



PRESS RELEASE

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Climate change: towards an ambitious agreement in Copenhagen?

Brussels, November 23rd 2009: The Intergroup on Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development hosted at the European Parliament on 19th November a high level conference on “*Climate Change: towards an ambitious agreement in Copenhagen?*”, covering three different topics : CO2 emissions reduction, funding amounts and governance for adaptation and mitigation measures and sectorial aspects: biodiversity, agriculture, forestry. Main players of the negotiations: EU, US, China, India, Developing countries and key organisations: UNEP, IUCN, WWF as well as COPA-COGECA and Syngenta participated in the conference. The meeting was chaired by Struan Stevenson, MEP and Chair of the Intergroup on Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development.

The conference enabled to continue the discussion on climate change within the European Parliament thus keeping this issue high on the agenda. The report as well as the various presentations will be sent to the European Parliamentarians, members of the Intergroup who will be able to use them in Copenhagen.

The gap between what is politically possible and what is needed is getting bigger everyday said **Mr Olivier Deleuze, Director of the UNEP Brussels office** in his key note speech. Besides the emission reduction levels the finance and the access to these funds by developing countries and their capacity to use them are major challenges. It is important that the agreement in Copenhagen respects science and a framework that developing countries can work with.

“We have to be pragmatic”, said **Mr Arthur Runge-Metzger, Head of the climate change negotiations at the European Commission**. It would be completely counterproductive to set unrealistic objectives. He insisted on the fact that Developing countries have made significant progress over the last years. China is a perfect example with its program to green its economy while Brazil is ready to cut CO2 emissions by 40% and Korea by minimum 20%.

Her Excellency Ms Ismat Jahan, Ambassador of Bangladesh to the EU and Patrick McMullan, from the Maldives Mission to the European Union, emphasized the major threat of climate change to their countries: sea level rise. A one meter rise in sea level would totally submerge the Maldives and up to a third of Bangladesh resulting in millions of people being displaced (up to 20 million from

Bangladesh alone). The challenge of Climate Change refugees therefore needs to be tackled efficiently by implementing concrete actions via partnerships with Developed countries.

Inextricable links between climate change, biodiversity and ecosystem services were underlined by **Mr Neville Ash from IUCN**. Climate change impacts biodiversity and biodiversity provides services which regulate climate and support adaptation. These links should be fully taken into account in Copenhagen. He pointed out that reducing emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation and Ecosystem-based Adaptation are embedded in the current negotiations and there are opportunities for addressing other mitigation measures.

Other speakers:

- Olivier Deleuze, Director of the UNEP Brussels Office
- Louis Bono, Counsellor for Energy, Environment, Science & Technology, Mission of the United States of America to the EU
- LI Xiangfeng, First Secretary, Political section, Mission of China to the European Union
- Jason Anderson, Head of European Climate and Energy Policy, WWF
- Zofia Tucinska, Counsellor for Climate change, Waste and recycling, Air quality, Environment technology, Swedish EU Presidency
- M.K. Lokesh, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of India to the European Communities
- Antonia Andugar, Senior Policy Advisor, COPA-COGECA
- Alain-Dominique Quintart, Director for EU Policies, Syngenta
- Valérie Merckx, Policy Officer - Land use, land use change and forestry issues and follow-up on partnerships with Latin America, DG ENV, European Commission

This meeting was organized by the Intergroup' Secretariat composed jointly by the European Bureau for Conservation and Development (EBCD) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

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