

E-news update March 13 2006

In this issue:

POLICY

- 1.1. EU Energy Green Paper
- 1.2. New EU energy paper lacks vision for sustainable use of resources

ENERGY AND EMISSIONS

- 2.1. Scientists say British greenhouse gas emissions now higher than in 1990

CONFERENCES

- 3.1. Reducing Emissions from Deforestation in Developing Countries

PUBLICATIONS

- 4.1. Energy Green Paper
- 4.2. Energy Policy review
- 4.3. 'Combatting Forest Degradation: Certification as a driving force for amelioration - Challenges for small forest enterprises'

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 5.1. Invitation for comments – JI project in North-West Russia
- 5.2. Invitation for comments – JI project in Russia
- 5.3. Invittaiion for comments – JI project in Russia

POLICY

- 1.1. EU Energy Green Paper
8 March 2006, Edie newsroom

The new EU energy strategy misses the chance renewables offer for freeing Europe from its addiction to imported fossil fuels, environmental groups argue.

The newly published "Green Paper on a European strategy for secure, competitive and sustainable energy for Europe", which aims to spark Europe-wide debate before binding decisions are taken, drew criticism for its focus on security of gas and oil supplies combined with a vague approach to renewables.

The paper calls for more coordination and unity in the energy policy of member states, and identifies six policy areas that must deal with growing energy demand. These are EU external policy for securing oil and gas imports, the diversity of the EU's energy mix, internal supply policy, tackling climate change, technological innovation, and job markets.

The European commission said in a statement: "The green paper will help the EU lay the foundations for a sustainable, competitive and secure energy. The world is entering a new energy era. With a common, coherent energy policy, Europe can embrace this era with confidence."

But while it correctly identifies energy security and the climate change implications of energy use as challenges for Europe, the paper proposes no concrete steps to move towards renewables, say environmentalists.

The WWF criticised it as "weak on energy efficiency and renewable energies," Greenpeace said it was seriously flawed, and Friends of the Earth described it as "backward-looking."

Jan Kowalzig, energy campaigner at Friends of the Earth Europe, said: "The EU's focus on energy security is understandable. But oil from the volatile Middle East and gas from authoritarian-ruled Russia makes Europe vulnerable."

"The most effective way to secure energy supply is to cut down energy waste first - and to produce energy from renewable sources in Europe. Climate change cannot be halted with yet more oil and gas consumption."

Stephan Singer, Head of European Climate and Energy unit at WWF, commented: "Gas and oil prices are likely to remain high, therefore a share of 25 per cent of renewable energies is economically desirable and easily achievable in the EU by 2020."

"Yet, when talking about investments, the EU still seems to give priority to traditional sources, such as coal and gas that are neither economically nor environmentally sustainable."

The next step for the Green Paper will be the EU Energy Council on 14 March. It will then be discussed by European heads of state on 23-24 March.

By Goska Romanowicz.

1.2. New EU energy paper lacks vision for sustainable use of resources

8 March 2006, WWF press release

The energy strategy for Europe presented today by the European Commission is guided only by concerns on security of supply, but lacks a long-term vision for a sustainable and efficient use of resources.

The Green Paper on a European strategy for secure, competitive and sustainable energy for Europe mentions six priority areas that face increasing energy demand: energy policy in EU external relations, energy mix, internal supply, climate change, technology and innovation, jobs and growth.

While the paper includes a good analysis of the energy challenges that Europe must face in the coming years, it does not properly address climate change in a wider perspective. It is particularly weak on energy efficiency and renewable energies, as it does not call for targets, nor for strengthened legislation.

"Gas and oil prices are likely to remain high, therefore a share of 25 per cent of renewable energies is economically desirable and easily achievable in the EU by 2020," says Stephan Singer, Head of WWF's European Climate and Energy Unit.

"When talking about investments, the EU still seems to give priority to traditional sources, such as coal and gas that are neither economically nor environmentally sustainable. It is not by building new pipelines across the continent that the problems of energy supply and climate change will be solved. What Europe needs from the EU Commission is a long-term vision, with clear guidance on action to boost energy efficiency and renewable energies."

According to WWF, two opportunities to adopt strong EU legislation on energy efficiency were lost last year when the directives on electricity-consuming products and on energy services failed to include mandatory targets to be achieved by EU Member States.

