But, what they have in mind may fall short of ensuring “*no net incidence*” on developing countries, and they appear unwilling to discuss this concept in the UNFCCC.

There is a need for leadership among developed countries to take advantage of this opportunity. The EU, in particular, is well positioned to provide that leadership. ECO thinks a decision is needed at the political level, between now and Durban, to mandate negotiators to embrace this concept and break the 15-year deadlock on addressing these critical sectors.

## Reaction to SBI and NGO Participation

Things not to say at a contact group on NGO participation:

1. *But NGOs don't have anything important to say!*
2. *What's an NGO?*
3. *If they're not in the room, they can't give us a Fossil!*
4. *Some of my best friends are NGOs...but I wouldn't want my daughter to marry one.*
5. *I'd like to go back to the previous agenda item.*

Unfortunately the ridiculous sentiments above pale in comparison to one heard from the Saudi Arabian delegation in yesterday's SBI contact group. Saudi Arabia stated that only Parties can offer text on whether NGOs can participate.

Luckily, ECO was pleased to hear the Mexicans, the Colombians, and even the SBI Chair welcome helpful inputs from wherever they might present themselves. ECO looks forward to continuing to see NGO inputs contributing productively to the negotiations.