

CLIMATE & ENERGY  
POLICY NEWS  
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**TRANSATLANTIC CLIMATE RELATIONS ON THE EVE OF COPENHAGEN**

How the EU and US relate on climate change

**Copenhagen: from talks to action**

BY MATTHIAS DUWE, DIRECTOR, CAN-EUROPE

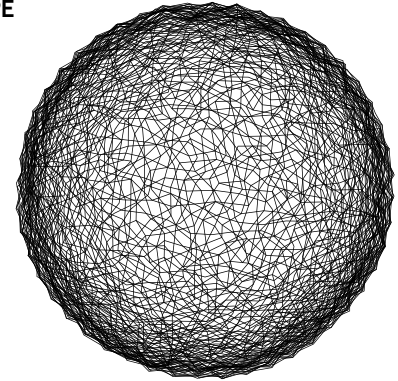
All eyes are turning to Copenhagen as tens of thousands flock to the Danish capital for the big climate diplomacy showdown at COP15 from 7-18 December. Government officials, business representatives, NGO observers, researchers, media outlets and many concerned citizens are all anxiously monitoring progress during the last of a series of meetings over the last two years to provide the international community's response to the dangers of global climate change.

Taking the next big step in the worldwide efforts to stop the dangerous impacts of a warming planet are long overdue and immediate action is more urgent than ever - as new scientific findings and real-world observations point to an increasing pace and magnitude of the changes that the Earth is undergoing.

Global emissions of greenhouse gases need to peak in the next 5-10 years if we are to have a fighting chance of avoiding the worst impacts of this self-inflicted problem and stay well below two degrees of warming. Only in this way will we be saving millions from climate induced destruction, island and coastal nations from losing their homes and species and habitats from being wiped out.

The UN talks have been discussing how to continue after the original Kyoto Protocol time-frame of 2012 for many years. In 2007 in Bali the negotiators gave themselves two more years to forge a new global agreement. The Copenhagen conference was thus marked with the goal it is now being measured against.

What do we need from Copenhagen? The essential formula is relatively simple: any outcome must be **FAIR** in that it explicitly respects the historical responsibility of the world's main polluters. All developed countries must sign up to deeper absolute emission cuts and financial support for action and adaptation elsewhere. The agreement needs to be **AMBITIOUS** insofar as it brings about emissions reduction actions globally that will put the world on track to avoid two degrees temperature rise. Finally, it must be **BINDING** in that the essentials of the agreement are included and all countries that are taking actions will be accountable to them.



COP15  
COPENHAGEN  
UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE 2009

Much has been made in the past weeks of the lack of time left to produce details of a new legal treaty to be coming out of Copenhagen - that expectations for what the summit can deliver are too high. But if anything is preventing the next big step forward it is a lack of political will, not time constraints - this is just an excuse. It is those that fear the outcomes of a fair, ambitious and binding agreement and that do not want it to happen that are trying to talk down expectations. But the world's public will not let them get away with it.

More than 80 government leaders have already announced their participation in the summit and the list is only getting larger. Copenhagen will be the moment in which Heads of State and their Ministers need to deliver to avoid future climate catastrophe. It will require bold leadership. It will require moving forward, overcoming political obstacles and special interests and making tough compromises - but it is possible.

The Copenhagen climate summit is a one off opportunity to move the world away from a dangerous path and put it on track towards the transition to an economy based on green jobs and intelligent resource use. This is an opportunity too important to waste. ■



The **World Health Organisation** has highlighted a wide range of implications of climate change for human health. Climate variability and change cause death and disease through natural disasters, such as heatwaves, floods and droughts. Common vector-borne diseases such as malaria and dengue fever, as well as other major killers such as malnutrition and diarrhoea, are highly sensitive to changing temperatures and precipitation.

## CAN targets: better than an apple a day

BY GENON JENSEN AND DIANA SMITH, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT ALLIANCE

Two of Europe's leading health and environment advocacy groups, Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL) and Health Care Without Harm (HCWH) are intensifying pressure on UNFCCC negotiators to focus on health in the next international climate treaty, to be agreed this month in Copenhagen. HCWH and HEAL, together with the UK Climate and Health Council, have recommended a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions of at least 40% below 1990 levels by 2020, a level which CAN asserts is the minimum required to protect public health by keeping global warming well below a dangerous increase of 2°C.

The "Prescription for a Healthy Planet," developed by HEAL and HCWH, was launched at the pre-Copenhagen talks in Barcelona and represents millions of health professionals from across the world.