As the Green Paper will be discussed by the EU Energy Council on 14 March, and by EU Heads of State and Government meeting at the European Council in Brussels from 23-24 March, WWF asks EU Ministers to adopt a strong energy efficiency target for the EU in order to cut energy consumption by at least 1 per cent per year across all economic sectors, including transport and housing.

ENERGY AND EMISSIONS

2.1. Scientists say British greenhouse gas emissions now higher than in 1990

10 March 2006, The Guardian

David Adam, environment correspondent:

Britain's emissions of the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide are now higher than they were in 1990, the benchmark year used in government targets to tackle the pollution which is driving climate change. A study by scientists at the Tyndall centre, at Manchester University, shows that soaring carbon emissions from the aviation and shipping industries have swamped attempts to reduce pollution from other UK sectors. The analysis is the first attempt to measure total UK emissions by including those from all ships and aircraft - one of the fastest growing sources of greenhouse gases, yet not included in official data on emissions.

The news will give more ammunition to critics of the government's credibility on climate change amid mounting exasperation among scientists that politicians who acknowledge the threat of global warming are failing to take serious action to cut emissions. Kevin Anderson, who led the study, said: "The atmosphere doesn't care where the carbon comes from, so in any rational approach you can't just conveniently forget to count some sectors." Emissions from aircraft and ships entering and leaving Britain have more than doubled since 1990 and are expected to double again within a decade.

The study comes as ministers are poised to publish a review of climate change policies intended by 2010 to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 20% on 1990 levels. But the scientists say such targets are misleading, because they do not include all sources of pollution. Dr Anderson said: "Even if we were to meet that target, the level of carbon dioxide sent into the atmosphere could still go up

because of this huge blind spot in the calculations. If aviation and shipping emissions are included, then the UK has not made any reduction in carbon dioxide emissions since 1990."

Official reports on carbon dioxide pollution do not include that from aircraft and ships using British airports and docks because it is classed as international. But Dr Anderson said to ignore this risked invalidating a government pledge to cut carbon pollution by 60% below 1990 levels by 2050, which scientists say is the only way to prevent dangerous climate change. "If the government uses that 60% target as a basis for action then it has to say we're interested in emissions as a total from the UK," Dr Anderson said. To include pollution from ships and aircraft, Dr Anderson and his colleague, Alice Bows, combined government statistics on carbon dioxide emissions, data on fuel use at UK airports, and figures on the number of ships using British ports.

With these forms of transport included, they calculated that UK carbon emissions in 1990 were between 171m and 175m tons. Emissions fell sharply in the early 1990s as Britain switched its power stations from coal to gas and closed down much heavy industry, but by 2004 had risen again to between 172m and 177m tons. Without shipping and aviation included, emissions fell by 4% over the same period, from 161m to 155m tons.

Elliot Morley, the minister for climate change, said: "We know that aviation emissions have risen and they've always been outside the calculation. But you've got to be careful that you don't use them as an excuse for not taking action in other areas." Shipping could join aviation in European schemes to curb pollution by trading emissions, he suggested.

CONFERENCES

3.1. Reducing Emissions from Deforestation in Developing Countries

A workshop to discuss methodological and policy issues: Bad Blumau / Austria, 10-12 May 2006 (SBSTA 24 in Bonn is on 15-26 May 2006).

Organized and co-funded by: JOANNEUM RESEARCH, Austria; Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS), USA; Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR); The Global Carbon Project (GCP); The INSEA project (Integrated Sink Assessment Project) with funding from European Commission, DG Research.

A workshop announcement including program and registration form are available on the workshop website: www.joanneum.at/REDD.

Background: COP-11 initiated a 2-year process to consider approaches to stimulate action for reducing emissions from deforestation in developing countries. As a first step, the COP invited Parties and accredited observers to submit, by 31 March 2006, their views "on issues relating to reducing emissions from deforestation in developing countries, focusing on relevant scientific, technical and methodological issues, and the exchange of relevant information and experiences, including policy approaches and positive incentives". SBSTA is expected to consider these submissions at SBSTA 24 in May 15-26, 2006 in Bonn, Germany, and subsequently hold a workshop on this issue later in 2006.

