



, 09.12.2008

EGP Common action Poznan, 1-12/12/2008

Pictures from the "COUNTDOWN FOR A NEW CLIMATE DEAL" actions in different countries

The Poznan conference is the latest in a series of meetings taking place under the UN's framework convention on climate change (UNFCCC), which began in Bali and will conclude in Copenhagen next December.

Action in Austria:



The Austrian Greens (Ulrike Lunacek, EGP spokesperson and Christiane Brunner, spokeswomen for environment and energy) had a press conference in front of the Austrian ministry of environment on Friday 5th December

Action in Malta:





AD Chairperson Arnold Cassola, Mary Anne Zammit and German Green MEP Michael Cramer start the countdown

Press release: Yes we can, but no we won't - EU climate package for shredding

Today morning Alternattiva Demokratika set off the 'climate change clock' counting down to the deadline for a new post-Kyoto climate deal in December 2009. Green MEP Michael Cramer joined AD Chairperson Arnold Cassola for the event in Valletta.

Ralph Cassar, AD spokesperson on Energy, Industry and Transport said that AD officials have sent a letter to Minister George Pullicino to urge him to convince other EU Ministers to come to an agreement on measures to combat climate change. He said that AD is urging all residents in Malta to send a letter to the Maltese Minister by visiting website: www.stopclimatechange.net. This is the climate change campaign website setup by the European Green Party and the Green Group in the European Parliament.

German Green MEP Michael Cramer called for investment in public transport systems and criticized German Chancellor Angela Merkel for giving in to German car manufacturers and insisting on weakening the rules to limit CO2 emissions from cars.

AD Chairperson Arnold Cassola said that Malta will suffer if climate change was not tackled seriously. He called on Minister George Pullicino to insist on binding and effective measures when meeting fellow EU environment ministers for talks on the EU position during international negotiations.

Meanwhile AD joined the European Green Party in expressing its concern on the EU backtracking from previous pronouncements on climate change. It doesn't seem so long ago that the EU was proudly pronouncing its leadership in global efforts to tackle climate change. A year ago, in Bali, the EU was to the fore in securing the agreement of a roadmap for UNFCCC negotiations on a global climate agreement to succeed the Kyoto protocol.

However, with EU governments lining up to shred large chunks of its 'climate package' of legislation, the credibility of this claim to leadership is in tatters.

At the start of this week, the European Council and Parliament reached agreement on new rules to limit CO2 emissions from cars...or rather reached agreement to postpone them. The result would mean the cars on the market in 4 years will be no more fuel efficient (or less climate damaging) than the present, while deeper long term improvements are also jeopardised.

EU legislation to limit greenhouse gas emissions from industry and other sectors is also being picked apart. The EU's proposed emissions trading scheme (which aims to achieve emissions reductions from the power and heavy industry from 2013) risks being undermined and made into a profit generating tool for polluting industries. Not only are EU governments proposing to give a large chunk of industries their emissions permits for free, they are also proposing to outsource emissions reductions, so only half the reduction target would be delivered in the EU.

Legislation on emissions reductions from other sectors is equally under pressure. EU governments want to outsource over 70% of the reductions - meaning that member states will buy credits from projects in third countries to offset reductions they should be making at home. This would leave EU climate policy falling far short of the necessary (domestic) emissions reductions outlined by the UN IPCC.

The only potential silver lining is a law setting out how 20% of EU energy should come from renewable



sources. Italy is the main country standing in the way but much of the details have now been agreed.

Worse may be to come, as much of the controversial political issues may be left to heads of state and government at next week's EU summit (11-12 December) to decide. Some countries are already sharpening their knives to further shred the proposals. With the business end of the UN climate talks also taking place late next week, the timing of this climate policy meltdown could not be worse.

Action in Poland:



a photo from gazeta wyborcza

Action of the Polish Greens in Poznan

Action in Ireland:

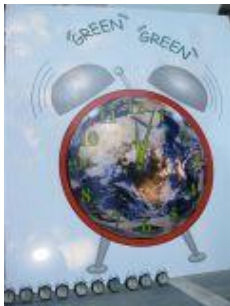


Action in Finland:



photos from Antti-Juhani Johansson

Action in Cyprus:



Press release, Cyprus Green Party, December 16, 2008

CLIMATE CHANGE: THE ALARM CLOCK DID NOT WAKE UP THE PARLIAMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES

The Cyprus Green Party can't express satisfaction about the resolution of the Parliament of Representatives session about the confrontation of Climate Changes and the planets overheat.

Cyprus Green Party's M.P. Mr. George Perdikes' initial proposal was modified in a way that the resolution has become a simple text with general statements.



With great sorrow we faced the demand to remove all the reports concerning more specific political meters. Also a bad impression was created when just a few minutes before the meeting of the parliamentary session, reports concerning the obligation of the Cyprus Government to apply the international conventions and legislations, protocols and agreements (e.g. Kyoto, Bali) which referred to the global effort to confront the Climate Change, were removed from the resolution.

The Greens alarm clock rang hard, but the majority of the Parliament MPs did not wake up. They opened only one eye and then they sunk once again in their deep sleep.

