

E-news update August 7 2006

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EU

1.1. NAPs 2008-12 status

In the beginning of August only 6 Member States have notified their National Allocation Plans for 2008 – 12 for the Commission, namely Estonia, Germany, Ireland, Lithuanian, Luxemburg, Poland. One month after the deadline, the Commission is preparing legal action against 18 member states who have failed to submit their NAPs. The letters to launch legal action against countries which have not submitted their plans in time are to be sent in August. The Commission will try to group the decisions to approve or reject the plans. This process will last from October 2006 to the end of the year. The key concern for NGOs is not the late submissions of the NAPs but rather stringency of caps to ensure that Member States meet their Kyoto target.

Out of 17 NAPs available (Belgium (Wolloon), Bulgaria, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Sweden, UK) only 5 have indicated the use of auctioning (France -10%, Ireland – 0.5%, Netherlands – 4%, Poland – 1 5, UK – 7%). Out of the same 17 MS, 7 MS have increased allocation in Phase II compared to Phase I (including Belgium (Wolloon), Netherlands, Ireland from EU 15 and Poland, Latvia, Estonia and Slovakia from EU 10), as reported in Environmental Finance July –August, 2006.

ENERGY AND EMISSIONS

2.1. Blair signs climate pact with Schwarzenegger

1 August 2006, The Guardian

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/usa/story/0,,1834663,00.html>:

Tony Blair yesterday sidestepped the Bush administration's refusal to act on climate change by signing what was hailed as a ground-breaking agreement with California, the world's 12th largest carbon emitter, to fight global warming.

Downing Street made no attempt to disguise the fact that the deal is designed to get round Republican objections to states imposing mechanisms to cut carbon emissions. With other US states also interested or involved in carbon trading markets, the path is being opened to bring US business into international efforts to fight climate change, even though international progress has been stymied by the Bush administration's refusal to sign up to binding targets in the Kyoto protocol.

Mr Blair signed the statement of intent yesterday with California's governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, saying it would lay the groundwork for a new transatlantic market in carbon dioxide emissions.

The prime minister wants to create a coalition of the willing among those US states prepared to join the European Union's carbon trading scheme. The Blair-Schwarzenegger deal came at a meeting in Long Beach organised by Steve Howard, CEO of the Climate Group, an international charity working to cut greenhouse gas emissions, and Lord Browne, chairman of British Petroleum. Virgin's Sir Richard Branson was also present.

The two-year-old EU carbon trading scheme sets country-by-country overall caps for carbon, and rewards individual companies which find a profitable way to minimise carbon emissions.

The United States is responsible for a quarter of the world's global-warming pollution. Bush administration officials argue that requiring cuts in greenhouse gases would cost the US economy 5m jobs.

Mr Schwarzenegger has set out an ambitious climate change programme for California amid fears that water shortages and heatwaves will destroy the state's economy, including its vineyards, within 20 years. In June last year, the state committed itself to cut carbon emissions back to 2000 levels by 2010, a fall of 59m tonnes, and by 2020 down to 1990 levels, a fall of 145m tonnes. Polls show Californians regard climate change as the biggest issue facing the state. Even though Mr Schwarzenegger is a Republican, he strongly supports tough measures, and huge investment in clean technology.

Backstory

Carbon trading has emerged as a way for countries to slash emissions of greenhouse gases. Each country is given an emissions quota and issues permits to the biggest carbon emitters, such as power firms. Those companies that reduce emissions and use less than their quota can sell leftover permits to others which fail to. Each year the quota is reduced, so market forces push the penalty for emitting greenhouse gases higher. Europe has established an emissions trading network, and at least nine US states have started trading carbon dioxide among themselves.

2.2. (Nigerian) Govt plans alternative to petrol

28 July 2006, The Guardian, Lagos, <http://www.ngrguardiannews.com/news/article06>

The Federal Government has secured about 300,000 hectares of irrigated sugar cane farmland in Jigawa State for a project that will develop ethanol as an alternative fuel for motorists.

The May, 2006 edition of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) news bulletin, made available to The Guardian yesterday, explained that the project, which is to utilise sugar cane and cassava for the production of ethanol fuel, has the potential of making available up to 10 per cent of fuel being consumed in the country.

Nigeria, according to the NNPC, consumes about 30 million litres of petroleum per day.

