

## E-news update March 6 2006

In this issue:

### POLICY

- 1.1. Groundbreaking Kyoto Protocol Compliance system launched
- 1.2. Commission Green paper on an integrated energy policy for Europe

### ENERGY AND EMISSIONS

- 2.1. US Greenhouse Gases Rose 1.7 Percent in 2004 – EPA
- 2.2. Climate scientists issue dire warning

### CLIMATE IMPACTS

- 3.1. Snowmen demonstrate against climate change - Fear for loss of snow in the future unites people across Europe

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 4.1. UNFF& outcome online
- 4.2. Invitation for comments – JI project in Hungary
- 4.3. Invitation for comments – JI project in Bulgaria
- 4.4. Invitation for comments – JI projects in Poland

### POLICY

- 1.1. Groundbreaking Kyoto Protocol Compliance system launched  
3 March 2006, press releases:  
[http://unfccc.int/files/press/news\\_room/press\\_releases\\_and\\_advisories/application/pdf/20060303\\_compliance\\_committee\\_1st\\_meeting.pdf](http://unfccc.int/files/press/news_room/press_releases_and_advisories/application/pdf/20060303_compliance_committee_1st_meeting.pdf)

The Kyoto Protocol's Compliance Committee has taken up its operations as the last of the bodies established under the 1997 landmark environmental treaty to do so, and elected the Chairs of its Enforcement and Facilitative Branches at a meeting in Bonn, Germany.

Ambassador Raúl Estrada Oyuela (Argentina), elected Chair of the Enforcement Branch, called the Kyoto Protocol compliance system "groundbreaking" and pointed out that the organ was "designed to ensure the environmental integrity of the agreement and to contribute to the credibility of the carbon market created by the Protocol."

Hironori Hamanaka of Japan was elected Chair of the committee's Facilitative Branch.

Under the Kyoto Protocol, 35 industrialized countries and the EEC are required to reduce greenhouse gas emissions below levels specified for each of them in the Protocol. Overall, this should amount to reductions of at least 5% below 1990 levels between 2008 and 2012. The 20-member Compliance Committee is tasked with dealing with cases of non-compliance with these and other obligations of the Protocol.

Whilst the Enforcement Branch of the Committee has the power to determine consequences for Parties that encounter problems with meeting their commitments, the Facilitative Branch of the Committee is designed to provide advice and assistance to Parties in order to promote compliance.

"A strong and effective compliance mechanism is key to the success of the implementation of the treaty," said Richard Kinley, acting head of the United Nations Climate Change Secretariat in Bonn.

Parties to the Protocol provide the UNFCCC secretariat in Bonn with annual reports of their greenhouse gas emissions, which then undergo a rigorous review process. The secretariat also monitors the international carbon emission trading market and receives annual accounting reports from parties on carbon allowances they have acquired or transferred to another Party or result from project-level emission reductions. Compliance is then determined by comparing emissions to allowances.

The Committee will consider individual cases as they arise and is empowered to make final decisions on such cases. It reports annually to the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol.

-----

- 1.2. Commission Green paper on an integrated energy policy for Europe

27 February 2006, joint letter of Greenpeace European Unit, WWF European Policy Office, European Federation for Transport and Environment, Friends of the Earth Europe, Climate Action Network Europe

Dear Commissioner Ferrero-Waldner,

The Commission's forthcoming Green Paper on Secure, Competitive and Sustainable Energy for Europe, due to be adopted on March 8, is an excellent opportunity to start making Europe's energy policies truly sustainable and resource efficient, and, therefore, more competitive. We urge you to recognise the need for:

Fighting climate change with a clean energy policy. Last year, the Spring European Council endorsed the goal of keeping global temperature rise below 2 degrees Celsius over pre-industrial levels. The Green Paper unfortunately must address this climate objective. Today's energy decisions must contribute not only to meeting the existing commitments under the Kyoto Protocol, but also towards achieving the deeper emission reductions that are required so that the 2-degree objective is met. In order to stay below this temperature limit with significant certainty, the EU must reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by at least 30% by 2020 and by about 80% by 2050;

During the review of the Emissions Trading Directive, the European Commission must propose stricter caps and the auctioning of all carbon dioxide allowances under the scheme.

Securing the massive uptake of renewable energy sources. Renewable energy sources are the best option for a climate-friendly and secure energy supply. These clean sources have a vast potential. Only a fraction of this is currently being utilised. The EU needs to demonstrate its long-term commitment to renewable energy sources by setting 2020 mandatory targets for their primary energy share. For 2020, this target should be 25% for the EU-25. The European Commission should initiate legislation in this field as a matter of urgency. Legally binding sectoral targets for the share of renewable energy in electricity, heating & cooling and transport are also required, according to existing capacities and potentials. Renewable energy sources must have guaranteed and priority access to the grid.

