

Shock Vote on Cars and CO2

By Malcolm Fergusson (Senior Fellow at IEEP)

Towards the end of September, MEPs in the European Parliament's Environment (ENVI) Committee shocked onlookers by voting down a series of 'industry-friendly' compromise proposals on cars and CO2. The compromises had been intended to pave the way for a swift agreement as part of the enhanced cooperation process to hurry through the climate and energy package before the Commission and Parliament are dissolved next year. However, it became clear that many felt that the ENVI rapporteur had conceded far too much ground under pressure from industry lobbyists and had accepted a number of 'flexibility' clauses. Some more recent analysis (including a report by IEEP) brought a growing number of the MEPs to realise that the combined effect of these flexibility clauses would be that most carmakers would have to do virtually nothing towards meeting the 130g/km target until 2015 rather than 2012 as originally intended. The result was a revolt, with both conservatives and socialists switching to the green and liberal positions. As a result the flexibility clauses were voted down, and the Commission's original proposals survived largely intact and even strengthened by the insertion of a much more stringent target of 95g/km for 2020.

Meanwhile, the French Presidency has supported Germany and its carmakers by spearheading a Council position that contains much the same 'flexibilities' that have been so decisively rejected by the ENVI Committee. Under the accelerated procedure being followed, the Parliament's rapporteurs and the Presidency must now try to reach a compromise in a sort of conciliation procedure, but clearly this will not be easy.

The current position has been a setback for overzealous lobbying, and it may be that a stronger piece of legislation will result. However it could also be that the Council or Parliament, neither of which has voted on any proposals yet in plenary, and neither of which is particularly happy with the current position, will even reject or delay the final outcome. With Europe's car industry feeling the effects of the global credit crunch, economic interests are being pitched against climate change mitigation as never before. In response, Heads of State have now voted financial aid for the car industry, apparently in an attempt to sugar the pill. Expect further industries to follow cars and banks into the bail-out business as carbon crunch meets credit crunch.

This is a foretaste of what may also happen with other components of the climate and energy package, and shows the extra uncertainties that are added into the legislative process by the sudden economic downturn and laudable attempts to speed the legislation through.



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Senior Fellow

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The IEEP London office has moved on 1st August to:
15 Queen Anne's Gate – London SW1H 9BU
Telephone numbers and emails remain the same.

1. Taking Forward Industrial Pollution Control

The IPPC Directive has formed the centrepiece of EU industrial regulation since 1996. Its implementation has proved to be a major challenge, but it is expected to yield important benefits in pollution reduction.

Over the last three years the Commission has undertaken a review of the Directive, for which IEEP contributed a number of studies. As a result, in December 2007 a proposal was published to revise the Directive and combine it with six other industrial pollution control Directives. This covers a wide range of issues, with changes to the detailed scope of the law to aspects of the regulatory processes. IEEP therefore assisted the European regulatory network, IMPEL, to examine the practicability and enforceability issues arising from the proposal. This concluded that while there were many improvements, there are concerns over issues such as monitoring obligations and the role of BREFs.

The Commission is also not letting up the pressure on Member States to implement the existing Directive. IEEP has contributed to this. In particular, October 2007 was the deadline for all existing installations to have been issued with IPPC permits. We examined reports from all 27 Member States and found that while there has been considerable progress, many Member States fell significantly short of what was required, in spite of repeated appeals by the Commission prior to the deadline. As a result the Commission issued first written warnings to nine Member States. IEEP is continuing to work with Commission to examine further progress in 2008.

A summary of the results of progress in issuing IPPC permits is available from the Commission at: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/air/pollutants/stationary/ippc/pdf/grids.pdf>

A copy of the IMPEL report on the practicability and enforceability of the proposed changes to IPPC is available at: <http://www.ieep.eu/whatsnew/newsitem.php?item=163>

Contact: Andrew Farmer

2. Promoting the implementation of the external aspects of the renewed EU SDS

On 28 January 2009, IEEP, in cooperation with EGMONT, the Belgian Royal Institute for International Relations, and with the financial support of the Belgian Federal Departments of Environment and Sustainable Development, will be organising a major policy conference in Brussels on the external dimension of the EU Sustainable Development Strategy (SDS). Despite the fact that the 'renewed' SDS as adopted by the Brussels European Council in June 2006, includes an explicit external dimension, this dimension does not yet seem to be receiving quite the level of policy attention that it deserves.

The IEEP conference will bring together experts, officials and stakeholders from EU Member States and non-EU countries, in particular developing countries. The focus will be on four high-profile issues with a strong external dimension: the impacts of EU policies on biofuels on sustainable development in developing countries; the impact of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) on marine resources and sustainable livelihoods in developing countries; the link between climate change funding and human and environmental security in developing countries; the implications of the EU Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the EU's trade relations with developing countries.

