



EEB'S 10 GREEN TESTS FOR THE CZECH PRESIDENCY OF THE EU

Published December 2008

1. WORK TOWARDS A LOW-CARBON EUROPE AND PLANET

- Consider new climate science showing that the 2° C limit can only be met with 350-400 ppm CO₂e (carbon dioxide equivalent) maximum atmospheric concentrations and start discussions on stricter climate change objectives, including for the EU accelerated emission reductions of 40% from 1990 to 2020.
- Adapt the Lisbon Strategy and the European Economic Recovery Plan to focus on energy and resource efficiency and renewables and refrain from traditional infrastructure initiatives that will increase pressure on the environment.
- Boost investments in energy efficiency of buildings by prioritising adoption of the new Energy Performance of Buildings Directive. Increase its ambitions by requiring that, at the latest by 2020, all new buildings are zero- or positive energy and for existing buildings all renovations will trigger energy efficiency requirements.
- Ensure that enough public funding is committed to making investing in energy efficiency more affordable particularly for low-income-groups. Mobilise a large share of EU Structural Funds, EIB and other funds and fiscal incentives for energy efficiency improvements in buildings, including social housing.
- On the Road to Copenhagen, agree on a significant EU fund for mitigation and adaptation to climate change in developing countries and underline the EU's willingness to change to a 30% reduction by 2020 if Copenhagen is successful.

2. BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

- Take initiative on an Earth System Rescue Plan that not only seeks to halt the loss of biodiversity but actually ensures the restoration of ecosystem functionality.
- Ensure EU funding for measures to adapt to climate change in developing countries.
- Bring work on SEBI2010 (Streamlining European Biodiversity Indicators 2010) further for use in evaluating EU progress on biodiversity protection.
- Promote the resilience of natural and human systems, their capacity to deal with change without losing their functionality, as the fundamental tenet of a European Adaptation to Climate Change Strategy, including by improving the implementation of EU's Biodiversity Directives and Natura 2000.
- Ensure Council supports a comprehensive EU framework on Invasive Alien Species with the highest priority given to the prevention of new introductions.

3. SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION

- Broaden the scope of the Ecodesign Directive beyond proposed energy-related products to cover all products and impose by 2011 compulsory assessment of current methodology for preparing product specific measures to take into account significant environmental impacts beyond energy consumption in the use phase.
- Improve the Ecolabel Regulation by clearly defining its objectives as a mark of environmental excellence addressing all environmental impacts (including hazardous chemicals content and end-of-life) without undermining its credibility.
- Insist that Commission produce its roadmap for the elimination of environmentally hazardous subsidies, which was promised in 2008.
- Ensure the reviewed Energy Tax Directive substantially increases the minimum rates of taxation for energy and dramatically reduces existing exemptions.

European Environmental Bureau (aisbl)

Blvd de Waterloo 34, 1000 Brussels, Belgium – Tel: +32 2 289 1090 – Fax: +32 2 289 1099 – Email: press@eeb.org
Websites: www.eeb.org www.participate.org www.newngoforum.org www.zeromercury.org

- Support the implementation of differentiated VAT according to use of energy and natural resources. Implement ‘*bonus-malus*’ schemes and other fiscal incentives to promote energy efficient products, goods and services.

4. REDUCE MERCURY USE GLOBALLY

- Present a unified and strong EU position at the February session of the UNEP Governing Council for a free-standing legally binding instrument addressing, amongst others, the reduction of mercury supply (including storage and trade), its use in products and processes and atmospheric mercury emissions (through Best Available Techniques [BAT] or otherwise).
- Insist that an International Negotiating Committee will immediately begin drafting text.
- Continue intensive dialogue with key non-EU governments and stakeholders and work actively towards resolving remaining differences to ensure a positive result.