Realising the full potential of energy efficiency and conservation. Energy efficiency and energy conservation must be clearly linked. Improving energy efficiency levels both in the demand and supply side is essential in order to obtain an absolute reduction in energy consumption. The European Commission's 2005 Green Paper on Energy Efficiency states that Europe could cost-effectively reduce 20% of its current energy consumption by 2020, saving €60 billion per year, and creating as many as 1 million new jobs. Yet, EU policy-making in this area has so far been weak because a sound and consistent energy efficiency policy is lacking. A common, ambitious, mandatory target for energy demand reduction needs to be adopted. A target of at least 20% reduction of today's energy consumption by 2020 should be introduced. Energy efficiency and energy conservation should be given a prominent role in the EU priorities and financing (in the place of carbon intensive technologies such as 'clean coal', gas infrastructures or nuclear energy) through the FP7, structural and cohesion funds, European financial institution programmes and loans.

Phasing out subsidies to dirty energy. Fossil fuels and nuclear energy have received billions in subsidies over the past decades. Also, the external costs of energy production from traditional sources are borne by society, including, for example, the costs from air pollution, health impacts, and the costs of nuclear waste treatment, decommissioning and security. The European Environment Agency estimates that these external costs of nuclear and fossil fuels were 40 to 70 billion Euro in 2003, without taking into account the impacts of climate change on the economy. An immediate end must be put to subsidies and state aid to conventional energy sources (fossil fuels and nuclear energy). In accordance with the polluter pays principle, all external costs must be internalised into the price for these energy sources.

Recognising nuclear energy as an environmental and financial folly. Nuclear power can not have a future in Europe. It is dangerous, expensive and unnecessary. The risk of nuclear accidents, the production of highly radioactive waste and the threats of nuclear weapons proliferation are the main reasons why nuclear power needs to be phased out. In addition, nuclear energy can not survive in a truly liberalised market, since it is dependent upon state aid before, during and after the reactors operate. No more EU funding should be granted to nuclear fission and fusion. This money should instead be allocated to energy efficiency and renewable energy research projects.

Reversing transport trends. Transport today accounts for approximately one third of the EU's energy consumption – and the sector consumes 70% of all oil in the EU, arguably causing the greatest European challenge for energy security. At the time when the need for reducing oil consumption is higher than ever, the European Commission is opening the door towards diluting the long-standing

energy efficiency objective for new cars (on average 5 litres per 100 km by 2010). Biofuel policies should be pursued separately from fuel efficiency ones. The Commission should come forward with a legislative proposal to double the fuel efficiency of new cars over the next decade.

In summary, the main elements of the Green Paper should be energy efficiency, renewable energy sources and transport. The risks associated with nuclear energy should be recognised. These priorities also reflect the preferences of the European public - the recent results of the 2006 Eurobarometer poll show that the majority of European citizens believe that governments should develop the use of solar and wind power. Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

-----

## ENERGY AND EMISSIONS

### 2.1. US Greenhouse Gases Rose 1.7 Percent in 2004 – EPA

28 February 2006, Planet Ark

US emissions of gases blamed for global warming rose 1.7 percent in 2004, as the country burned more fossil fuel for transportation and electricity, according to federal environment regulators.

The United States, the world's leading emitter of greenhouse gases, released about 7.075 billion metric tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent last year, according to a draft report from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). US greenhouse gas emissions, which include carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide, have risen 15.8 percent from 1990 to 2004, according to the EPA.

President George W Bush says US greenhouse gas intensity, or the amount of greenhouse gas emission for every dollar of economic output, is falling. He prefers voluntary methods of cutting emissions.

The United Nations' Kyoto Protocol on global warming signed by 156 countries requires developed nations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 5.2 percent of their 1990 levels from 2008 to 2012.

President George W Bush pulled out of the Kyoto pact in 2001, saying it would harm the economy. So far, adherence to the Kyoto goals has been patchy. The UN climate office said earlier this month that Kyoto nations were on track to cut emissions by 3.5 percent compared with 1990 levels by 2012 but that the goal of 5.2 percent could be reached by introducing extra measures.

The EPA did not indicate how US emissions would fare in the future, but climate researchers say voluntary cuts won't trim overall greenhouse output in the United States. "Voluntary programs that are aimed at reducing emissions...are offset by the growth because there are no requirements overall," said Vicki Arroyo, director of policy at analysis at the Pew Center on Global Climate Change in Virginia.

