

INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE NEGOTIATIONS

AND THE DURBAN CONFERENCE

The scale and rapidity of global warming are now unequivocal. This being the case, action is urgently needed as climate change is already having an effect and will continue to do so, with the most vulnerable people the first to feel its impact.

"If we want an ambitious environmental policy, it must be closely linked to a policy of development and to the guarantee of a fair transition in terms of employment and industrial policy"

Judith KIRTON-DARLING,
Confederal Secretary of the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC),
responsible for sustainable development,
addressing the CESE European and International Affairs Section

In order to limit
global warming to 2°,
the developed countries
collectively need to cut
their GHG emissions
to 25-40% by 2020
and by 80-95% by 2050.

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

In the wake of the powerful mobilisation for the Copenhagen Summit in 2009 and the impossibility of reaching a global agreement, it must be said that considerable disillusionment and a sense of stalemate now hang over climate negotiations. Part of the explanation for this phenomenon lies in the great disparity between the challenge of climate change on the one hand and the slow pace and complexity of the negotiations on the other. As the Durban Conference approaches, however, the CESE is keen to make the voice of civil society organisations heard on issues of such major importance to the future of the planet and its inhabitants.

The CESE takes the view that climate change should be considered as an opportunity to rethink our development models, particularly at a time of economic and social crisis. International climate negotiations are an essential means to this end.



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➤ Improve international climate governance

1. Reinforce the process of UN negotiations

2. Give civil society organisations a new place

Encourage dialogue during the preparation of negotiations and decision-making

Strengthen the position of civil society organisations in the conduct of international negotiations

3. Encourage territorial dynamics

4. Tighten the links with the UN framework conventions on environmental issues and improve integration of their recommendations, particularly as regards the forests

➤ Set high ambitions

1. Extend the Kyoto Protocol with a view to the adoption of a global agreement

2. Measure, report and verify greenhouse gas emissions more accurately and move towards increased control of voluntary commitments by emerging countries

3. Capitalise on European Union achievements

At the earliest possible opportunity, stabilise discussions on targets for the reduction of greenhouse emissions by 2020

Achieve concrete results in Europe as a convincing argument to present on the international scene

➤ Start adapting now to the effects of climate change

1. Take agriculture fully into account in the negotiations

2. Integrate adaptation imperatives into development policies

3. Take a strong stance on combating the deforestation and degradation of primary tropical forests

➤ Finance the climate challenge effectively and equitably

1. Find innovative sources of financing

2. Define the right balance of financing between adaptation and mitigation

3. Combine development aid and the climate challenge

Do not give in to the temptation to recycle existing ODA, and guarantee the additionality of climate funds

Guarantee the transparency of climate funds actually committed, ensure strict monitoring and evaluation of budgeting

➤ Move towards an economy of husbanding natural resources

1. Promote a European industrial policy

Support a free carbon permit allocation method (on the EU ETS) for the industries most exposed to international competition

Encourage investments commensurate with the Europe 2020 Strategy

2. Develop social dialogue, the motor for a fair transition

Apply OECD principles and ILO Conventions, and envisage creating new rights for employees (information, consultation and participation)

Take effects on employment into consideration and emphasise training programmes and new qualifications

3. Turn away from the society of waste

Mobilise citizens to change their behaviour

Integrate the environmental dimension into reform of the French and European tax systems