5. IMPLEMENT A COHERENT FRAMEWORK FOR INDUSTRIAL POLLUTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL

- Keep the recast of the Industrial Pollution Prevention and Control (IPPC) Directive water tight: stick with the scope of Commission’s proposals for change.
- Maintain existing Emission Limit Values in sectoral directives as a critical safety net and ensure their tightening to reflect emission levels achievable through application of BAT.
- Support the extension of the EU safety net (minimal binding requirements) to other IPPC sectors upon adoption of the relevant revised BAT Reference Document (BREF).
- Ensure transparency in implementation by making permit applications and permits permanently available to public on national websites.
- Make BREFs obligatory for permitting authorities. Ensure that authorities set emission limit values that do not exceed BAT emission levels as described in BREFs
- Establish BREF review as a trigger for permit review in order to secure continuous improvement in environmental performance.
- Reject an emissions trading scheme for the local pollutants sulphur dioxide and nitrogen and the option to comply via a National Emission Reduction Plan (NERP)

6. ADOPT THE SOIL FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE

Re-start work on the basis of the agreement of 22 Member States at the December 2007 Environment Council and ensure a Common Position that will include:

- A clear legal obligation to decontaminate polluted sites and application of the “polluter pays” principle as an incentive to industry to avoid polluting in future.
- An effective and mandatory approach to addressing soil degradation processes caused by unsustainable land use practices.
- A clear requirement for Member States to address current rates of soil sealing.

7. WORK TOWARDS WASTE POLICIES REFLECTING RESOURCE SCARCITY AND PRESERVATION

- In response to the Commission’s Biowaste Green Paper, call for a Biowaste Directive introducing requirements for separate collection and targets for composting, to be delivered during 2009.
- Improve the Commission’s proposal for the revision of the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Directive, respecting the recast procedure. Include setting specific collection targets for each product category and at the very least for small appliances such as lamps.

European Environmental Bureau (aisbl)

Blvd de Waterloo 34, 1000 Brussels, Belgium – Tel: +32 2 289 1090 – Fax: +32 2 289 1099 – Email: press@eeb.org
 Websites: www.eeb.org www.participate.org www.newngoforum.org www.zeromercury.org

8. BRING NATIONAL EMISSION LIMITS DOWN

- Insist that the Commission publishes its draft revision of the National Emissions Ceiling (NEC) Directive without further delay.
- Demand stricter interim air quality targets for 2020 according to the objectives of the Sixth Environmental Action Programme.
- Support tighter national caps for the five pollutants (SO₂, NO_x, volatile organic compounds, and ammonia) already regulated in the Directive.
- Insist on ambitious first-ever national caps on emissions of fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}), which is the pollutant with the greatest impact on human health and health risks even higher than PM₁₀.
- Require additional emission abatement measures within the national programmes for the Directive's implementation.

9. ENSURE ENFORCEMENT OF EU ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES

- Re-launch negotiations on the Access to Justice Directive as a tool to increase pressure on public authorities and private actors to respect and apply environmental law.
- In the review of the Regulation on Access to EU Documents, refuse any weakening of Regulation 1049/2001, ensure more respect for deadlines from the side of authorities and require more openness of documents under the Commission's control during infringement and EU legislation conformity cases.
- In response to the Commission Communication on this subject, broaden the debate on improving implementation and enforcement of EU environmental law.
- Encourage and support Commission initiatives to deal with its enforcement obligations in a transparent and timely manner.
- Increase public involvement, through open and transparent infringement procedures with improved access to administrative documents and access to justice, as required by the Aarhus Convention.

10. MOVE TOWARDS A PRECAUTIONARY CHEMICAL POLICY THAT PUTS HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION IN CENTRE STAGE

- Show leadership in COP 4 negotiations on eliminating persistent organic pollutants (POPs) by advocating the addition of the nine candidate substances to Annex A of the Stockholm Convention.
- Strengthen the Restriction of Hazardous Substances (RoHS) Directive by targeting the phase out of elemental bromine and chlorine as well as phthalates and other hazardous chemicals in electronic products. Extend the scope of the restriction to other product categories (i.e., medical devices and monitoring/control instruments). Keep the REACH process separate from the RoHS review.
- Extend the range of substances of very high concern (SVHC) to be evaluated under REACH for substitution with safer alternatives.