

EPEE NEWS

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2007

The European Partnership for Energy and the Environment is pleased to present its bimonthly newsletter. Please note that this version is designed for external use and its content has thus been reduced. The full version of the newsletter (including links to key documents, EPEE's comments/action points, calendar of events, the "on the intranet" section and the "Message from the Director General") is available for EPEE members only.

To receive additional information on EPEE and the benefits of membership, please contact the Secretariat: secretariat@epeeglobal.org

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For EPEE members only!

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I. Monitoring & recent events

Key recent events of significance to EPEE members

1. Ozone: Commission told to introduce targets on ozone-depleting substances

A draft report published by the consultancies "Milieu" and "Ecosphere" on 5th December has called for the European Commission to introduce minimum targets and standards for recovering ozone-depleting substances at their end-of-life phase. The draft report, to be finalised next year, will be used to guide a revision of the 2000 Regulation on ozone-depleters (ODS).

A key finding of the report is that under the current legalisation, the obligation for governments to promote **the recovery and destruction of ODS "does not seem to have worked effectively."** **The report therefore urges the Commission to revise the current legislation to include both minimum recovery standards and recovery targets.**

Individual substances are not specifically targeted, while governments and industry should be allowed to decide upon the recovery methods used. The Commission plans to table amendments to the Regulation by October 2008 for EU adoption in mid-2009.

Key documents:

For EPEE members only!

EPEE's action points/comments:

For EPEE members only!

2. Heat Pumps: Japanese study urges for the increased use of heat pumps in a bid to cut CO2 emissions

According to a new Japanese study released at the end of October, Japan's CO2 emissions could be cut by 10% if heat pumps were more widely used. The study has focused on the technical development and application of heat pumps, and concludes by **urging suppliers and consumers across the world to switch to the energy saving technology.**

The study, carried out by the Heat Pump and Thermal Storage Technology Center of Japan (HPTCJ), is in line with the results found by the International Energy Agency (IEA), with

projections that **1.2 billion tons, or 6% of the world's CO2 emissions, could be removed if there was a 30% increase worldwide in the use of heat pumps.**

The paper urges businesses, policy makers and end-users to adopt heat pumps as part of a global solution to climate change, and insists that investments in unknown heating technologies could pose risks in terms of energy efficiency, costs and environmental benefits.

Heat pump technology has proven to operate reliably in a wide range of applications, while a new **geothermal heat pump system has been installed recently in a McDonalds' restaurant in Pensacola, Florida, under the slogan 'Billions of hamburgers served; Billions of kilowatts saved.'**

Key documents:

For EPEE members only!

3. Bali: UN Conference on Climate Change, 3-14th December 2007

After months of preparation, the 15,000 delegates from over 180 countries which gathered for the UN Conference in Bali went home with what they came for: a 'roadmap' for negotiating a treaty to succeed Kyoto after the Protocol expires in 2012. Nevertheless the parties failed to agree on any binding targets.

This whilst talks were given a boost before they even began when the Kyoto protocol was signed by the new Australian government, which meant that all industrialised countries apart from the United States have now ratified the key international treaty on global warming.

All along the Conference, the US has been trying to prevent binding emissions levels being set, a position which was backed by Canada, Japan and Russia.

Nevertheless, the US did join forces with the EU calling for an international deal on eliminating tariffs on green technologies with the hope of opening up new market opportunities for business. The plan is to create a WTO-wide deal on the full elimination of tariffs on 43 products identified by the World Bank as being environmentally friendly.

Another coupling also occurred early on in the Bali talks, as China and India both resisted calls from the developed world that they should accept caps on future greenhouse gas emissions. Both nations claimed that their emissions per capita were still small and that their past contribution to the "stock" of CO2 in the atmosphere was lower than that of most developed countries.

Key documents:

For EPEE members only!

4. Eco-label: New generalised carbon label could be introduced, while the criteria for the current eco-label “must not be too stringent”

Herbert Aichinger, an official at the Directorate-General for the Environment, believes that **the EU eco-label could be expanded to become part of a general carbon label**. In an article published in the EU Food Law Weekly, Mr Aichinger working in DG Environment, stated that it is better to have just one label rather than a number of different labels.

In mid-November the Commission published responses to a consultation on plans to revise the EU's flower eco-label, with most respondents believing that the criteria for the award should remain “realistically applicable” across the EU. A balance is needed though so that only the most environmental-friendly products are awarded the eco-label to ensure the label's reputation.

According to the Commission new legislation should be proposed in the first half of 2008.

Key documents:

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EPEE's action points/comments:

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5. Climate Change: European Parliament calls for the taking into account of climate demands in trade

On 29th November the European Parliament adopted in its plenary session the report of Alain Lipietz (Greens, France) on trade and climate change. With 541 votes in favour and only 46 against, the Parliament sent a clear signal that **it believes that the EU should ensure better articulation of its trade policy in view of reducing global greenhouse gas emissions from 2015**.

In its resolution, the European Parliament supports the introduction of common labelling schemes showing exactly what emissions are produced at each stage of production and transportation. According to the report, this would allow consumers to decide upon their contribution to reducing CO2 emissions and raise public awareness of a product's total environmental costs.

Finally, the resolution notes that **the transfer of energy efficient technologies from the EU to developing countries has a crucial role to play in enabling economic development to be separated from emissions concerns**.