The objective of our workshop is to provide a timely forum for an informal discussion and assessment of methodological and policy approaches for reducing emissions from deforestation. The workshop will base its discussions on the published literature, the 31 March submissions by governments and observer organizations, and inputs by workshop participants. The timing of the workshop has been selected to precede and provide input into the dialogue at SBSTA 24 and SBSTA workshop in late 2006. Anticipated outputs include a side-event at SBSTA 24 to present major findings of our workshop, including initial ideas for the SBSTA workshop terms of reference.

PUBLICATIONS

4.1. Energy Green Paper

The European Commission released its long-awaited Energy Green Paper. You can find the final (the 13th version) draft as well as background documents on: http://europa.eu.int/comm/energy/green-paper-energy/index_en.htm.

4.2. Energy Policy review

We would like to inform you that the EBRD has prepared a revised Energy Operations Policy. Comments are invited during the 45 days it will be posted on the EBRD website. Any comments should be submitted to energypolicyreview@ebrd.com no later than 19 April 2006 so that they can be taken into account.

The draft Energy Operations Policy is a basis on which to comment. The document sets out the general, specific and operational role of the Bank in the energy sector and establishes the overall framework for the Bank's activities over the strategy period 2006-2010. It will succeed the Energy Operations Policy approved by the Board on 21 March 2001, as well as the Natural Resources Policy approved on 23 March 1999. For more information please visit EBRD's website at: <http://www.ebrd.com/about/policies/sector/energy/new.htm>.

Please submit your comments to energypolicyreview@ebrd.com no later than 19 April 2006.

4.3. 'Combatting Forest Degradation: Certification as a driving force for amelioration - Challenges for small forest enterprises'

The Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) is pleased to announce the publication of Policy Brief #3, entitled 'Combatting Forest Degradation: Certification as a driving force for amelioration - Challenges for small forest enterprises'.

The natural forests of many Asia-Pacific countries are rapidly degrading or disappearing, threatened by a complex array of forces and appropriate measures for sustainable forest management are urgently required.

Forest certification provides a credible means of verifying the legality of timber/wood products and ensures that forests are managed according to the recognised principles of sustainable forest management. However, present supplies of certified timber, especially from tropical countries, are expected to fall short of the future demand envisioned by Japan and other importer countries. Small forest enterprises are a feature of forestry in many tropical countries and could play an important role in supplying certified timber.

This policy brief introduces four measures to improve the accessibility of forest certification to small forest enterprises referred to in IGES case studies done in Papua New Guinea.

Author: Dr. Henry Scheyvens, Policy Researcher, IGES Forest Conservation Project.

For download: <http://www.iges.or.jp/en/pub/policybrief.html>.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

5.1. Invitation for comments – JI project in North-West Russia

The Certification Body "Climate and Energy " of TÜV SÜD Industrie Service GmbH realizes a determination of the Coal-to-Waste Wood Energy Switch in the Town of Onega, Archangelsk Oblast, North-West Russia ("Onega Wood Energy Project").

Purpose and short description: The purpose of the proposed JI project "Coal-to-Waste Wood Energy Switch" is to replace outdated and inefficient municipal heating installations of fossil coal boilers build in the 1950s and 1970s by modern wood-fired boilers.

The project plans to install one biomass heating plant (total capacity 43 MWthermal) in Onega Town, Archangelsk Oblast in North-West Russia. The project owner is Onega Energy JSC ("Onega Energy"), a company set up especially for the purpose of delivering biomass thermal power to half of the 23,000 people in Onega town. Onega Energy is a joint stock company. The share distribution is 75% (minus 1 share) Onega Sawmills JSC and 25% (+ one share) Municipality of Onega.

We invite all parties, stakeholders and observers in accordance with the JI rules and modalities to comment on the project on our webpage: http://www.netinform.net/KE/Wegweiser/Guide2.aspx?ID=1595&Ebene1_ID=26&Ebene2_ID=442&mode=0.

This project will be open for comments within the next 30 days - from March 10 to April 8, 2006.

5.2. Invitation for comments – JI project in Russia

The Certification Body "Climate and Energy " of TÜV SÜD Industrie Service GmbH realize a determination of the Murmansk District Heating Rehabilitation Project in Russia.