According to the corporation, ethanol would provide up to three million litres of the nation's daily fuel requirement.

The Group Managing Director of NNPC, Funsho Kupolokun, an engineer, was quoted in the bulletin as saying that the fuel ethanol initiative was part of the overall agenda of the Federal Government to reposition the economy along the path of sustainable development.

President George Bush of the United States recently advised Americans to work towards reducing the country's oil imports by 75 per cent by the year 2025.

The United States is the world's top consumer of petroleum products, consuming three times more than China, which is regarded as the second consumer of the commodity worldwide.

The General Manager of Briscoeford, one of the dealers of Ford products in Nigeria, Mr. Oseme Oigiagbe, confirmed in an interview that research had reached an advanced stage in the search for an alternative to petroleum fuel.

Oseme said Ford Motor Company was also actively pursuing the development of an alternative to petroleum products.

Investigations by The Guardian revealed that although Henry Ford planned to fuel his early cars with ethanol, the proposal did not materialise until the mid-1990s.

The U.S. Congress has passed the Alternative Motor Fuels Act of 1988, which encourages automobile makers to build vehicles with the capacity to use alternative fuel.

According to motoring experts, General Motors believes that the ultimate solution to reducing the U.S. dependence on oil is the use of hydrogen-powered fuel-cell vehicles.

Other automakers, including Chrysler, Ford, Mercedes-Benz and Nissan have made commitments to ethanol fuel vehicles infrastructure.

The Chrysler Group, which sold its first ethanol vehicle in 1998, will produce about 25,000 alternative vehicles this year for fleet sales only.

By the 2008 model year, the company said it had commitments to building about 500,000 flexible fuel vehicles - about 25 per cent of all the vehicles it produces yearly.

Ethanol is a form of alcohol, often sourced from corn or sugar cane. When blended, it can be used as fuel in petrol engines.

According to experts, it can be used in cars with little or no modification to the engine.

CONFERENCES

3.1. EU ETS Review: Outlook for its future climate effectiveness

Date: Wednesday 11 October 2006, 16:30 – 18:30pm

Location: European Parliament, Rue Wiertz 60, B-1047 Brussels (room to be confirmed).

Organized by Climate Action Network Europe in collaboration with MEP Peter Liese, MEP Chris Davies and MEP Claude Turmes.

Registration: please inform karim@climnet.org if you wish to participate by 1 September 2006 by Email (karim@climnet.org) or Fax +32 2 229 52 29.

3.2. UNFCCC African Regional Workshop on Adaptation

UNFCCC has invited CAN to nominate three representatives for African Regional workshop on Adaptation to be held in Accra, GHANA from 21 to 23 September 2006.

The workshop will be organised in collaboration with the Environmental Protection Agency of Ghana. Topics are to include national and regional vulnerability and adaptation measures; examples of adaptation action at the local, national and regional level as well as integration of adaptation into sustainable development; opportunities for the enhancement of relevant international collaboration in the region (North-South and South-South); and adaptation funding opportunities.

The Secretariat may communicate with some nominated experts regarding the possibility for them to make a presentation on one of the topics regarding the possibility for them to make a presentation on one of the topics mention above, especially on examples of successful international collaboration on these matters.

Those following the issues may send their names (with details of Organisation, Name, Title, Contact Address and numbers with email id) to Sanjay (sanjay@climatenetwork.org) by 16th August, 2006 at CAN International Secretariat.

Please note that participants are responsible for making there own arrangements of travel as there is no funding available with the CAN International Secretariat.

3.3. Washington Summit on Climate Stabilization

September 18-21, 2006.

Summit Site: http://washington_summit.climate.org

Climate Institute web site: <http://www.climate.org>

The science symposium will explore the implications of changes in the intensity of hurricanes and other severe weather events, in the melting rates of glaciers and ice sheets, in the incidence and severity of drought, and in the impacts on ecosystems and human health.

PUBLICATIONS

4.1. WBGU Report: Future Oceans

The full english version of the special report "The Future Oceans: Warming Up, Rising High, Turning Sour" released by the German Advisory Council on Global Change (WBGU) is now available for download at http://www.wbgu.de/wbgu_sn2006_en.html.

Please direct your queries to the Secretariat of the German Advisory Council on Global Change (WBGU), wbgu@wbgu.de, Tel. +49 30 263948 0.