To prepare the conference, IEEP and its partners will produce issue papers on each of the above-mentioned themes. A number of high profile non-EU experts, including from developing countries, will be invited to contribute to this research and participate in the conference and in private policy dialogues with high-level officials from EU institutions and Member States.

Contact: Marc Pallemarts

3. CAP2020 – Debating the Future of the Common Agricultural Policy

The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) is not standing still. Changes are expected to be agreed this year as part of the CAP Health Check, and the policy will remain firmly in the spotlight as discussions turn to the next CAP Reform and a new European budget. This is a debate of more than agricultural interest. It affects the environment, climate change, food quality and food supplies, trade and developing countries, as well as rural communities. There is now an unprecedented opportunity to engage a wide variety of stakeholders in order to broaden and animate the debate.

With this perspective in mind, the Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEEP) is establishing the 'CAP2020' website, a platform aimed at encouraging innovative, future-oriented thinking. It will be interactive and open to all, facilitating an open debate on the key policy issues of the current time. It will provide a forum to share knowledge and express opinions and will bring together evidence-based research and authoritative analysis on the future of the CAP. We hope that it will generate an engaged and collaborative community of stakeholders who will provide informed opinion on the decisive and often divisive issues shaping the reform agenda across the Member States.

IEEP is extremely excited to launch this new venture and invites you to actively participate in the debate. The website is due to be launched by early November and further publicity will follow at this time. IEEP expresses its gratitude to the German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMF) for supporting the CAP2020 initiative.

Contact: Martin Farmer

4. Waste Not, Want Not...

The major revision of the framework Directive on waste is due to be completed with the adoption of the Parliament's compromise text by the Environment Council in the final quarter of 2008. The revised Directive aims to make EU waste legislation more coherent and efficient. Interestingly, among other issues, the Directive will set a binding recycling target of 50 per cent for waste materials such as paper, metal and glass from households and similar waste streams by 2020, and up to 70 per cent for construction material by the same date.

IEEP has been gradually expanding its work on waste policy, and is soon to complete a study for the European Commission into the coherence, or otherwise, of the 'recycling Directives' (WEEE, RoHS, packaging, ELVs and batteries). The study aims to make a series of recommendations to the Commission on how to achieve a more coherent body of recycling legislation, drawing on desk-based research as well as interviews and consultation with key stakeholders from EU Member States, industry and NGOs.

With the new waste framework Directive in place the next, and crucial, step is to ensure it is fully implemented in the Member States.

Another key to ensuring genuinely more sustainable management of waste is obtaining comparable data. Earlier in the year IEEP undertook a piece of research, co-funded by Caroline Jackson MEP and the ESA (which represents the UK's waste management and secondary resources industry), into the comparability of statistics on waste production, recycling and recovery across the EU. The research led to some interesting conclusions: there may be many potential causes of erroneous data, from simple gaps in information through to flexible policies and even organised crime, but in all cases such data results in a blurred picture of waste management in the EU. The report therefore recommends clear definitions, robust monitoring and gaining an understanding of illegal activity and its impacts, in order to provide a clearer picture. Only then can a genuinely more sustainable management of waste throughout the EU be guaranteed.

Contact: Catherine Bowyer

5. Reviewing the CFP: Plenty More Fish in the Sea?

In September, EU Fisheries Ministers backed the European Commission's proposal to launch a phase of analysis and consultation in preparation for a full review of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) in 2012. The Commission plans to produce a Green Paper early next year which will be used as the basis for a public consultation, the outcomes of which will allow the Commission to table reform proposals by the end of 2009 with a view to entry into force in 2012.

The launch of the review has been welcomed by stakeholders who believe that it is time, seven years after the last review in 2002, to assess progress on the implementation of key elements of the CFP and to make the necessary changes to ensure that the CFP delivers sustainable fisheries post-2012.

Preliminary evaluations indicate that the environmental principles identified in 2002 have been considered and even incorporated into a number of implementing regulations. However, further action is required by the Commission and Member States to ensure that the CFP Regulation achieves its objectives. Currently, the CFP remains largely a reactive rather than a proactive policy. Furthermore, the Commission still needs to address overcapacity in the EU, a problem which the regulations adopted and measures implemented since 2002 have been largely unsuccessful in addressing. With the key pillars of the 2002 reform in place, there will be an expectation for the Commission to tackle the overcapacity issue 'head on' by proposing substantive and specific proposals. IEEP will contribute to the review process, and will host a key event in January 2009 where our vision of the CFP post-2012 will be launched.

