

## **ECCP II – Stakeholder Meeting 24.10.2005**

### **Comments by Tony Long, WWF**

Europe leads the world in its commitment to sustainable development. It also leads the world in its leadership on perhaps the greatest challenge facing the planet – climate change. Without this commitment and leadership there is precious little happening anywhere else. ECCP II is now the moment for Europe to redouble its leadership, gain maximum advantage for European businesses and industry to lead the world in new technologies and energy services and take determined actions that will keep the world below a 2° Centigrade warming over pre-industrial levels.

Environmental NGOs are convinced that an ambitious ECCP II will bring the EU huge benefits, including less dependency on foreign sources of energy, cost savings for all sectors of the economy, reduced health costs due to lower pollution and more job opportunities in the field of renewable energies and energy conservation. Please see a room document issued today by five environmental NGOs with our proposals for ECCP II – CAN; T+E; Greenpeace; FOE and WWF.

How ambitious? In a new WWF report issued today to coincide with the ECCP II launch and prepared for us by the Wuppertal Institute in Germany we show how the EU can cut CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 33% by 2020, even with a moratorium on nuclear energy.

How can this be achieved? Here are six examples of policies and measures.

1. The report shows that by 2020 the EU's energy demand could be reduced by 20% without reducing living standards or damaging the economy. Private households alone could save a fifth of their energy demands through better insulation, more efficient heating and cooling systems and by using more energy-efficient appliances.
2. The power sector could reduce its CO<sub>2</sub> emission by more than half, with more investment made in renewable energies, combined heat and power generation and consumer energy conservation.
3. Renewable energy sources, such as biomass (organic waste, wood and biogas), wind and sustainable hydro, have the potential to grow from today's 1.8 per cent per year to 6.10 per cent.
4. Greenhouse gas emissions non-related to energy consumption can also be reduced by 33 per cent, mainly in the agricultural and waste sectors.
5. A strong emissions trading system must be at the heart of the climate strategy, supported by directives that promote mandatory targets for energy efficiency as well as legal and fiscal support to renewable energies.
6. Ecological finance reform should also be implemented to remove direct and indirect subsidies for unsustainable energy.

In its opening articles, the Treaty of European Union commits the EU to the objective of promoting sustainable development. There really is no alternative to the types of measures outlined here if the EU is to be credible and consistent. The Wuppertal Business as Usual scenario shows that without immediate action, energy demand in the EU will grow up to almost 1 and a half per cent per year with all the consequences this will have for humanity and the natural world and life supporting systems. With strong demand side measures energy

demand could decrease by 0.4 per cent per year. This is the ambition level - and this is the prize - that we must hold our political leaders accountable to. Thank you.