The Prescription diagnoses the global threats to public health that climate change poses. It calls for the Copenhagen treaty to protect public health, set strong targets on emission reductions, promote clean energy and mandate major funding for developing countries to address the climate crisis.

The prescription was developed to highlight the personal and financial costs to public health that may arise from climate change, which may be very high. For example, recent research has shown that higher temperatures, which are associated with higher levels of air pollution, provoke more bronchitis and

other breathing problems, more hospital admissions and higher death rates, especially among older people and those with existing problems.<sup>1</sup>

Choosing policies that reduce carbon emissions brings positive returns for health, known as "co-benefits". More walking and cycling and less private car use has a positive effect on both mitigating climate change and health, as does eating less meat.

The public health costs avoided resulting from such policies should be taken into account when calculating the costs of climate change mitigation programmes. For example, the estimated annual public health savings in Europe associated with the avoidance of respiratory illness resulting from a 20% reduction in carbon emissions (from 1990 levels) by 2020 would be 52 billion Euros each year from 2020. This figure would rise to 76 billion Euros for a 30% reduction in carbon emissions. These estimates of future national health

budget savings would be significantly higher if health benefits globally were taken into account.<sup>2</sup>

During the COP15 climate negotiations in Copenhagen, HEAL and HCWH will be bringing a high level health delegation (such as the President of the Standing Committee of European Doctors, which represents medical associations in all 27 EU countries, the Secretary General of the European Public Health Alliance, and others) to Copenhagen to build capacity among health stakeholders by holding daily health briefings with WHO and participating in climate actions and at side events. ■

*Public health, healthcare and health advocacy organisations as well as individuals are encouraged to endorse the Prescription and share it with colleagues through the new campaign website – <http://www.climateandhealthcare.org/>*



Genon Jensen, Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL), and Josh Karliner, Health Care Without Harm (HCWH) present the "Prescription" to Dr Roberto Bertollini, World Health Organization at the Barcelona climate negotiations. Image courtesy of Robert van Waarden

1 CAN Europe, HEAL and WWF, 2008. "The co-benefits to health of a strong EU climate change policy" [http://www.env-health.org/IMG/pdf/Co-benefits\\_to\\_health\\_report\\_-september\\_2008.pdf](http://www.env-health.org/IMG/pdf/Co-benefits_to_health_report_-september_2008.pdf)

2 Ibid.

## HOTGOSSIP

You can't believe everything you hear. If you could, we might as well have canceled our reservations for Copenhagen. For the past month, various news sources have cried, "there are ominous signs that an agreement at Copenhagen could be doomed to failure," and "it is clear already that the summit will not produce a treaty." World leaders and negotiators fueled these statements toward the end of the last pre-Copenhagen round of negotiations in Barcelona in November, saying that they were "out of time" to reach a deal. But here at CAN Europe, we kept our bags packed and our tickets in hand. We know that the issue here is not time - negotiators have had more than two years to finalise the text, during which they made little progress - the issue is political will, something that can be re-infused. Dr Rajenda Pachauri, Chairman of the IPCC agrees, and said, "Science has been moved aside and the space has been filled up with political myopia." So keep up the pressure on your leaders and negotiators and soldier on to Copenhagen! And if someone you know tells you they heard it's doomed, you can say Hot Gossip told you - don't believe the hype!

**HOT AIR:****ASSIGNED AMOUNT UNITS (AAUS) EXPLAINED**

AAUs refer to one tonne of CO<sub>2</sub>-eq emissions, introduced under the Kyoto protocol. The targets under the Kyoto protocol are expressed as AAUs. Countries which emit less than their assigned amount of AAUs can sell the surplus emission rights.

## Blowing Hot Air

BY TOMAS WYNS, CAN EUROPE SENIOR POLICY OFFICER

At the end of October, CAN-Europe, published a report prepared by Point Carbon with a dire analysis of proposed greenhouse gas reductions. The report concludes that the emissions reduction targets currently on the table for Copenhagen, in combination with surplus emission rights – or “hot air” – left over from the Kyoto period, would result in only a 1% additional decrease in emissions over what was agreed in Kyoto 12 years ago. Taking into account all the “hot air,” combined with current weak reduction pledges by developed countries, the decrease in emissions after 2012 would be negligible and through 2020 would amount to only 6%, in sharp contrast with the 25-40% reductions scientists say are required for this period in order to avoid dangerous climate change.

The surplus of AAUs generated during the 2008-2012 commitment period therefore represents an extreme threat to the environmental integrity and effectiveness of the post-2012 climate regime and must be fully addressed in the Copenhagen negotiations to prevent old mistakes from undermining the new agreement.

