



## TOWARDS EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL ACTION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

### A call to register your support

On April 30 – May 11, 2007 the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (the UN CSD) meets in New York. Government delegations from all over the world will discuss key aspects of sustainable development. In 2007 the CSD will discuss:

- Climate Change
- Energy for Sustainable Development
- Industrial Development
- Air Pollution / Atmosphere

The UN CSD is one of the most open and participatory intergovernmental processes on sustainability issues. There are many opportunities for NGOs to influence government policy and practice. NGOs from 15 nations from Western Europe<sup>1</sup> met for two days in Brussels in January 2007 and agreed a statement which calls for specific actions by the UN, national governments and by the EU. A summary of the statement is provided below.

**We invite all other NGOs from this region who share our concerns to sign up to this statement and to join us in lobbying governments before the UN CSD meeting to ensure that European governments push for real change, both individually and collectively through the EU. If you have read the statement and agree with its key points and demands, please add your organisation to the list of supporters by filling in the electronic form available at <http://www.anped.org>.**

You can also send an email to [erol.hofmans@anped.org](mailto:erol.hofmans@anped.org) stating that your organisation supports the statement. Please add some details of your NGO and your contact information and we will keep you informed of what happens before and at the meeting of the UN CSD. A full list of all the organisations supporting the statement will be presented with it.

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<sup>1</sup> The following European NGOs worked together to prepare the paper: ANPED, An Taisce (Ireland), Association 4D (France), Associations 21 (Belgium), CEEWEB (Hungary), CJEF/CRIJ (Belgium), Conseil Fédéral de Développement Durable (Belgium), ECO Southwest (Bulgaria), Fact Foundation (Netherlands), FSNE (Finland), GEOTA (Portugal), Green Balkans Federation of NGOs (Bulgaria), Green Liberty (Latvia), Greenpeace, GRIAN (Ireland), P.B.C. (Czech Republic), Netherlands Youth Council (Netherlands), Netherlands Women's Council (Netherlands), Practical Action (United Kingdom), London 21 (United Kingdom), TEMA (Turkey), VODO (Belgium), Women in Europe for a Common Future.

## SUMMARY OF EUROPEAN NGO INPUT CSD 15

### Introduction

Europe has a special responsibility for issues of climate change and industrial development. European nations are amongst the wealthiest in the world, and have some of the highest CO<sub>2</sub> emission levels. But Europe also has the resources to play a key role in delivering solutions to these problems. **We call on European leaders show the political determination to deliver Europe's obligations under the "common but differentiated responsibilities" framework for global sustainable development.**

### Climate change

There are important links between CSD and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its implementation framework, the Kyoto Protocol.

A global agreement for a much more ambitious second phase of the Kyoto Protocol is vitally important. The CSD should work to ensure early agreement on the development of the 'second Commitment Period' for the Protocol commencing in 2013. This second period should include much more ambitious targets for all nations involved and particularly for European countries. We need to ensure that the rise in global average surface temperature is slowed, stopped and finally reversed, peaking well below an increase of 2°C over pre-industrial levels.

The recently proposed EU Energy Action Plan shows signs that the EU is preparing to turn its rhetoric on leadership on sustainable development and climate change into action. If the EU really wishes to lead on these issues then the proposed actions need to be linked to binding energy and climate policy targets for the EU and its member States. The EU has committed to cut its emissions of greenhouse gases by 20% below 1990 emissions by 2020, and to raise this ambition to a cut of 30% if part of an overall global agreement to reduce emissions. The lower ambition of 20% is inadequate and the EU should make an unconditional offer of a greenhouse gas reduction target for the EU as a whole of at least 30% by 2020. **This short-term target should be the start of a longer-term plan for the EU to reduce its emissions by at least 70% by 2050.**

### Energy for sustainable development

Access to basic, clean and affordable energy services is essential for sustainable development and poverty eradication and can provide major benefits in the areas of health, literacy, job creation, income generation, economic empowerment and equity. Many poorer communities in rural areas have either limited or no access to clean energy. Furthermore, due to the gender bias of energy poverty, women bear a disproportional amount of the negative social, economic, health and environmental impacts of traditional energy sources. New renewable energies are the only way to give access to modern energy services to the two billion people currently excluded from them.

**European nations should provide more support for developing countries and EECCA countries in moves towards using renewable energies to help build decentralised energy supply systems, which can strengthen local economies while also providing positive social benefits. The EU also has a particular responsibility to build the capacity of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia to move from dependence on fossil and nuclear fuels and towards sustainable energy systems.**

## Financing for clean development

Huge amounts of the funds spent by national and international financial institutions in support of energy services are still strongly biased towards fossil fuel energy systems that are a core cause of climate change. **It is imperative that the International Financial Institutions (IFIs) develop a comprehensive strategy to redirect their funds to sustainable energy including the introduction of strengthened micro-financing schemes for new renewables and energy efficiency and saving.**

## Bio fuels

New generation Bio-fuels could provide major opportunities for reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions but there are many environmental and social problems linked to bio energy. **The UN CSD and the EU should support a consultative process for a global agreement on sustainability criteria for bio energy to develop a mandatory certification system.**

## Spatial planning

Good spatial planning is an essential part of tackling climate change. The EU, national and local governments need to work to transform current spatial planning systems which are often contributing to continuing rises in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from transport. Clear policies are needed to ensure that emerging good practice becomes official standard practice.

## Sustainable Production and Consumption (SPAC)

Developing more sustainable patterns of production and consumption is one of the main ways for the developed world and especially Europe to cut pollution and climate change, but there is not enough focus on the development and implementation of strategies and policies to bring this about. SPAC is and should be a main focus of the CSD, and the CSD should promote the key elements of such an approach:

- Ecological fiscal reform involving the removal of all perverse subsidies, the use of eco-taxes to internalise external costs and other relevant measures and mechanisms;
- Cleaner production supported by innovative design, better standards and labelling programmes, and environmentally sound public procurement rules and practices;
- Development of education and life-long learning for sustainable consumption;
- The use of corporate responsibility and accountability as a legally binding framework;
- Effective public participation in this work with a broader 'right to know', the increased involvement of stakeholders and transparent and verifiable consumer information tools.

**National governments and the EU should lead by example in changing their consumption and procurement policies in all appropriate ways including:**

- Developing shorter production and consumption supply chains;
- Maximising the use of financial instruments, such as tax reforms, to promote SPAC;
- Setting mandatory performance standards for appliances, buildings and other products;
- Awareness-raising building on local cultural values to change consumer behaviour.

The EU and national governments should lead this work through increased support for the UN Marrakech Process on Sustainable Consumption and Production and for the Task Force on Education for Sustainable Consumption linking to the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development.