At a UN conference in December the United States agreed to participate in talks about extending Kyoto Protocol beyond its first phase, but only after the text was watered down to say the discussions would not lead to mandatory emissions caps. The EPA follows UN methods in assessing greenhouse gas emissions and is the official US tally of greenhouse emissions. In December, the Department of Energy said US emissions of heat-trapping gases rose 2 percent last year. Story by Timothy Gardner.

-----

### 2.2. Climate scientists issue dire warning

28 February 2006, The Guardian

David Adam: The Earth's temperature could rise under the impact of global warming to levels far higher than previously predicted, according to the United Nations' team of climate experts.

A draft of the next influential Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report will tell politicians that scientists are now unable to place a reliable upper limit on how quickly the atmosphere will warm as carbon dioxide levels increase. The report draws together research over the past five years and will be presented to national governments in April and made public next year.

It raises the possibility of the Earth's temperature rising well above the ceiling quoted in earlier accounts. Such an outcome would have severe consequences, such as the collapse of the Greenland ice sheet and disruption of the Gulf Stream ocean current.

The shift in position comes as Tony Blair is expected to pledge today to work towards a date for stabilising international greenhouse gas emissions when he meets Stop Climate Chaos, the climate change equivalent of Make Poverty History. The group is campaigning for a target date of 2015 for stabilisation, saying a later date would endanger the planet.

The new IPCC report will underpin international talks on how to cut greenhouse gas emissions when the first phase of the Kyoto protocol expires in 2012. Set up in 1988 by the UN, the IPCC brings

together hundreds of experts to summarise the state of climate science for policymakers. It has produced three reports since 1990, each of which has been instrumental in establishing national and international strategies to address global warming. Government officials have until June to comment on the new draft, when scientists will gather in Bergen, Norway, to produce a final version.

The IPCC's removal of the upper temperature estimation is posited on new predictions about how the atmosphere would react to the carbon blanket wrapped around it. The three previous reports assumed that a doubling of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere would increase average global temperature by between 1.5 and 4.5C. Since then, computer models have foreseen increases as high as 11C, and some scientists wanted the naturally conservative IPCC to raise the upper end of the range. Others said such a move would be increase would be misleading and alarmist.

According to sources who have seen it, the draft now assumes a doubling of carbon dioxide would cause a likely temperature rise of between 2 and 4.5C, but says higher increases are possible. The shift follows several high profile studies convincing some scientists the atmosphere may be much more sensitive to greenhouse gases than they had thought. Peter Cox, a leading climate expert at the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology in Winfrith, Dorset, said: "The scientific agenda has moved from improving the predictions to thinking about what are the chances of something awful happening." Dr Cox said the IPCC's move is significant because it will force governments to seriously consider extreme scenarios that are unlikely but potentially devastating.

"The most probable thing is not the most important thing to worry about. The upper end is where the big problems are, because the impact rises as the temperature does." If we continue to burn fossil fuels at current rates, levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere will reach 550 ppm (parts per million) - double pre-industrial levels - by around 2050. The most recent IPCC report, published in 2001, said this would increase global temperatures by between 1.4 and 5.8C by 2100, and that sea levels would rise by between 0.09 and 0.88 metres.

Climate scientists remain divided about the likelihood of the worst-case scenario being realised. James Annan, a British climate scientist who works on the Japanese Earth simulator supercomputer in Yokohama, says the risks of extreme climate sensitivity and catastrophic consequences have been overstated. He is about to publish a study showing that the chance of climate sensitivity exceeding 4.5C is less than 5%. He said: "It seems to me that some people seem to be talking up the possibility of disaster in order to scare people into doing something."

Dave Stainforth, a climate modeller at Oxford University, said: "This is something of a hot topic but it comes down to what you think is a small chance - even if there's just a half per cent chance of destruction of society, I would class that as a very big risk."

The IPCC findings mirror a British report on avoiding dangerous climate change published last month, in which Mr Blair admitted that the risks may be more serious than previously thought. It included a warning from Chris Rapley, head of the British Antarctic Survey, that the huge west Antarctic ice sheet may be starting to disintegrate, an event that would raise sea levels around the world by five metres. "The last IPCC report characterised Antarctica as a slumbering giant in terms of climate change," he said. "I would say it is now an awakened giant. There is real concern."

