



**GLOBE EU**  
and Climate Change  
2005 / 2009





## Introduction

Shortly after GLOBE legislators at the European Parliament re-launched GLOBE EU following the European elections of 2004, GLOBE EU, together with GLOBE International, organized a conference in London in the run-up to the G-8 Summit in Gleneagles in June 2005 in order to help reintegrate the US with the other seven G8 nations – France, Russia, Germany, Japan, Italy, Canada and the United Kingdom, which had all ratified the Kyoto Protocol and had committed to reducing their CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 2010-12.

In parallel, meanwhile, the EU accelerated work on its own domestic climate and energy policies, taking the lead globally on adopting relatively ambitious reduction targets and measures. Against this background, GLOBE EU has been instrumental in shaping the EU's domestic climate change policies and has actively developed a whole range of climate change related activities on the European scene.

The Climate and Energy Package was presented by the European Commission on 23 January 2008. All the institutions had to commit to finalising the package at 1<sup>st</sup> reading in the December 2008 Plenary, because of the need to have an EU position finalised in time and ahead of the final rounds of a post-2012 climate agreement in Copenhagen this December. The intervening European

Parliament elections and new Commission appointments made the issue all the more pressing. Controversially, these timelines did not allow for a 2<sup>nd</sup> reading agreement before December 2009.

Following protracted and contentious political debate at Committee and political Group level, the environmental ambition and the architecture of the package was by and large maintained. However, the final agreement included a number of concessions both to industry and Member States – such as allowing greater off-sets than originally planned and postponing full auctioning of emission permits – which made the decision less ambitious than hoped for. The mandate for the package was derived from the European Council's political endorsement (at its Heads of States' summit in the Spring of 2007) of the target of a 20% reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from industry + powergen (through emissions trading) and Member States (via the Effort Sharing or non-ETS targets). The process for stepping up to the greater ambition levels that the EU has committed to, provided a global agreement is reached, (at least -30% cap) was also agreed at that Summit.

GLOBE EU members played a prominent role in all the dossiers included in the Package, representing the EP as rapporteurs or shadow rapporteurs in negotiations with the Council



and the Commission. Without the pro-active involvement of GLOBE EU members in the negotiations, the outcome would no doubt have been even less ambitious in terms of climate change mitigation (reference is made to special appendix for details).

In addition, since 2005 GLOBE EU has been involved in a whole range of climate-related briefings and events involving EU institutions, companies, a range of NGOs, sustainability think tanks such as the UK Climate Trust, the Climate Group, E3G and the Tällberg Foundation, international organizations, notably UNEP, IUCN and WTO, as well as scientists and academics. This note just provides a brief summary of the key issues.

Specific issues where GLOBE EU has been particularly active include:

- **“Greening the ESS” Series (2005-2008).** This campaign on climate and EU foreign policy, in co-operation with the Institute for Environmental Security (IES), resulted in the integration of climate into the EU’s CFSP at the European Council, December 2008 and is expected to be taken up at the NATO Summit in April.
- **Establishment of GLOBE EU Biofuels Working Group (2006-2007),** which developed the EP’s thinking on sustainability criteria. These were included in the RES Directive adopted in December 2008. The EP adopted GLOBE

EU MEP Dorette Corbey’s report on the “Fuel Quality Directive” in December 2008.

- Campaign for banning energy inefficient light bulbs. This was part of ongoing efforts to strengthen implementation of the ECO-Design Directive, with GLOBE EU member Peter Liese in a lead role.
- **Sustainable Production and Consumption Series (2006-2008),** resulting in the current Sustainable Production and Consumption Action Plan of July 2008, to be implemented through proposed pieces of legislation such as the extension of the Eco-Design Directive, the revision of the Ecolabel Regulation, the revision of the EMAS Regulation, the revision of the Energy Labelling Directive, and a Communication on Green Public Procurement. Still pending are concrete proposals, promoting resource efficiency and eco-innovation; GLOBE EU has organised numerous workshops on sustainable production and consumption with active participation from many of its members. GLOBE EU members Anders Wijkman, Satu Hassi, Gyula Hegyi and Mechthild Rothe have had key roles in the legislative work.
- **Halting global deforestation (ongoing):** Reducing deforestation and forest degradation is an issue where many individual GLOBE members have been personally committed and involved. GLOBE EU has organized roundtables



