

# FOSSIL OF THE DAY AWARD

## Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Bonn, Germany

May 25, 2012

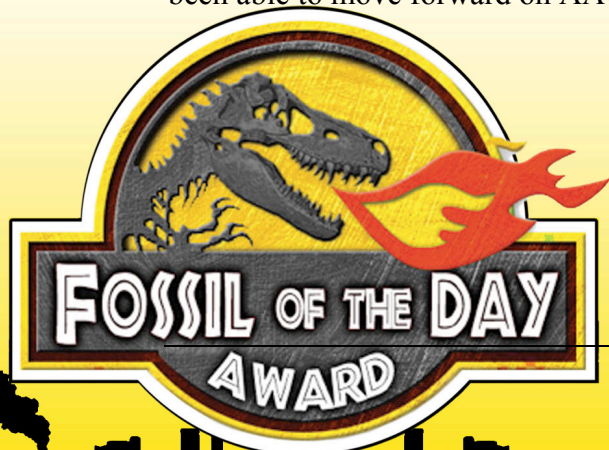
Contact:  
Wael Hmaidan  
[whmaidan@climatenetwork.org](mailto:whmaidan@climatenetwork.org)  
Local mobile: +49 (0)1603195597

### **Saudi Arabia is Awarded the 1<sup>st</sup> Place Fossil of the Day Award and Poland Receives 2<sup>nd</sup> Place.**

**The First place Fossil of the Day goes to Saudi Arabia.** The oil-rich Arab countries are in for a big test this year. They are all over the process. Not only is Qatar the Presidency of COP18, but also Saudi Arabia is chairing the LCA, and Algeria is heading G77+China. It is great to see the Arab region taking on big roles in the process, but as Spiderman says 'with power, comes responsibility'. It is an important year for the Arab World, and failure in achieving a successful political outcome in COP18 would be a disgrace to the region. Therefore, one would expect that all Arab countries would be supportive of Qatar, not take extreme positions, not alienate Parties, and definitely not play obstructive roles in the process. Unfortunately, we still see Saudi Arabia trying its best to push its own short-term agenda forward, and getting a whole bunch of countries angry consequently blocking progress in different areas. What is upsetting is that this will not only reflect badly on their LCA chairmanship, but it will also send negative signals on the nature of the influence Saudi Arabia will have on their Qatari neighbors. CAN cautions Saudi Arabia, and advises it to take a progressive role. Countries are already calling COP18 the Saudi COP. So, Saudi Arabia, CAN's message to you: "Stop undermining Qatar!"

**The Second Place Fossil goes to Poland** to Poland, for blocking the European Union to increase its pledge to 30% reductions by 2020, much less the 30% solely through domestic action or 40% overall that NGOs and some vulnerable countries would dearly love to see. The Polish government is taking 26 other countries hostage to increase their level of ambition, and thus driving the European emissions trading to collapse. The Polish position is also undermining the EU's overall credibility in their call for real progress under the ADP workplan to increase near-term ambition until 2020. Poland, notably, has also been instrumental in blocking the European Union to adopt a position on the issue of AAU carry-over. Without Poland, the EU would have been able to move forward on AAUs ages ago.

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***About CAN:** The Climate Action Network (CAN) is a worldwide network of roughly 700 Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) working to promote government and individual action to limit human-induced climate change to ecologically sustainable levels. [www.climatenetwork.org](http://www.climatenetwork.org)*

***About the fossils:** The Fossil of the Day awards were first presented at the climate talks in 1999, in Bonn, initiated by the German NGO Forum. During United Nations climate change negotiations ([www.unfccc.int](http://www.unfccc.int)), members of the Climate Action Network (CAN), vote for countries judged to have done their 'best' to block progress in the negotiations in the last days of talks.*

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