-----

## CLIMATE IMPACTS

### 3.1. Snowmen demonstrate against climate change - Fear for loss of snow in the future unites people across Europe

28 February 2006, Friends of the Earth Finland

In eight European countries, snowmen and snowwomen demand that global warming must be fought. Snowmen are being made by organisations and citizens worried about lack of action against climate change. The initiative for the demonstrations come from the Friends of the Earth Finland. Beside several places in Finland, Snowmen are also demonstrating in Estonia on the same day (28.2), in Russia on 5.3. and in Norway 11.-12.3 during the World Cup races in Holmenkollen. Demonstration were also arranged in Hungary on 16.2 and in Bulgaria, Sweden and Slovenia on 18.2.

Both real snowmen made out of snow, symbolic ones made of other materials, and people dressed as snowmen have been seen demonstrating. "Climate change is going to affect all of us. We all can do our part in our everyday lives and also wake up other citizens and politicians. Lots of quite different people have wished to participate, from schoolchildren and scouts to adults. Everybody should make they own kind of snowmen while it's still possible: humoristic, sad or heroic", encourages Anna-Riikka Ihantola, Climate Campaign Coordinator of Friends of the Earth Finland.

Without quick and decisive action, average temperatures on Earth will rise 2,5-4,1 degrees centigrade in the next hundred years. In northern areas, the temperature will rise even faster. In Finland and most arctic areas, the change in average temperatures could be as much as 7 degrees by 2080. By the end of the century, the climate in Northern Lapland could be similar to that currently in Southern Finland. Most Finns would consider this a dramatic change. Both the amount of snow and the duration of the snow period are going to change significantly.

While snow is a central part of the arctic culture, the effects of climate change in other areas around the world are even more drastic. Quick melting of glaciers, for example, may dramatically reduce access to water in many areas in South-Eastern Asia that are dependent on a steady flow of water from the ice.

The snowmen are also demonstrating out of solidarity towards poor people in the developing countries. Those people are already bearing the heaviest burden of climate change in the form of droughts and extreme weather events. "For the snowmen and the arctic culture to survive, action against climate change is needed now. The later we cut the emissions, the more dramatic the climate change that mankind will have to face", says Ihanola. To avoid catastrophic climate change, 30 % of carbon dioxide emissions must be cut down by year 2020 in the industrialized countries. Demonstration on the Internet (in Finnish, briefly in English) <http://www.maanystavat.fi/lumiukot>. Photos from year 2006 will appear after demonstrations at the address: <http://www.maanystavat.fi/galleria/thumbnails.php?album=44>. Photos from the last year: <http://www.maanystavat.fi/galleria/thumbnails.php?album=11>.

-----

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### 4.1. UNFF& outcome online

The UNFF Secretariat would like to invite you to visit the updated UNFF6 webpage (<http://www.un.org/esa/forests/session.html>), where you can read about the outcome of the sixth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests. Listed you will find opening speeches, official documents, press releases, as well as the final draft of the ECOSOC resolution and its annexes.

-----

### 4.2. Invitation for comments – JI project in Hungary

DNV Certification is currently making a determination of the "RFV ESCO-type local energy efficiency projects" in Hungary. The projects aim at energy efficiency measures on public buildings by replacing the existing equipment with new and modernised facilities.

We herewith invite comments from Parties, stakeholders and observers in accordance with the JI rules and modalities. Comments may be provided during a period of 30 days until 31 March 2006 on the DNV Climate Change webpage: <http://www.dnv.com/certification/ClimateChange/>. After that the project is closed for comments, but the project documentation is still available for review.

-----

### 4.3. Invitation for comments – JI project in Bulgaria

TÜV Industrie Service GmbH TÜV SÜD Group is currently making a determination of the "New cogeneration power station for combined production of heat and electricity in District Heating Bourgas", Bulgaria.

The project comprises the design, construction and operation for new cogeneration power station for combined production of heat and electricity in District Heating Bourgas including 6 gas engines with a total power capacity of 18 MWe (CHP: combined heat and power). Three of the gas engines will have single output of 3.125 MWe / 3.19 MWth and the other three 2,394 MWth/ 2,814 MWe. The project will be realized at the premises of city of Bourgas.

TÜV Industrie Service GmbH TÜV SÜD Group herewith invites comments from Parties, stakeholders and observers in accordance with the JI rules and modalities. Comments may be provided during a period of 30 days on our webpage: [http://www.netinform.net/KE/Wegweiser/Guide2.aspx?ID=1442&Ebene1\\_ID=26&Ebene2\\_ID=378&mode=0](http://www.netinform.net/KE/Wegweiser/Guide2.aspx?ID=1442&Ebene1_ID=26&Ebene2_ID=378&mode=0).

-----

### 4.4. Invitation for comments – JI projects in Poland