Contact: Indrani Lutchman

6. A Transatlantic Perspective on Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Policies

The policy debate on the most effective and efficient measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote sustainable energy systems continues to feature prominently on the political agenda in both the US and the EU. As new international policy proposals are being considered in the UN-sponsored multilateral negotiations and by policymakers on both sides of the Atlantic, IEEP and the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) have carried out a joint project to stimulate dialogue and exchange of experiences between environmental NGOs, academia and other interested civil society organisations in the EU and US on the most salient issues. The project, the Transatlantic Platform for Action on the Global Environment (T-PAGE), began in December 2006, co-funded by the European Commission within the framework of its programme to promote transatlantic dialogues at the non-governmental level.

The aims of this project have been to identify similarities and differences in EU and US opinion and policy approaches; to facilitate closer cooperation across the Atlantic; and to improve civil society engagement in promoting domestic action on climate change and sustainable energy issues. Apart from climate change, T-PAGE also addressed a second theme: the protection of marine biodiversity, in particular through the establishment and management of marine protected areas (MPAs).

The final report of the climate-related work under T-PAGE - 'Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Policies in Europe and the United States' - was recently published. This report includes the series of comparative research papers produced during the course of the project on US and EU policies on climate change and energy and the conclusions reached at the final project conference held in Washington DC in April 2008. At this conference, participants agreed that greenhouse gas emissions from the transport sector should be addressed as a priority in overall climate policy through a broad mix of policy tools. On the issue of biofuels, participants recommended a common strategy based on a combination of perspectives and called for a critical evaluation of the impact of biofuel production methods and outputs on the environment.

The final report of the parallel work on MPAs will be released soon.

Download report 'Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Policies in Europe and the United States' at <http://www.ieep.eu/publications/pdfs/tpage/tpageccfinalreport.pdf>

For further information on the T-PAGE project please visit our website: <http://www.ieep.eu/projectminisites/t-page/>

Contact: Sirini Withana

7. Towards an Agri-Environment Programme in Turkey

Located at the crossroads of three continents, and with a level of endemism of 34 per cent, Turkey is classified as a global biodiversity hotspot. Reflecting vast differences in climatic and natural conditions, it has a varied agricultural sector. Agricultural restructuring is unfurling at an accelerated rate, leading to land abandonment in certain areas, and intensification – often stimulated by irrigation – in others. These structural changes have led to an unprecedented loss of farmland biodiversity, although this has not been the focus of agricultural or nature conservation policy, with resources targeted at 305 Key Biodiversity Areas, typically comprising natural habitats.

A number of initiatives are currently in place, funded by the Turkish government and by the World Bank, which provide elements of a national agri-environment programme, including pilot schemes on soil conservation, sustainable water use and organic farming. To date, there have been no government initiatives aimed at supporting farmland biodiversity. In 2005, Avalon, IEEP and Bugday, under the leadership of Mark Redman, began a study to develop a biodiversity-focused agri-environment scheme for Turkey, drawing on a successful model followed in the 10 new EU Member States and in Croatia. Over the course of three years, the team was successful in facilitating a vibrant and committed working group and publicising – amongst government officials, stakeholders and farmers in pilot areas – the important link between certain types of farming and biodiversity.

Our key recommendations are: to establish a permanent Agri-Environment working group in Turkey; to further develop and promote the High Nature Value farming concept; and to make full use of IPARD funds to develop biodiversity focused pilot projects, targeted at High Nature Value systems. A twinning project is expected to take place in 2009, with IPARD funds anticipated in 2010.

2000 copies of the agri-environment handbook will be published in Turkish and English in autumn 2008. A similar study is currently being launched in Serbia with Avalon, IEEP and two local partners.

Contact: Tamsin Cooper.

IEEP conferences and events

In the coming months IEEP will organise or participate to the following meetings and events. If you would like to find out more, do not hesitate to contact us.

Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) - Hobart, Tasmania, 26 October-7 November 2008

Indrani Lutchman, Head of the Fisheries Programme at IEEP, will be part of the UK delegation to the CCAMLR meetings in Hobart, Australia. The meetings will review the science associated with the management of fisheries resources such as krill and Patagonian toothfish. Indrani will act as environmental advisor to the British delegation and will also participate in the Commission meetings where the rules which apply to all vessels (including EU vessels) fishing in the Antarctic and Southern Ocean are set on an annual basis.