and talks with the Commission, scientists & experts, NGOs and private companies on the potential inclusion of forests in the carbon market, notably in the EU ETS. Other options have also been pursued, such as the establishment of a Global Forest Fund. Opinions among GLOBE members have differed on how to generate sufficient funding for REDD, but there has been a wide consensus that any global deal on forestry must be holistic and should also take ecosystem services, biodiversity and development concerns into account. GLOBE members have also been involved in responding to the Commission's Communication on Deforestation, through an EP Resolution in March 2009, drafted by GLOBE EU member Peter Olajos (Hungary).

- **Climate Change and Development:**

Climate change will affect many low-income countries in a negative way. The MDGs are seriously at risk in many regions because of the increased frequency of extreme weather-events, water shortages, lower food production, increase of tropical diseases etc. The EU has so far done far too little to support risk reduction and adaptation in low-income countries. One initiative has been taken – the Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA). Globe EU members have been actively involved in shaping the details of the GCCA and, in particular, to increase its budget (originally only €60 million were allocated – like a drop in the ocean!)

- **"Beyond GDP":**

The conference "Beyond GDP" in November 2007 – with participation from the EU Commission, OECD, the World Bank, the Club of Rome etc – was a landmark in the efforts to develop alternative indicators for welfare and progress. GLOBE EU members were actively involved in the preparations and the follow-up to the conference.

- **"Greening the CAP" Campaign (2007 - ongoing):**

building on the work of the GLOBE Working Group on Biofuels, GLOBE EU started to campaign to integrate climate change ever more into the Common Agricultural Policy, which is ongoing, in collaboration with LUFFIG (Land Use and Food Policy Intergroup in the European Parliament). The first stage of this was concluded with the adoption of the CAP Health Check in January 2009.

- **Climate & Trade Series (2008-ongoing):**

This campaign, spearheaded by Globe EU member Caroline Lucas, puts the current climate negotiations and in particular the development of "Cap and Trade" legislation into their wider WTO context. It has in particular focussed on carbon leakage and competitiveness concerns on both sides of the Atlantic. The issues are very complex and involve various aspects of trade law. Opinions are still divided and are unlikely to be resolved until after the Copenhagen COP.



- **Towards Transatlantic Emissions Trading (2008-ongoing):** Emerging trading schemes in the US offer the opportunity of a future trading link with the European Union emissions trading scheme, which in turn would promise greater diversity of abatement options, improved market size and liquidity, and ultimately a more efficient allocation of resources. Interest in the benefits of such a link has prompted formal and informal cooperation across the Atlantic and most recently a conference organised by GLOBE entitled "Climate Change & Security at Copenhagen" which took place on 17th March 09 in Washington. Avril Doyle MEP, Rapporteur on the Review of the EU Emissions Trading System Directive, addressed the audience as a keynote speaker. In addition, several high level bilateral meetings took place between Mrs Doyle and key players on Capitol Hill.

- **Supergrid Campaign (2008-ongoing):** GLOBE EU members Satu Hassi, Rebecca Harms, Sirpa Pietikäinen, Graham Watson, Vittorio Prodi, Claude Turmes and Anders Wijkman have been active within the Supergrid Working Group promoting the set up of a pan-European smart grid for electricity, a system which facilitates access of renewable sources of energy to the supergrid.

