

ECO



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ECO email: administration@climatenetwork.org - ECO website: <http://eco.climatenetwork.org> - Editorial/Production: Kyle Gracey

Only Fools DON'T Rush In (to a Low-Carbon Future)

Sometimes in life it pays to be contemplative. One should do one's research before buying a house (who wants to live in a flood zone made more vulnerable by climate change?) or getting married (imagine if s/he is secretly a climate sceptic or a bottom-up advocate!) or starting a family (OK, so maybe that doesn't always happen, but you get ECO's point). Considering options to increase the level of ambition, however, is NOT one of those issues. The options are clear. The task now is their immediate implementation.

The workshop on enhancing near-term ambition did highlight that many countries are moving forward with a wide variety of mitigation initiatives. This is very good. However, as we know, it is not enough. ECO was also pleased to see a number of countries referring to some very good ways to increase ambition, ranging from upping their pledges, to phasing out HFCs or fossil fuel subsidies, to reducing black carbon, enhancing energy efficiency, protecting our forests or addressing the emissions from international bunkers (hello ICAO assembly in September!). What upsets ECO is that countries have been *talking* about these

Get to Work(shop)!

ECO is getting worked up by these workshops. On Monday, we heard several distinguished delegates mention the importance of participation. Well, ECO would like to raise your participation and call for interaction!

OK, so we're being deliberately obtuse about what the distinguished delegate was referring to. Our "friends" from the brollies were actually setting up a dangerous dichotomy between participation and ambition, which is totally unacceptable. But

options for a long time. ECO cannot imagine having to continue to talk about them all the way to Warsaw (and possibly beyond). It is time to get into the details of implementation – as the Marshall Islands put it, the "nuts and bolts" – so that, by the time the Warsaw COP comes around, countries are taking concrete decisions attached to tangible emissions reductions.

ECO thought it would be useful, albeit possibly repetitive, to outline what some of those concrete measures would be:

- Increase those targets: EU 30%, Australia 25%, the USA – well if you agreed with so much of the discussion ECO is sure implementing those ideas can get you beyond 3%...
- Announce new pledges – now that the pressure is off for our COP President and its friends, let's formalise and build on the announcements made in Qatar. ECO is happy to help with press conferences and the like.
- Start drafting that COP decision proposed by the EU to call on the Montreal Protocol to get its act together on HFCs.

for the moment ECO will let that pass (although you know we'll come back to it!).

What surprised ECO was the re-articulation of well established positions in the initial workshop on scope and design. This is deeply disappointing. ECO urges parties to be brave; put creative ideas forward. Some will get flattened (like that frog!) but some will permeate. If you don't ask you don't get. ECO understands that years of disharmony make Parties nervous about revealing some of their thinking, but this is your time to shine. This is the year of conceptual ideas: we're facing an unprecedented challenge, one that requires

• Call your colleagues working with ICAO and get them prepared to commit in September.

• Implement programs to address the upfront costs of renewables in order to enhance their deployment (so UK – do we have a date for the June session? ☺)

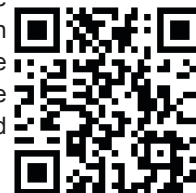
• Call your friends at the World Bank and get them to shift investment patterns to renewable energy and energy efficiency; the World Bank (like ECO) is adamant that we must avoid a 4°C world, and yet as Mali and Senegal highlighted, finance for low-carbon options identified in a country's low-carbon plan is not always there, leaving emissions-intensive development as the default. This leads well into the next point.

• SHOW US THE MONEY. That is to say, developed countries need to support developing countries, who can do more, with more. It really is that simple.

With the numerous win-win opportunities discussed today, only fools wouldn't rush in to a safe, clean, low-carbon future.

an unprecedented response. And in this new (to us), bright and transparent building, what better surroundings could there be for a more frank and visionary discussion?

We only have a few days here in Bonn, and ECO hopes that Parties have just been warming up before heading to the gym (i.e. Maritim). We hope to see you properly working out with each other over the course of this week's workshops; we want to see blood, sweat and tears!



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unlike the Green Climate Fund, we hope)