



YEPP Working Paper on Climate Change – Executive Summary

Adopted by the YEPP Council in Zagreb, 8 September 2007

"The environment is not something we inherit from our parents; its something we borrow from our children"

The Politics of Globalisation

YEPP recognises the chief responsibility which must be borne by developed industrial nations to 'lead the way' in the fight against global warming. European nations must therefore "set this issue as an overarching priority and to speak with a single European voice."

Considering the multilateral approach to climate change adopted by member states, the EU must continue "constant dialogue" with those developed nations who continue to refrain from ratifying the Kyoto Protocol in order to achieve a common global consensus and partnership in this most important of issues.

Developing countries also have responsibilities to make their contribution to reducing the rate of global warming – in this regard the use of "green diplomacy" by the EU and other developed countries is a key strategy which must be employed. The linking of economic cooperation and development cooperation to global climate change objectives must be the way to achieve global objectives on climate change.

The Strategy Going Forward

We must focus clearly on the targets being set for GHG emissions reductions over the next fifty years. YEPP is committed to the full realisation of the following targets:

- overall emission reductions for all industrialised countries of 30%, in comparison with 1990 levels, by 2020
- increase the share of renewable energy sources to 20% by 2020
- to obtain a 60-80% reduction in emissions, as compared with 1990 levels, by 2050

The need to combat the problems with "carbon leakages" inherent in the ETS system.

Incentivising environmental technologies.

The need for greater interdepartmental cooperation within European public policy in achieving climate change objectives - "so that...industrial policy and transport, agriculture, research and development and other initiatives are better coordinated with climate change targets.

Noting the significance of the decision by the European council of ministers to include statistics on aviation emissions within the reduction targets after 2011. Considering the exponential expansion of air-travel in Europe, YEPP calls on immediate action to be taken to reduce carbon emissions drastically from this form of transportation. Unless immediate action is taken on this point, progress made in other areas of emissions reductions will be less meaningful.

Energy and Climate Change

As developed nations our reliance on electricity and other forms of energy is extricable linked with our emissions problems. YEPP calls for the urgent deployment of renewable energy and environmentally friendly technologies.

Investment in the most modern forms of electricity transmission as well as in new electricity grids must be a priority in the objective to achieve greater energy efficiency.

Tariffs on energy efficient products must also be removed.

YEPP also recognises the individual responsibility of all citizens to be conscious of their contribution as consumers to carbon emissions and energy efficiency. A citizenry which is conscious of the gravity of environmentally unfriendly energy must be prepared to pay a premium for renewable energy.