



## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

1 February 2007

### **NGOs demand government action on world scientists' (IPCC) climate change report**

#### **Proposed EU climate targets inadequate**

**Brussels. A report to be presented this Friday in Paris is expected to provide unequivocal scientific evidence that the climate system has been heating over the last 50 years: and that beyond reasonable doubt this is due to human emissions of greenhouse gases. The stark implications of the report are clear: only urgent, large-scale action will prevent the worst, indeed catastrophic, impacts of climate change on the planet.**

Climate Action Network Europe (CAN-Europe) calls on policymakers to take urgent action, based on the clear evidence of the IPCC report. Governments now have all the scientific evidence they need to commit to the necessary deep reductions in emissions.

CAN Europe therefore urges the EU at the EU Council meeting on 8-9 March to commit to an unconditional, unilateral domestic emissions target for the EU of -30% by 2020 compared to 1990 levels. EU leadership of this magnitude would also serve to energise the international process under the UN Framework Convention for Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol to arrive at an agreement on emission reductions for the Protocol's second commitment period starting 2012.

A unilateral reduction target for the EU of only 20% was proposed on January 10<sup>th</sup>, by the European Commission. While CAN-Europe welcomes the positive political signal that this unconditional target gives, the IPCC's report makes it even clearer that avoiding dangerous climate change will require more ambitious cuts in emissions.

The recently issued Stern Report on Climate Change concluded that preventive action taken now will be far less costly than paying for repairing possibly catastrophic damage wrought by a major increase in global temperatures due to fast rising emissions.

#### **The Science**

This latest report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) paints a grim picture of the changes that have already taken place, including rising sea levels, accelerating loss of mountain glaciers and snow cover, shrinking Arctic sea ice, and more intense and longer droughts over wide areas.

In the future, Europe itself will be hit hard by climate impacts unless deep emissions reductions are made. Scenarios in the report demonstrate significant temperature increases in the next

twenty years especially over the land areas of the northern hemisphere. Significant reductions in rainfall over southern Europe are also predicted as greenhouse concentrations in the atmosphere increase.

The message from the science is clear: radical action is needed to reduce emissions.

### **IPCC Background**

The IPCC was set up in 1988 by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) to provide a comprehensive review of the scientific, technical and socio-economic literature related to climate change. It published its previous comprehensive, three volume, reports in 1990, 1995 and 2001.

There are three working groups, on the scientific basis of climate change,

1. Working Group I assesses the science of climate change
2. Working Group II assesses the impacts of climate change and how to adapt to them
3. Working Group III assesses options for limiting greenhouse gas emissions

The latest report from the IPCC on the science of climate change, to be presented at the UNESCO Conference Center in Paris on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February, is the first of three peer-reviewed documents bringing together work by over 2000 leading world scientists.

Two companion reports on will be issued later this year. The second deals with impacts of climate change and how to adapt to them (Brussels, 6<sup>th</sup> April), and the third sets out options for limiting greenhouse gases (Bangkok, May 4<sup>th</sup>)

### **About the Climate Action Network –Europe**

Climate Action Network Europe (CAN-Europe) is a coalition of more than 100 European environmental and development non-governmental organizations (NGOs) committed to limiting human-induced climate change to ecologically sustainable levels. It is part of CAN-International, which has a membership of over 400 NGOs in 85 countries worldwide.

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For more information on the IPCC Report, go to our website: <http://www.climnet.org/IPCC>

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