Key documents:

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6. Renewables: BusinessEurope calls for focus on energy efficiency rather than binding targets for RES

On November 2007, BusinessEurope, a Brussels-based business confederation representing 20 million European companies, sent an open letter to European Commission President José Manuel Barroso, insisting on the **“immense potential” for increasing energy efficiency through the EU.**

In its letter, BusinessEurope warns that, **taking into account the target of 20% of EU energy coming from renewables by 2020, the increasing price of renewables and the generalised ETS auctioning could penalize the manufacturing industry.**

BusinessEurope therefore urges the Commission to allow for the utmost flexibility to achieve the renewables target and calls upon the member states to only introduce incentives for economical efficient renewables. BusinessEurope further insists on the fact that an “harmonised” EU wide support scheme for renewables is necessary as that the existence of 27 national renewable energy programmes in the EU makes investments less efficient.

Finally, in relation to ETS, the Confederation proposes the introduction of technological benchmarking in EU emissions trading, and argues in favour of international sectoral approaches where appropriate.

Key documents:

For EPEE members only!

7. Climate Change: High-Level Group concludes industry commitment is necessary to create a global low-carbon economy

On 27-28 November 2007, a conference *“Towards a global low-carbon economy”* was held in Brussels. During this conference, the European Commission High-Level Group on Competitiveness, Energy and Environment presented the main conclusions of its work.

The High-Level Group, which is composed of four EU Commissioners, four trade and industry ministers, and executives and representatives of international organisations, and which had issued 5 reports over the last 18 months, came to the main conclusion that **“without a firm commitment of the industry, it will be impossible for the global economy to become a low-carbon economy”.**

The High-Level Group concluded that new investments in the provision of energy estimated at nearly 15,000 billion Euros over the period 2005-2030 are necessary, and should be inserted in the EU political initiative of reducing its emissions by 20 per cent by 2020 and more generally in the Kyoto objectives.

The Commission group will not meet again before the end of 2008, when it will take stock of progress.

Key Documents:

For EPEE members only!

8. Climate Change: Final IPCC report on climate change

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) published on 17 November its fourth and last report intended for political decision-makers. Although negotiated between the different delegations, the conclusions of the report give a serious warning to decision-makers and consider climate change as an “irreversible” process. According to Commissioner Stavros Dimas, the text confirms the EU analysis of climate change.

According to the IPCC, there is a 90% certainty that human activity is responsible of climate change. Compared to the average of the past two decades and the year 2100, the report forecasts a temperature increase comprised between 1.1° C and 6.4° C (although an increase between 1.8°C and 4°C is the most probable scenario).

Key documents:

For EPEE members only!

9. Energy Efficiency: Ceced proposes new rating for the EU energy label

Ceced has elaborated a new rating for the EU energy label, which the European Commission is thought to be willing to revise next year.

The aim of the new system suggested by Ceced would be to phase out the lowest category whenever a new category is created. But instead of being based on letters going from A to G - A being the most efficient product -, Ceced proposes to go from 1 to 7 – with 7 being attributed to the most efficient items. This would enable a permanent update and improvement since instead of having to create new categories such as A+ or A++; a higher number would simply be allocated to the newly most efficient products. The colours currently used in the labelling would be kept however so that consumers do not get completely lost.

Ceced has presented its suggestion to the Commission.

Key documents:

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10. [Climate Change: Germany sets 40% GHG Emission Reduction Target for 2020](#)

On the eve of the Bali conference, the German Government issued the world's most ambitious climate target. With a package of 14 legislative measures relating to energy efficiency and renewable energy, the country is aiming to reduce its GHG emissions by 40% by 2020 as compared to 1990 levels.

With its climate package Germany hopes to reinforce its international leadership in the global fight against climate change.

Among the measures feature additional leakage limits to the F-Gas Regulation and plans to promote energy-efficient Heat Pumps

Key Documents:

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11. [Renewable Energy: Details about future renewables package emerge](#)

Beginning of December the Renewable Energy policy Network (REN21) published a Pre-Publication Summary on the global status of renewables in 2007. Excluding hydropower plants, renewables would now constitute 6% of world's power capacity.

From a leaked Commission draft directive on the Promotion of Renewable Energy Sources it appears that the Commission would aim for the creation of an EU trading scheme for renewables.

The draft directive plans the establishment of Guaranties of Origin (GOs), which would be tradable certificates of renewable energy production. The GOs would be the base of calculation for compliance with renewable energy consumption targets and would allow one county to by compliance credits from another. The interim targets would consist of an obligation to achieve one half of the increase in renewables consumption targets for 2005-2020 in 2014, two-thirds by 2016 and 83% by 2018.

Key Documents:

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EPEE's action points/comments:

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12. Construction Materials: Call for greener building supplies

In a joint call, 28 European Environment Agencies have urged the European Commission to give environmental protection the same status as health in the upcoming revision of the 1989 EU directive on construction products.

The agencies call in particular for new EU limits on hazardous substances in construction materials.

Key Documents:

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13. Reporting: Study calls for more consistency in reporting on initiatives to tackle climate change

A new study published by Dutch Sustainability Research (DSR) and Respect indicates that whilst many corporations are taking part in initiatives to tackle climate change, there are many inconsistencies in disclosure.

DSR reviewed the performance of 20 corporations on a selected number of climate change best-practice indicators drawn from international guidelines. The results show that companies are eager to demonstrate leadership in tackling climate change, but that the reporting remains too fragmented. According to DRS there is therefore a need for better access to meaningful climate change data.

Key documents:

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