Contact: [Indrani Lutchman](#)

Common Agriculture Policy and its Impact in Malta – Victoria- Gozo, Malta 7-9 November 2008

At this conference organised by Gozitano Agri Coop and co-funded by the European Commission, Samuela Bassi will present examples of Payments for Environmental Schemes during a session on Agriculture and environment, discussing how CAP can support the creation of sustainable territories.

Contact: [Samuela Bassi](#)

Reforming the Budget, Changing Europe – Brussels, 12 November 2008

David Baldock and Camilla Adelle will be attending the high level conference 'Reforming the budget, changing Europe, hosted by Commission President José Manuel Barroso, where EU Budget Commissioner Dalia Grybauskaite will present the results of the stakeholder consultation on the EU's future budgetary priorities.

Contacts: [David Baldock](#), [Camilla Adelle](#)

Darwin Initiative Lecture and Workshop on The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity – London, 13 November 2008

IEEP has been invited to the Darwin Initiative Lecture and workshop on The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB), organised by Defra. The event will comprise a high-level closed session attended by Secretary of State for Environment Hilary Benn, other UK Ministers, Pavan Sukhdev, senior officials from the Commission, government departments, Devolved Administrations and NGOs. David Baldock and Graham Tucker will attend and contribute to the workshop on policy responses as part of the second phase of the TEEB study.

Contacts: [David Baldock](#), [Graham Tucker](#)

The Role of Information in an Age of Climate Change: An International Conference to Mark the 10th Anniversary of the Aarhus Convention - Aarhus, Denmark, 13-14 November 2008

Marc Pallemmaerts will speak at this conference organised by the University of Aarhus, in cooperation with the French EU presidency, the European Environment Agency (EEA), the Danish Ministry of Climate and Energy, the Municipality of Aarhus, and the Danish National Research Institute of Environment (NERI). The conference will reflect on the role of science-based information in environmental decision processes, on the tenth anniversary of the so-called Aarhus Convention (the UNECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters) which was adopted in the Danish city of Aarhus in June 1998. Marc will speak on 'Greater access to environmental information on climate change policies: transparency and accountability in the European and international framework'.

Further information: <http://www.klima.au.dk/dk/forside/aarhusconvention/>

Contact: [Marc Pallemmaerts](#)

9th International Conference on Greenhouse Gas Control Technologies (GHGT-9) - Washington, DC, US, 16-20 November, 2008

The GHGT conference series, held every two years, has established itself as the principal international conference on greenhouse mitigation technologies and has become a focal point for international research on carbon capture and storage (CCS). The Conference will be organised by MIT in collaboration with the IEA Greenhouse Gas R&D Programme (IEA GHG), with major sponsorship from the US Department of Energy. Joana Chiavari will present a paper entitled 'Understanding and improving NGO positioning on CCS', addressing NGO views on the rationale for and against CCS and exploring ways for NGOs to come to more coherent approaches and agreements. Furthermore, she will present a poster summarising the findings of 'Acceptance of CO2 Capture and Storage, Economics, Policy and Technology' (ACCSEPT), a two-year project led by IEEP under the 6th Framework Programme.

Contact: [Joana Chiavari](#)

Workshop on Agricultural and Forestry Practices and the Conservation of Selected Wildlife Species and Habitats – Brussels, 18 November 2008

At this workshop, organised by four research institutes on behalf of DG Environment in the context of the Commission's 'Wildlife and Sustainable Farming Initiative', Martin Farmer will discuss the role of unfarmed features on EU farmland (such as hedges and buffer strips) in protecting biodiversity, and the effectiveness of current policies in protecting and promoting these features.

Contact: [Martin Farmer](#)

Securing Sustainable Energy Supplies in Europe and Australia: Policy-Makers, Business, Scientists, NGOs on Energy and the Environmental Challenge - Prato, Italy, 27-28 November 2008

Marc Pallemerts will speak at this conference on the subject 'Climate change and the rebirth of EU energy policy'. This international conference is organised by the Monash European and EU Centre, the Monash Sustainability Institute, the Centre for Green Chemistry and School of Applied Sciences and Engineering, the Faculty of Business and Economics (Monash University, Melbourne), the Australian National University (Canberra), the Machiavelli Centre (CIMA), University of Florence, the Institute for European Studies (Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium), the Centre for Environmental Law, University of Amsterdam and the Delegation of the European Commission to Australia.

Contact: [Marc Pallemerts](#)

European Rural Development Network – Evaluation Committee - Brussels, 28 November 2008

Tamsin Cooper will be presenting a Guidance Document to the EU Member States on High Nature Value (HNV) Farming at the first Evaluation Committee meeting of the European Rural Development Network.

Contact: [Tamsin Cooper](#)