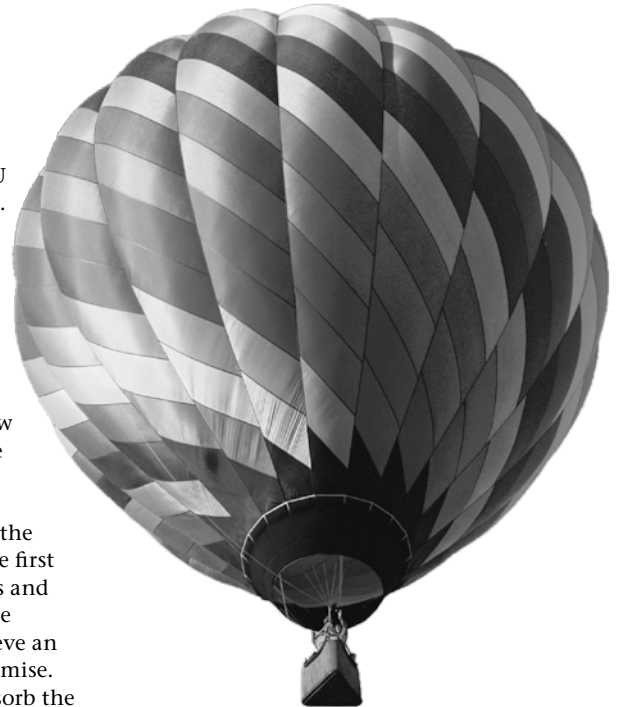
Carry over of AAUs surplus with a strict limit rewards early action and ensures certainty and continuity in the international framework. Therefore, the banking provisions of the Kyoto Protocol (KP) should be retained. However, the KP surplus arose from a mistake in the estimated Business-As-Usual and current emissions in some developed parties to the KP. The US signing but not ratifying the KP contributed to a gigantic oversupply of AAUs because it eliminated most of the demand before 2012. If the Kyoto surplus issue is not addressed in Copenhagen, the continuation of international emissions trading (article 17 of the KP) after 2012 could be called into question.

Clearly, under a post-2012 Copenhagen agreement a new AAU surplus must be avoided at all costs. In addition, 2020 reduction targets for Annex I (developed) countries – not only those presently owning surplus AAUs such as Russia and the Ukraine – must be substantively lower than current baseline emission estimates such as those prepared by IASA (Moscow High School of Economics) and the 2009 World Energy Outlook (IEA).

CAN International now proposes the following solutions to mitigate the first commitment period AAUs surplus and we urge the EU in particular to use these them as a guideline to achieve an environmentally friendly compromise. The suggested approach could absorb the remaining surpluses out of the system. However, if this approach is not taken, emission reduction targets must be adjusted to account for surpluses, with target increases to be shared equally among all Annex I parties.

Surplus holding countries can carry over the AAUs surplus between the 1st and 2nd commitment period with the following legally binding restrictions:

- AAUs surplus may be used domestically for compliance during the next commitment period but must be subject to an adjustable discount factor;
- No more than 10-20% of the annual average emissions in the first commitment period may be carried over in countries with an AAU surplus.
- An annual quantified limit on selling off carried-over AAUs must be agreed, with legal provisions to prevent the “laundering” of first commitment period AAUs via the sale of second commitment period AAUs.



- AAUs cannot be used for compliance in domestic cap and trade systems, such as the EU ETS, in Annex I countries.
- Surplus-holding countries should commit to climate friendly-investment of the revenues from selling AAUs surpluses through transparent and internationally monitored Green Investment Schemes and/or to funds supporting developing country Parties. This process should be legally enshrined in a post 2012 agreement. ■

## EU POLICY FOCUS

The new Commission, which underwent a complete shakeup to mark the start of President Barroso's second term, will be grilled by Parliament as part of their confirmation process during the first two weeks of January. Connie Hedegaard, currently Climate and Energy Minister for Denmark and heavily involved in the planning for COP15 in Copenhagen, has been nominated for the post of Europe's new Commissioner for Climate... On 1 December the Lisbon Treaty came into effect with several new additions - Belgian Prime Minister Rompuy has been appointed first ever President of the European Union with the UK's Catherine Ashton at his side as the new high representative for EU Foreign and Security policy.

