



MEDIA RELEASE

Current Copenhagen ambition level only 1% stronger than Kyoto NGOs call on EU summit to close major climate loophole

[October 28, 2009 - Brussels] - Climate Action Network (CAN)-Europe, Europe's leading NGO coalition on climate and energy issues, today published a report [1] prepared by Point Carbon with a dire analysis of proposed greenhouse gas reductions. The report concludes that the emissions reduction targets currently on the table for Copenhagen, in combination with surplus emission rights left over from the Kyoto period, would result in only a 1% additional decrease in emissions over what was agreed in Kyoto 12 years ago. The report shows that the carry over of surplus emissions rights, or "hot-air", could threaten the environmental integrity of a new climate agreement.

European leaders are meeting in Brussels this week and will decide on an EU negotiating mandate for the Copenhagen summit on this Kyoto surplus issue.

"Because of all this "hot air," combined with the current weak reduction pledges by developed countries, we will only see a negligible decrease in emissions after 2012," said Matthias Duwe, Director of Climate Action Network Europe.

Carrying over emissions rights through 2020 would result in an emissions decrease of only 6% total, in sharp contrast with the 25-40% reductions scientists say are required for this period in order to avoid dangerous climate change.

"European leaders must now step up and close this dangerous loophole as part of their negotiating mandate for Copenhagen," asserted Tomas Wyns, CAN-E Senior Policy Officer. "We also urge EU leaders to raise the ambition of their current weak 20% emissions reduction target to a level consistent with the latest climate science."

The report presents a list of options to help European leaders to make an informed decision on how to deal with the "surplus" of Kyoto emission rights and safeguard environmental strength in Copenhagen.

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Notes:

[1] "Assigned Amount Units: Seller/buyer analysis and impact on post-2012 climate regime." Point Carbon, 2009. Available at www.climnet.org