## **GLOBE EU & International Climate Change Negotiations**

GLOBE EU has also been widely engaged in the international climate change arena. GLOBE EU members have been part of the EP delegation to the UN climate change summits in Buenos Aires, Montreal, Nairobi, Bali and Poznan. GLOBE EU has also organised side briefings in the framework of the Conferences, notably on technology cooperation, adaptation and biofuels, as an accredited non-governmental COP party. Several GLOBE EU members have actively participated in the GLOBE International G8+5 Climate Change Dialogue, shadowing the governmental G8+5 Summits. This process has been of great significance. When the dialogue started in 2005 it seemed rather unrealistic to be able to reach agreement on specific climate change objectives, involving legislators from all the G8 countries, including the US, as well as countries like China, India, Brazil, Mexico and South Africa. But the GLOBE process was very inclusive in its working methods and managed to bring about broad consensus on a number of the most critical issues.

GLOBE EU has also taken the lead in shaping the EP position vis-a-vis the Council and Member States on EU international climate strategy beyond 2012.



- GLOBE EU President Anders Wijkman's report on "*Winning the Battle Against Global Climate Change*" was adopted in November 2005. The report outlined a strategy for GHG emission reductions beyond the 2012 time frame, up to 2050. It stated, among other things, that industrialized countries should reduce their emissions by at least 30 % by 2020 and 60-80 % by 2050, compared to 1990 levels.
- In 2007, GLOBE EU Vice President Satu Hassi was Rapporteur for "*Limiting Global Climate Change to 2 degrees Celsius – the way ahead for the Bali Conference on Climate Change and beyond*". The resolution was the basis of the proposals adopted by the Commission in its Copenhagen Communication in January 2009.

## Challenges for the Future

The GLOBE family is in a much stronger position today to influence policies than only a few years ago. The re-launched GLOBE Europe network allows us to reach out to virtually every legislature in the European region. Globe International is also on a sound footing financially and has launched several important initiatives as a follow-up to and continuation of the G8+5 Legislators Dialogue on Climate Change; one on [Climate and Energy Security](#) and the other one on [Land use change and ecosystems](#). In addition, regional GLOBE offices are being strengthened in different parts of the world.

The primary objective of GLOBE EU would naturally be to continue pursuing a number of global environmental issues in close cooperation with other GLOBE entities, in particular GLOBE International. Climate change is undoubtedly the major challenge. But climate change must be seen and tackled within the larger context of the global environment. The intricate interplay between the climate system and the planetary system, not least the role of oceans and terrestrial ecosystems in mitigation, is one important aspect. Another is the tragic overuse and degradation of many ecosystems, as reported recently by the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. The challenge that nations around the world are faced with is to understand not only how to



prevent dangerous climate change but the risk of wider and potentially abrupt global environmental change.

A very important task for GLOBE EU will be to facilitate dialogue between science and policy-makers. The gap between science and policy is significant today. To explore innovative ways to bridge this gap will be a major challenge for GLOBE.

For GLOBE EU the pursuit of key global environmental issues will of course imply giving a lot of attention to both the external and domestic dimensions of EU policies. One key challenge will be the follow-up of the implementation of the climate and energy package. All the dossiers need careful monitoring – either in the form of ensuring the necessary funding, like CCS, or issues related to the practical implementation like the RES directive, the ETS etc. For several issues, like biofuels policy or “carbon leakage”, careful scrutiny of the outcome of Commission studies regarding outstanding issues – like how to integrate indirect land-use effects – will be of primary importance. Another issue that merits careful preparation will be the stepping up of the level of ambition of EU climate change policy in the event of a broad international agreement in Copenhagen. Of particular importance will be to limit the degree of offsetting that will be allowed.

In many areas new legislation is very much needed, such as

- more ambitious standards and incentives for energy efficiency
- improved land use practices and food production to address climate change
- innovative policy measures for resource efficiency – including waste management
- new indicators for measuring welfare and progress
- valuing ecosystem services and biodiversity
- increase funding for energy research
- integrate climate change and ecosystems management in EU development cooperation



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