## HOTLINKS

Civil society events to watch out for in copenhagen

<http://tckctck.org/stories/campaign-stories/five-civil-society-events-watch-copenhagen>

Check different countries' emissions reductions pledges

<http://www.climateactiontracker.org/>

Connect with journalists in copenhagen and beyond

[www.facebook.com/TheClimatePool](http://www.facebook.com/TheClimatePool)



## Transatlantic climate relations on the eve of Copenhagen

BY JASON ANDERSON, HEAD OF CLIMATE AND ENERGY POLICY, WWF EPO

There is no English translation for Schadenfreude, the little laugh you have at someone else's misfortune. It's one of those words that has no translation outside German. So perhaps it's an appropriately European sentiment to express how Europe was feeling as George Bush bungled his way through his presidency, especially after his administration said they had "no interest in implementing that treaty." When Bush pulled the US out of the Kyoto Protocol, it was done in a way that seemed calculated to express disdain, especially towards Europe. Inarticulate, uninterested, unilateralist: being defined against those characteristics made Europe come into sharper focus, including in climate policy.

'Bush kills global warming treaty' was the too hasty headline in the Guardian the next day. Instead of giving up, Europe in fact became galvanised by the USA's attitude and helped forge a coalition that brought the treaty into force without the world's biggest emitter.

Fast forward to the present day: a new, articulate, interested, multilateral president and an even more crucial negotiation. Now more than ever it's clear that we can't just ignore US emissions and wait for a better day. But after eight years knowing where we stood, we're back to being confused about the US. This the best it will get, politically, and the time left to the world to avoid significant warming has become frighteningly short while the US seems unable to step up because of its domestic problems.

Hence the dilemma for Europe: it has been the global climate leader without the US to cast a shadow on its moment in the sun, but is aware of the limitations this represents. Thus it welcomes US engagement. At the same time, internal US politics limit its ambition and the ex-Senator president is unusually deferential to that body and

careful to avoid repeating the Clinton mistake of leading from the front.

European leaders from Barroso to Merkel have over the past weeks entreated the US to establish tougher targets and prepare for success in Copenhagen. This has been greeted, at best, politely. Even with Obama at the helm, the US essentially takes the EU for granted and doesn't much like being told what to do.

On the other hand, the US is obsessed with China. The President and his (Chinese-American fellow Nobel laureate) energy secretary have invested a great deal of time there, recently agreeing major energy cooperation deals followed by national target announcements within hours of each other. 'The US and China are playing ping pong climate diplomacy', said Jo Leinen recently, chair of the European Parliament's environment committee. Right over the heads of Europe, he might have added.

So how does the EU find its relevance and define a meaningful relationship with the US? Firstly, the popular notion of Europe's international impotency is overstated. Secondly, Europe has climate and energy policies that can serve as important examples of success: nothing speaks louder than actual achievement. Finally, Europe is a massive market for, and creator of, relevant technologies. It will not have escaped the attention of the US government that the vast majority of US economic stimulus money for wind power went to European companies. There is still everything to play for – especially if the US and Europe up the ante with stronger commitments- to achieve a fair, ambitious, legally binding deal in Copenhagen. When the focus shifts from high politics to high finance, climate action will largely be about the US and Europe cooperating, competing, and driving each other toward success. ■

## Hotspot

Published by Climate Action Network (CAN) Europe, the European office of CAN – a global coalition of 365 environmental NGOs.

CAN-Europe promotes action to limit human-induced climate change to ecologically sustainable levels. It represents over 100 organisations in over 25 European countries including most EU Member States.



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*Views expressed do not automatically reflect the policies or positions of CAN-Europe*

### CALENDAR

*For more details on these events check out our calendar on our website*

**7-18 Dec.:** COP 15 and COP/MOP 5 Conference of the Parties (COP), Fifteenth session and Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP), Fifth session and sessions of the Subsidiary Bodies Copenhagen, Denmark

**10-11 Dec.:** EU Council

**22 Dec.:** Environment Council

**Jan 11 - 19:** Parliament's hearings of the newly nominated European Commissioners

**25 - 26 March:** EU Council

## HOTDOCS

World energy outlook 2009

<http://climate-l.org/2009/11/19/iea-releases-world-energy-outlook-2009/>

New study shows 40 percent emissions cuts possible in Europe

<http://www.sei-international.org/?p=publications&task=view&pid=1318>

Hot air will result in only 1 percent emissions reductions

[http://www.climnet.org/Point\\_Carbon\\_AAU\\_report\\_CAN\\_final\\_28102009-1.pdf](http://www.climnet.org/Point_Carbon_AAU_report_CAN_final_28102009-1.pdf)