

August 2011

The average global temperature is already almost 0.8°C higher than in the pre-industrial era. There is a broad scientific and political consensus, recognised by the Copenhagen Accord, that warming must be kept below 2°C to avert dangerous levels of climate change. To stay within this temperature limit, worldwide emissions must stop rising before 2020, must be cut by at least half of their 1990 levels by 2050, and must continue to fall thereafter. The European Union's goal is to ensure that an ambitious and legally binding global treaty to achieve these objectives is agreed at the UN climate change conference (COP17/CMP7).

This first Newsletter on the Road to COP17 provides an overview of various significant EU initiatives which reflect its leading role globally in the fight against climate change.



### Top News

#### European Commission (EC) to provide €244m for 183 new environment projects

The EC has approved funding for 183 new projects under the LIFE+ programme, the EU's environment fund. The Commission will contribute more than €16 mil (about R160 mil) to 14 projects that directly tackle climate change (with a total budget of €40 mil, about R400 mil). In addition, 12 projects focusing on other issues will also have an indirect impact on greenhouse gas emissions.

#### Reducing CO2 emissions from cars through eco-innovation

The automotive industry will have a greater incentive to invest in new technologies that reduce CO2 emissions from new cars, under legislation adopted by the European Commission. The Regulation enables motor manufacturers to receive recognition for CO2 savings achieved by fitting new cars with approved "eco-innovations" which reduce emissions.

#### European Union Member States agree to auction 120m phase 3 allowances in 2012

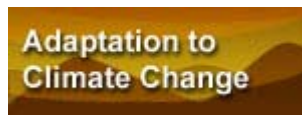
EU Member States agreed to the EC's proposal to auction 120 mil emission allowances for phase 3 of the Emissions Trading System in 2012, the year before phase 3 starts. Meeting in the EU Climate Change Committee (CCC), Member States also made substantial progress towards finalising two draft Agreements concerning procurement procedures for the single auction monitor and the common auction platform. See also: [Questions & Answers on Emissions Trading: new registry rules](#)

#### European Union fast start finance is on track

The EU and its 27 Member States mobilised €2.34bn (about R23bn) of fast start finance in 2010 as part of their overall commitment to provide €7.2 bn (about R72 bn) over the period 2010–2012. The report to the UNFCCC secretariat in May 2011 confirms the level of EU funding provisionally announced in Cancún. See: [Individual actions supported by EU fast start financing](#)



[http://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/roadmap/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/roadmap/index_en.htm)



<http://ec.europa.eu/clima/sites/change/>



<http://ec.europa.eu/climateaction>



<http://ec.europa.eu/clima/sites/campaign>

### General

#### French Development Agency (AFD) makes fight against climate change a pillar of its strategy

By seeking convergence between development priorities and the need to limit emissions, and by scaling up aid for investment in climate-related actions, AFD is contributing to an environmentally and socially sustainable economy. In 2010, AFD approved €2.8bn (about R28 bn) in climate related financing. See: <http://www.afd.fr/lang/en/home>

#### European Investment Bank (EIB) will continue to reinforce its focus on climate action

The EIB supports the fight against climate change, aligning its activities with EU climate change policy, providing financial and technical assistance to low-carbon, climate-resilient projects in the EU and in countries outside the EU, in particular supporting the achievement of the EU Greenhouse Gases emission reduction targets.

#### Finnish/Austrian Energy and Environment Partnership (EEP) supports Southern and East Africa

EEP is a programme that promotes renewable energy, energy efficiency and clean technology investments. It commenced six years ago in Central America before its implementation in South-East Asia and Africa. The EEP Programme in Southern and East Africa started in March 2010 and is jointly funded by the Governments of Finland and Austria.